

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, from September 9th to September 15th, I was unavoidably detained in my district due to the death of my father. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote numbers 440, 441, 442, 443, 446, 447, 448, 449, 452, 453, 454, and 456. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote numbers 438, 439, 444, 445, 450, 451, and 455.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIM MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. MURPHY. Due to official business relating to the devastating damage caused by Hurricane Ivan in my Congressional District, I was not present in the chamber on Wednesday, September 22, 2004, and was regrettably unable to cast my vote on rollcall No. 461, No. 462, No. 463, No. 464, and No. 465.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 461; "yea" on rollcall No. 462; "yea" on rollcall No. 463; "no" on rollcall No. 464; and "yea" on rollcall No. 465.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. V.  
SIMPSON TURNER, SR.**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dr. V. Simpson Turner, Sr. for the 39th anniversary of his pastoral leadership and spiritual guidance of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church and the Brooklyn Community.

Dr. Turner earned his Bachelor's Degree at Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts; a Master's of Religious Education at Biblical Seminary of New York City; a Master's of Sacred Theology at New York Theological Seminary; and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University School of Theology in Administration. He is married to Laura B. Turner, an outstanding educator and a New York State Certified Secondary School Principal. They have two children: Reverend Vivian R. Pittman and Reverend V. Simpson Turner, Jr., both of whom are ordained ministers at the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church; son-in-law, Deacon/Trustee Jerald Pittman; daughter-in-law, Lady Selena Turner; grandchildren, Kenya and Nathan Botley, Jerald Ali Pittman, Joelle Pittman, V. Simpson Turner III and Seteena Eliza Laura Turner; and great grandchildren, Rasaun Botley and Vivian Botley.

Dr. Turner has been active in numerous civic and charitable organizations. He has served on the Board of Trustees for Gordon College, the Baptist Home for the Elderly, the Brooklyn Public Library, and Baptist Medical Center. He has served as the Chairman of the

Department of Communications for the Council of Churches in New York City and as a former president of the North American Baptist Fellowship of the Baptist World Alliance and the Baptist Minister's Conference of Greater New York. He was also a former member of the Board of Directors for Religion in American Life, a former member of the Brooklyn Borough President's Community Board #3, and was elected to the Board of Directors of the New York Bible Society in New York City in 1990. More recently, in June 2002, Dr. Turner was elected Secretary of the 7,000 members Hampton University Minister's Conference. Finally, he was an Adjunct Professor on Urban Concerns at Alliance Theological Seminary in New York.

For his efforts, Dr. Turner has been honored by many community groups including the City of New York; the Bureau of Child Welfare; the United Builders Association; the Boy Scouts of America; and the YMCA. The Governor of New York appointed him to the New York State Commission on Health Education and Illness Prevention. In 1990, Dr. Turner was appointed Chairman of the Billy Graham Crusade in New York City where the Great Lawn in Central Park held the largest crowd ever to attend a Billy Graham meeting in North America. Also, in the spring of 1990, as editor of the Baptist Progress, Dr. Turner received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for meritorious service in writing.

Dr. Turner produces and directs a weekly radio show known as "The Black Religious Experience" as well as a public affairs Cable TV program known as "The Public Wants To Know." He is the author of "Compassion for the City," which is used throughout the country as a textbook for those going into urban ministry. Dr. Turner has been instrumental in implementing several important community programs and resources such as a Homework Center, a High School Equivalency Program, a referral service to New York City Technical College, a Senior Services and handicapped Bus Ministry, a Radio Ministry, a Shut-In and Outreach Ministry, a Carillons Ministry, a "Sing, Spell, Read and Write" Educational Ministry, and a Soup Kitchen Ministry. Several college graduates began their college careers at Mt. Carmel as part of the then NYC Community College extension, which Dr. Turner helped to operate.

