

very best wishes to the Board and its membership for many more years of success!

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
SHERIFF GERALD T. McFAUL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute of Sheriff Gerald T. McFaul for the exemplary service he has shown to our community during his 38 years in public office. As the longest serving sheriff in Cuyahoga County history, Gerald has been a vital asset to our community.

In 1957, only two weeks out of high school, Gerald started an apprenticeship at the Pipefitters Local 120 and has been a proud member for 53 years. At the same time he ran for Cleveland City council—and lost. But Gerald was committed to helping his community and on his third try won a seat, which he kept for five consecutive terms.

At 31, he became the youngest Majority Leader in Cleveland City Council history. I too at age 31 was elected to a public office in Cleveland, when I was voted the youngest mayor ever of a major American city. So I can tell you personally that this speaks volumes to his character.

Because Gerald is interested in justice issues and having a desire to stop racist practices in the police department he decided to run for sheriff. He was elected in 1976 and has been in office for more than 28 years.

Sheriff McFaul is a pillar of our community and has worked to keep the streets of Cuyahoga County safe with the utmost respect for the rule of law and the people of this fine county.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly pleased that the people of Cuyahoga County turned to Gerald T. McFaul, to serve as sheriff for more than 28 years. Please join me today in honor and recognition of a person who has willingly assisted the residents of Cuyahoga County for nearly four decades.

HONORING CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE, CITRUS COUNTY, FL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sheriffs Office in Citrus County, FL.

Local Sheriffs offices are the first responders to crimes and disasters and are a key element of support in our communities. It is important that we recognize the hard work and dedication of these men and women, and never take their service for granted.

These deputies make daily sacrifices and put themselves at risk keeping our communities safe. This office has shown professional excellence this past year and their work has truly made our county a safer place.

Events like the one today hosted by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce provide

the camaraderie and support these dedicated men and women deserve. This Appreciation Barbeque allows for the employees of the Sheriff's Department to come together after a very difficult and heart wrenching year. The generosity of the community as a whole has made this event possible and I thank them for it.

Unfortunately, I was unable to join them today at Liberty Park in Inverness, FL. I was unavoidably detained by Congressional votes here in Washington, DC, and could not return in time for the event. I look forward to joining them in the future when I am home in Citrus County.

The Mission of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office is to maintain peace and order by providing law enforcement services that are of the highest professional quality. I would argue they have far surpassed this mission. When tragedy strikes our community, I know we can rely on these truly dedicated public servants.

Mr. Speaker, I once again would like to express my true appreciation for everyone in the Sheriffs Office and all they do for our communities.

TRIBUTE TO THURL ARTHUR
RAVENSCROFT

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, my colleague Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan and I rise today to honor the life of Thurl Arthur Ravenscroft, the voice of Tony the Tiger, the orange-and-black-striped spokesman for Kellogg's Frosted Flakes. We would like to express our heartfelt condolences as all of us in Southern Michigan lost a friend and neighbor on May 22, 2005.

Thurl had a long, distinguished career, most notably as the voice of Tony the Tiger for over 53 years. However, his contributions to the entertainment industry didn't stop there. While a celebrity in his own right, he sang backup with other celebrities such as Bing Crosby, Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra and Rosemary Clooney. Thurl also provided voiceovers for the Grinch in Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," "The Cat in the Hat," in "Horton Hears a Who," and "The Lorax."

With his contributions to Kellogg and Dr. Seuss novels, the world of Walt Disney wouldn't be the same without Thurl's voice. His vocal works played important roles in the themes of "The Mickey Mouse Club," "Davy Crockett," and "Zorro," while contributing to the making of "Cinderella," "Dumbo," and "Lady and the Tramp." Thurl's voice was also used in both song and narration for two of Walt Disney's most popular theme rides, "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "The Haunted Mansion."

While most of his career was spent entertaining both the young and old, Thurl courageously served in the U.S. Military for 5 years. In 1942, he enlisted in the Air Transport Command, where he flew numerous special missions over the North Atlantic as an expert navigator. In addition to his work outside the entertainment business, Thurl devoted time to activities in the Christian field that included recording the Book of Psalms for the visually impaired.

