

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SCOTT
BLECHA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Scott Blecha of Clatskanie, Oregon. Scott bravely battled the Storm King Mountain Fire outside the town of Glenwood Springs, Colorado in 1994, but succumbed to the blaze along with thirteen fellow firefighters while working to protect the City. I personally served as a firefighter and understand the risks they face each and everyday. Witnessing the awful inferno that fateful July day, I know Scott and his comrades battled the fire with the utmost courage and valor. With the tenth anniversary of the Storm King Fire approaching, I believe it appropriate to recognize the sacrifice Scott and the Storm King Firefighters made on behalf of a grateful community, state and nation.

Born and raised in Clatskanie, Scott graduated with honors from Clatskanie High School where a scholarship is named in his honor. After graduating, he answered his nation's call to duty and joined the United States Marines. After a four-year tour, Scott attended the Oregon Institute of Technology, graduating cum laude with a degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology. During the summers, he worked as a Prineville Hotshot, an elite group of firefighters who specialize in wildland fire suppression. Scott loved the job, enjoying the close camaraderie of his crew and the satisfaction of knowing he was helping others. Above all, he was devoted to his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the life and memory of Firefighter Scott Blecha. Scott personified the Hotshots credo of Safety, Teamwork and Professionalism; putting himself in harms way for unfamiliar people and places. He made the ultimate sacrifice doing what he loved, and I, along with the Glenwood Springs community and the State of Colorado are eternally grateful to this brave young man.

HONORING JOSEPH FEIGENBAUM

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Joseph Feigenbaum of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. It is my pleasure to announce that at 84½ years of age, Mr. Feigenbaum has completed the requirements to receive a Doctorate in International Business from Nova Southeastern University.

Mr. Speaker, "old" is a relative term in Florida. Mr. Feigenbaum accomplished quite a lot in his life: he earned a law degree, built a successful textile career, and ran a factory in Venezuela. However, Mr. Feigenbaum knew retirement would not extinguish his desire to continue to cultivate his life. Through the support of his loving wife, Cherie, and by the strength of his desire, Feigenbaum returned to

the classroom. Eight years later, dedication, discipline, and desire carried him to his goal. Mr. Feigenbaum serves as an inspiration and example for us all.

Education is a lifelong opportunity, befitting anyone who chooses to pursue it. At 84½ years of age, Mr. Feigenbaum qualifies this point. I genuinely believe that his experiences can only benefit his community, and I am proud that he is a Floridian. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Mr. Feigenbaum's accomplishments and honor the value he places on education.

TRIBUTE TO DEACONESS LEVARN
DAVIS ON THE OCCASION OF
HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a delightful lady whose life represents the epitome of what a well-lived life should be. For all of these years, she has been a child of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, a good Christian, a wife, a mother, a true neighbor, an anchor, a pillar of the community and a good and honorable citizen.

Mrs. Davis and her husband were pioneers when they moved into what had been an essentially all white community. They were a hard working young couple who produced a family of offspring who have done exceptionally well and contributed significantly to the well-being of our community and our city.

Her children rise up and call her blessed, for she has indeed been a blessing to them and to all of those whose lives she has touched. Happy Birthday, Mrs. Davis and may you have many, many more.

HONORING DEOTHA MALONE ON
HER RETIREMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. J. Deotha Malone on her retirement after 55 years of service to the Sumner County Board of Education. Dr. Malone is a resident of Gallatin, Tennessee, which I have the pleasure of representing in Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

Dr. Malone began her teaching career in 1949, the year I was born. She retires this year as the longest working educator in the Middle Tennessee region.

Dr. Malone is a remarkable humanitarian. She has made certain that lack of money does not stand in the way of her students. She has held free remedial reading classes, and she even taught French to students at her own home for no charge. And Dr. Malone hasn't stopped yet. She still tutors adult non-readers in her spare time.

Dr. Malone has served her community not only by teaching, but also by leading. In 1969, she became the first African American to serve on Gallatin's City Council. And she currently serves as the city's vice-mayor.

Congratulations to Dr. Malone on her retirement. I know I join with the citizens of Gallatin in wishing her all the best in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT
BROWNING JR.