On January 4, 2004, Dr. Turner celebrated his 39th Anniversary as Pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York. He had a vision to combine his church and an apartment building into a Church and Educational complex. In the spring of 1993, Dr. Turner realized his vision of building affordable housing. Today, the 78 units, known as the Mt. Carmel Town Houses are occupied by new homeowners.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. V. Simpson Turner, Sr. has been a tireless advocate for his community and a spiritual leader for 39 years at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. 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.

## NEBRASKA'S LEADERSHIP IN DESIGNING A PLAN TO IMPROVE CIVIC EDUCATION

**HON. TOM OSBORNE**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, we should be very proud of our constitutional heritage, and feel comforted by the fact that we live in the world's oldest constitutional democracy. We celebrate Constitution Week knowing that the principles of a free democracy are emulated by nations throughout the world. It is extremely important that our young people understand and appreciate the time-honored principles that the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and other documents embody. For this reason, effective instruction in civics and government in our schools is necessary.

Last year, the first Congressional Conference on Civic Education was held. One of the positive outcomes of this conference was the establishment of state delegations to return to the state to enact specific policies designed to restore the civic mission of our schools. I would like to recognize Nebraska's delegation for their leadership in working to design a plan to improve civic education in our state.

Nebraska's plan will result in the formation of the Civics Nebraska Partnership, a coalition of educators, public officials, agencies, and organizations committed to improving the level of civic learning in our state. Initially, Civics Nebraska will measure civic aptitude and attitudes of Nebraskans and provide a clearinghouse of resources for classroom teachers. It is hoped that the partnership will help bridge the gap that sometimes exists between the education and government sectors when it comes to civics education.

I look forward to the success of Civics Nebraska and want to recognize the efforts of those who are working hard to improve civics and government education.

## RECOGNIZING OLYMPIAN MELISSA MORRISON

**HON. ROBIN HAYES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kannapolis, North Carolina native Melissa Morrison. I want to congratulate Melissa for her Bronze medal in the 100 meter hurdles at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Melissa started running track in the seventh grade because a cousin, April Graham, made it look easy and fun. A few short years later Melissa was running track for A.L. Brown High School, and collecting four state titles in the process. She next attended Appalachian State University earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, and receiving All-American honors in both the 55 and 100 meter hurdles.

Melissa's first Olympic experience was at the 2000 Sydney, Australia games. In Sydney, Melissa was the only American woman to win a medal in the 100 meter hurdles, winning

bronze with a time of 12.76 seconds in the final. With her Athens repeat this year, Melissa became the only two-time American medalist in the 100 meter hurdles.

In the last couple of years Melissa has fought through serious adversity, including nagging injuries and personal tragedy. However, through unyielding determination and support from her loved ones, she never gave up. In the race where Melissa captured her second Olympic medal, she exemplified her never quit attitude. Melissa collided with two hurdles but continued to fight on. In fact, she addressed these hardships and gave us insight to her strong character by saying, "Mental strength got me through there and got me a bronze medal again this year."

Mr. Speaker, while I have only touched on a fraction of her accomplishments, I proudly join her friends, family, and teammates in congratulating Melissa's outstanding athletic achievements. I wish Melissa continued success both on and off the track, and would also like to congratulate her on the forthcoming marriage to fiancé Josephus Howard.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LEE ELWOOD  
GILLIS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Lee Elwood Gillis and thank him for his exceptional contributions to his community and the State of Colorado as the District 63 representative to the Colorado House of Representatives. A representative since 1981, Lee is a dedicated public servant and leader in his community and I am honored to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

Lee was born in Texas and graduated with a bachelor's degree in business from West Texas State University before going on to serve in the Texas National Guard and the U.S. Army Rangers. He is a member of the National Federation of Independent Business and Director of the Heritage Savings and Loan from 1977 to the present. Lee began his public service career in 1980, when he was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives and subsequently reelected in 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988, and 1990. Serving the people of Baca, Bent, and Otero County in District 63, Lee has long been an advocate of lowering property taxes on agricultural land, and establish an economic development office in Southeast Colorado. He served on the Game, Fish & Parks, Education, Appropriations, House Services, and Joint Budget Committees during his legislative career.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Lee Elwood Gillis has ceaselessly dedicated his time and efforts to serving his country and the people of Colorado as a State Representative. I am honored to bring his hard work and commitment to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. Thank you for all your service, Lee, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

CALLING FOR THE SUSPENSION  
OF SUDAN'S MEMBERSHIP ON  
THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION  
ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2004*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 137.