All of us in Southern Michigan are deeply saddened with the passing of Thurl Ravenscroft and appreciate all of his service as an entertainer, soldier and Christian. We will forever be able to enjoy his wonderful works whether we are watching great Kellogg commercials, a Disney movie, or attending an amusement park.

Southern Michigan will not be the same without Thurl Ravenscroft. He was GRRRRREEEEAT!

THE PLIGHT OF THE AFRO-COLOMBIANS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring light to the continuing neglect of Afro-Descendent people in Colombia. This past May 21, 2005, Colombia marked the 154th anniversary of the abolition of slavery. Yet, African descendant minorities, who comprises 26 percent of the population, continues to be mistreated, marginalized socially and economically, and are pushed to the fringes of society.

Afro-Colombians are displaced from their ancestral lands which is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world, so that extra-judicial groups such as the FARC, ELN and AUC are able to grow crops for drug trafficking. This population is, by far, the most repressed group in Colombia. They have the lowest national per capita income, the highest rates of illiteracy, high indices of infant mortality, and startling rates of preventable diseases.

Though the Colombian government is starting to make strides in breaking down the power of guerrilla and paramilitary groups, it has not done enough to protect Afro-Colombian territories. Historically, Afro-Colombian territories such as Chocó are of great strategic importance to securing the United States. Chocó is in essence at the crossroads between Central America and South America. It also has access to the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea making Chocó a very attractive launching pad for Colombia's extra-judicial actors.

These illegally armed actors should not and must not be exempt from prosecution for the human rights violations carried out under their leadership. The oppression of the Afro-Colombian population by these military groups must cease and desist. It is the responsibility of the Colombian government to secure its communities by eliminating such groups who have murdered, raped, and displaced the Afro-Colombian people.

We must do more in humanitarian assistance to provide better aid to those Afro-Colombians who have been displaced. Groups such as the Social Solidarity Network, Afro-Latino Development Alliance, the Black Mayors Federation, and AFRODES, in collaboration with local NGOs, are laying the foundation for advancements in healthcare, education, sustainable development, community kitchens, housing and other programs to address the needs of the displaced. Additionally, organizations such as USAID, Pan American Development Foundation, and the Colombian National Police are now finally planning to hire Afro-Colombians for technical and professional positions that will be beneficial to the Afro-Colombian community.

It is imperative that, more coordination by the Colombian government, our State Department and the philanthropic communities develop mechanisms to address this critical issue. President Uribe of Colombia agreed to the creation of a Cabinet level appointee to address the crisis facing Afro-Colombians and we are waiting for this to happen. This person will provide coordination amongst the Colombian government, the State Department, NGOs and other groups to address the plight of the Afro-Colombian communities. This will afford Afro-Colombians a voice in public policy that will ultimately have an impact on their communities.

The role of the United States must be, as it has in the past, multi-faceted. We must work closely with the Colombian government, our State Department and USAID to fight this crisis on all fronts. We must help to put an end to the oppression that the Afro-Colombian people have endured over the past 154 years since the abolishment of slavery.

Mr. Speaker, we must contribute more money in the area of sustainable development and rely less on military aid to solve Colombia's problems. We cannot continue to allow the egregious human rights violations within the Afro-Colombian community to continue. We must hold the Colombian government accountable on its human rights record and for its neglect of the Afro-Colombians.

HONORING JAMES EDWARD
WESTCOTT

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize Mr. James Edward Westcott of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for his continued dedication and service to the community.

Ed Westcott's career has been a long and illustrious one. He served a unique role in capturing the history of Oak Ridge. In 1941, Ed went to work for the United States Army Corps of Engineers as their chief photographer for the famed Manhattan Project. He served the City with two distinct roles, officially documenting the historic creation and operation of the "Secret City" and unofficially documenting the daily life and events of the community of Oak Ridge as a photojournalist for the Oak Ridge Journal.

Throughout Mr. Westcott's career, he has captured numerous historic events and many notable personalities on film, including seven presidents. His most important work, however, was capturing the unique history and heritage of Oak Ridge. The early people of this town who dedicated their services to the greater cause of our country will never be forgotten thanks to the talents and contributions of Ed Westcott.

He has truly distinguished himself through his commitment and service to the community.