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Robert Browning Jr. Rob bravely battled the Storm King Mountain Fire outside the town of Glenwood Springs, Colorado in 1994, but succumbed to the blaze along with thirteen fellow firefighters while working to protect the City. I personally served as a firefighter and understand the risks they face each and every day. Witnessing the awful inferno that fateful July day, I know Rob and his comrades battled the fire with the utmost courage and valor. With the tenth anniversary of the Storm King Fire approaching, I believe it appropriate to recognize the sacrifice Rob and the Storm King Firefighters made on behalf of a grateful community, state and nation.

Born and raised in North Carolina, Rob attended McDowell High School and received a degree in forest management from Haywood Technical College. In 1988, he began working for the U.S. Forest Service in Asheville, North Carolina, and in 1992 he became a member of the Region 8 Hotshot Crew, an elite group of firefighters who specialize in wildland fire suppression. In 1993 he transferred to the Savannah River Forest Station where he was an engine operator and firefighter. At the time of the Storm King Mountain Fire, Rob was serving a four-month detail on a Grand Junction helitack crew, a specialized group of firefighters who are often the first to respond to a wildland fire. He was a dedicated member of the Forest Service, and received a great deal of satisfaction from helping others.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the life and memory of Firefighter Robert Browning Jr. Rob personified the Hotshots credo of Safety, Teamwork, and Professionalism; putting himself in harm's way for unfamiliar people and places. He made the ultimate sacrifice doing what he loved, and I, along with the Glenwood Springs community and the State of Colorado are eternally grateful to this brave young man.

A TRIBUTE TO ST. BLASÉ "KC"
CHARLES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of St. Blasé "KC" Charles in recognition of his significant cultural and economic development contributions to the community.

St. Blasé Charles, better known as KC, hails from the twin island nation of Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean. He has been an entertainer for more than 30 years. Famous for his Caribbean-style rendition of the "father of

soul," Mr. James Brown, KC is also affectionately known as the "Local James Brown" throughout the entertainment circles in North America and members of his international fan club. Along with his own musical group, the International Band, KC has performed at major events and famous places including the West Indian Labor Day Parade in Brooklyn, the Harlem Day Parade, Manhattan's Annual Halloween Parade, the MGM and Sahara casino in Las Vegas, and the Royal Caribbean and Carnival cruises, just to name a few.

KC's summer concerts were launched in 1989 at his garage at East 87th Street in East Flatbush, Brooklyn where he held a huge block party on Memorial Day. In order to accommodate the growing crowd that came to yearly event, in 1991, KC moved his Caribbean style street festival to Ditmas Avenue near his East 87th Street garage. The event covered ten blocks. The event continued at Ditmas Avenue until 1996, when KC took his show and a loyal following of thousands to its new home on Atlantic Avenue.

Spanning 10,000 square feet and a maximum occupancy of 4,300, the Hideaway is a spacious outdoor venue located at 2494 Atlantic, in an industrial section of Brooklyn. Since 1998, the Hideaway, which is owned and managed by KC, has been hosting its hallmark Summer Concert Series featuring today's leading soca, calypso, and reggae musical acts from around the Caribbean and here in the United States. Along with top performers, the Hideaway showcases some of the most popular Caribbean-American DJs. It is also equipped with a fully licensed bar, a professional sized stage, and an elevated VIP lounge where performing artist and special guests can view and enjoy the shows.

KC's Hideaway has become a major attraction for thousands of Caribbean music lovers from around the world who are drawn to Brooklyn, the Caribbean Capital of the United States, year after year to celebrate the West Indian Labor Day Carnival season, which begins in May. The venue stages around 66 shows a year and the number of concertgoers has steadily increased over the past three years. The concert grew from an audience of about 80,000 for the season in 1998, to approximately 165,000 for this season.

Mr. Speaker, St. Blasé "KC" Charles has developed and created a major cultural event in his community, which has brought thousands of people to Brooklyn each year to celebrate their Caribbean heritage. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO FATHER STEPHEN PATRICK WISNESKE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an individual who has been a spiritual guide for the Catholic community in Menominee, Michigan, Father Stephen Patrick Wisneske. On July 1st, "Father Pat" will be retiring from Holy Spirit Parish, where he has been pastor for the last 32 years. Throughout

that time, his leadership, his generous spirit, and his warm sense of humor have all been important sources of inspiration and comfort. He will be sorely missed.