The human rights violations in Darfur are reaching a crisis point. Since the beginning of the conflict in early 2003, more than 30,000 innocent civilians have been murdered, more than 400 villages have been destroyed, and hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced from their homes.

Tragically, the situation in Darfur has escalated from a rebellion by local militias into a full-scale ethnic cleansing campaign. The government in Khartoum has met this crisis with deliberate neglect at best, and direct support at worst. Congress rightly called this brutal and systematic slaughter a "genocide" in a resolution passed on July 22.

On July 30th, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon the Sudanese government to immediately fulfill its obligations to facilitate humanitarian relief, take steps to disarm the Janjaweed militias, and cooperate with an independent investigation of human rights violations in Darfur. However, it is time for the international community to make its authority felt through actions, not just words.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights binds member nations together in a pact to uphold universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Government of Sudan has broken this pledge and must be held accountable for its crime against humanity. I therefore urge Congress to call for the immediate suspension of Sudan from the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and pass Senate Concurrent Resolution 137.

IN HONOR OF DR. TREENA  
LIVINGSTON ARINZEH

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Treena Livingston Arinze for her outstanding work in the field of stem cell research. On September 9, 2003, President Bush presented her with the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.

Dedicated to researching stem cells, Dr. Arinze has made revolutionary findings that may lead to procedures that help people recover from a variety of diseases, spinal cord injuries, and bone and cartilage damage. Dr. Arinze has earned the respect of her colleagues and established herself as a scientist by publishing influential papers in the *Journal of Biomedical Materials Research* and the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*.

The Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers is the highest honor a

young researcher can receive. Since 1996, the White House has acknowledged the achievements of such talented professionals. Each year, eight federal agencies nominate promising researchers and the winners receive up to five years of funding for their future work. The sole recipient from New Jersey, Dr. Arinze received a \$400,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

Born and raised in Jersey City, Dr. Arinze is currently a professor of biomedical engineering at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark. In addition to her research projects, Dr. Arinze devotes her time to developing new undergraduate and graduate programs in tissue engineering, as well as creating community outreach programs for high school students in New Jersey and New York.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Treena Livingston Arinze, a trailblazer in the field of stem cell research. I applaud her for her exceptional achievements. New Jersey and our nation will greatly benefit from her groundbreaking work.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CARL  
BLED SOE

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Carl Bledsoe and thank him for his exceptional contributions to his community and the State of Colorado as the Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives. A state representative since 1973, Carl is a dedicated public servant and leader in his community and I am honored to recognize his service before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

A resident of Aroya, Colorado, Carl graduated from Kit Carson High School in 1941 and served in the U.S. Army Air Corp from 1942 to 1945. He later earned a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry from Colorado State University. Carl began his impressive thirty-two year public service career in 1958 as secretary of the Lincoln County Stockmen's Association. He served 12 years on the Kit Carson Board of Education, including two years as President. Carl was the President of Cheyenne County Farm Bureau from 1962 to 1964, and the Colorado Cattlemen's Association in 1967. He has also served as a member of various organizations like the National Western Stock Show Association, the Colorado Housing Inc, Board, the Colorado State Board of Veterinary Medicine and the Colorado State Fiscal Policy Committee.

Carl was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1972 becoming the third member of his family to serve in the Colorado General Assembly. During his seventeen years as a legislator, Carl chaired the House Committee on Finance, the Legislative Audit Committee, the Western Region of the Council of State Governments, and was the vice-chairman of the International Trade Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures and most recently Speaker of the House for the last five years. During his seventeen years of service he received many awards such as the Outstanding Rural Legislator of the Year, and the American Legislative Exchange Conference's Outstanding State Legislator award.