RECOGNIZING PROFESSOR STEFAN
KAPSCH'S RETIREMENT FROM
REED COLLEGE

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, this month, Stefan Kapsch will retire as a professor of political science at Reed College. Professor Kapsch came to Reed from the University of Pennsylvania in 1974. For thirty years, he has inspired Reed students with his passion for American politics, empirical methodology, and constitutional law.

Professor Kapsch's career is distinguished by an impressive record of civic engagement. For him, public policy analysis is not just an abstract subject for classroom discussion; it is a very real and ongoing pursuit. Professor Kapsch has been research director of the Oregon Commission on the Judicial Branch, executive director of the Oregon Prison Overcrowding Project and research partner in the SACSI Initiative of the National Institute of Justice, a project on youth gun violence in Portland. By his example, Professor Kapsch has taught generations of students that independent academic analysis is a necessary component of good policymaking.

Professor Kapsch has taken a special interest in the former Yugoslavia—and Slovenia in particular—where he was a Fulbright Fellow to the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Ljubljana in 1994–95. He has served as a voter registration supervisor for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is charged with the conduct of elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina under the Dayton Accords. In 2002, Professor Kapsch was a Senior Fulbright Scholar at the Amerika Institut of Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich.

Professor Kapsch will be remembered for his ability to bring even the most technical subjects to life through classroom discussions and seminars. He has earned a reputation among Reed students as the faculty's best storyteller, with an anecdote to illustrate every new principle introduced in class.

In his three decades at Reed, Professor Kapsch was a mentor, a confidant, and a friend to countless students and he will certainly be missed. But his retirement marks the start of a fresh chapter in his life, as he will spend more time brewing homemade beer, relaxing at the Oregon coast, restoring his 1952 Ford Pickup, and enjoying the company of his loving wife Shirley, his children and grandchildren.

IN HONOR OF THE HOUSING AU-
THORITY OF PLAINFIELD'S 30TH
ANNIVERSARY OF RICHMOND
TOWERS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the longevity of the Richmond Towers in Plainfield, New Jersey.

This September, the Housing Authority of Plainfield will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of

the Richmond Towers, a 225 unit senior citizen complex developed to serve seniors within the Plainfield area. This building is a testament to the successes of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which funded this project that helped to house thousands of residents in the Plainfield community.

Today I feel fortunate to stand here and announce that two agencies, one at the Federal level and one at the state, have not only followed through with their goals, but exceeded them. The Housing Authority has been invaluable to the senior citizens of Plainfield and I am confident that it will continue to be for the next 30 years as well.

REGARDING FORECLOSURES
AMONG MINORITIES

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, homeownership can be the passage to the American dream. It can help offer wealth and even tax credit to American citizens. Nonetheless homeownership can also bring great economic devastation. While we were back in our districts, it was reported that there has been an increasing epidemic of foreclosures, especially among working-class neighborhoods. Even more, wide disparity between the rate of white homeowners and members of ethnic minority groups continue to exist. These foreclosures have fallen particularly hard on black and Latino families. As citizens face low interest rates and the pressure to refinance, an escalating number of citizens have found themselves unable to take on their mortgage debt. This past March, 47 states experienced a rise in foreclosure rates, and today, more than eight percent of homeowners spend at least half of their income on their mortgage. These numbers are appalling.

A recent study in Chicago found that rising foreclosures fuel increases in crime rates. So, not only does this affect our economic structure, but our security in society. Homeownership, especially among minorities, should not lead to economic and social ruin. In my district, just 37 percent of African-Americans own homes of their own. That's below the average for the city as a whole and falls far short of the national homeownership rate of 68 percent. Chicago should thrive off its bustling economic and cultural prospects, not be brought down because the citizens cannot afford to prosper.

In fact, there have been measures taken to counteract this declining trend. Recently, the Administration announced a goal to increase homeownership among minorities by 5.5 million households before the end of the decade through various programs such as American Dream Down-Payment Initiative. Nonetheless, the trends continue to move downward. Rising interest rates and discrimination continue to hinder homeownership among minorities. Minorities, especially African Americans, have experienced a significant disadvantage in terms of wealth creation. While sustaining the cost of housing provides great difficulty, many citizens cannot even find jobs before aspiring to finance homeownership. Before the Administration can help minorities increase homeownership, it must first give the citizens job