Father Pat Wisneske was ordained on June 3rd, 1950, embarking on a 54-year journey in the clergy that touched countless lives in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. In 1950 and 1951, he served as an Assistant Pastor at Holy Trinity Parish in Ironwood, and St. Thomas Parish in Escanaba, respectively. In 1953, he began a six year tenure as Assistant Pastor at St. Mary and St. Joseph Parish in Iron Mountain, Michigan. During this time, he also served as the Chaplain for the VA hospital in Iron Mountain. From 1959 to 1963, he was the Administrator of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Franklin Mine.

In 1963, Father Pat became the pastor of St. Stephen Parish in Loretto and served there for three years before transferring to St. Jude Parish in White Pine, where he also oversaw the St. Ann mission in Bergland. After the Bergland mission was transferred to a parish in Marenisco in 1967, Father Pat became the temporary administrator of Holy Family Parish in Ontonagon until 1972.

The spring of 1972 was a very tense time for Menominee Catholics as they awaited the final outcome of a two year study that would eventually consolidate their parishes. When the members of the new Holy Spirit Parish learned that Father Pat would be their new pastor, they wondered what kind of pastor he would be. It did not take long to realize that he was a kind and gentle man who was indeed a "present" to them. Through the sadness of illness or death, and the joy of baptisms, marriages, first communions and confirmations, Father Pat was always there to offer guidance, leadership, spirit, faith, and friendship.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to his parish assignments, Father Pat was always willing to take on additional duties and leadership roles. Over the years he has served as the director of the deacon program for the diocese, twice as Dean, President of the St. Joseph's Association, and a member of the Priest's Council. He has also given of his time to serve as a chaplain for different organizations including the VA hospital in Iron Mountain, the Knights of Columbus, the Daughters of Isabella, and the Civil Air Patrol.

Another example of Father Pat's leadership has been his unwavering commitment to the youth of the community. He has been steadfast in his support for Menominee Catholic Central Schools, and he has always enjoyed working with young people, recognizing that they are indeed the future.

Those of us who know and love Father Pat have our own special stories of this remarkable individual. On a personal note, when tragedy struck my family, it was Father Pat who consoled us, reassured us, and provided comfort for us in our time of greatest need. Father Pat's kindness, spiritual guidance, and love will never be forgotten and we will always be indebted to him.

Mr. Speaker, 32 years after he came to Menominee and Holy Spirit Parish, it is time to bid a very fond and difficult farewell to Father Pat. He often said that he was energized by his parishioners, but they in turn would say they were energized by Father Pat. He was always present for us, giving us, the members of our Holy Spirit family, our Menominee Community, and our God the best present he

could—himself. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in honoring and thanking Father Patrick Wisneske for his dedicated service to his parish and the Catholic faith community throughout the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LA RENAISSANCE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the owners and the staff of La Renaissance, a family owned restaurant in Pueblo, Colorado. For twenty-six years, La Renaissance has been an icon in the Pueblo community. It is my pleasure to recognize their dedication to Pueblo and the State of Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation today.

In 1978, La Renaissance opened as a full service restaurant in Pueblo. Brothers Bob and Jim Fredregill started the restaurant as a small family business, and has grown to a staff of thirty-five. A well-known dining destination in Pueblo, La Renaissance has recently received honors for the brothers' business practices. The Colorado Food Service Hall of Fame recently inducted both Bob and Jim Fredregill, and the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce recognized La Renaissance as their Small Business of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize La Renaissance for continued excellence in business and for their commitment to the Pueblo community. Establishing the restaurant as part of the community's foundation captures the essence of small business. I congratulate La Renaissance on many years of success and wish them many more in the years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY JOSEPH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Anthony Joseph in recognition of his entrepreneurial success in the marketing and communications field.

As a product of New York City public school system, Anthony parlayed his academic achievement and his experience as an All-City championship football player into a walk-on position on the Boston University squad. Anthony promoted campus parties and events to subsidize his tuition. After graduation, he quickly turned a temp job in The New York Times' finance department into a staff position in the paper's marketing department.

With just one experience as an employee with the New York Times, Anthony combined his knowledge of urban landscape with his marketing expertise to incorporate the fastest rising marketing/communication company in the urban field. Anthony laid the foundation for his urban success by moonlighting with Vital Marketing Group VMG while still at the Times. Through contacts at a major apparel and an advertising agency, Anthony was able to participate in business meetings where he was