

## A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND RALPH E. BLANKS

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Ralph E. Blanks for his installation to the Superintendence of the Central District. An inspirational member of our community and roll model to all, Reverend Blanks has served as the Senior Pastor of James Memorial United Methodist Church since July of 2001. Prior, Reverend Blanks served for more than 15 years as the Pastor of Mother African Zoar United Methodist Church—the Mother Church for African Americans in the United Methodist.

Beyond his church ministry, Reverend Blanks also serves in leadership positions in several prestigious faith-based organizations. He is currently Chair of the United Methodist Metro Ministries of Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and Chair of the Resource Development Committee of the African American Interdenominational Ministries, Inc.

His religious involvement in the community is not the only extent to which Reverend Blanks gives so generously to others. He is also a current Mayoral appointee to the School District of Philadelphia Board and Chair of the City of Philadelphia's Fair Housing Commission. Among other honors, he serves as the Vice Chair of the North Philadelphia Health System, Chair of the Patient Services Committee of St. Joseph's Hospital and several community boards including the Korean Community Development Service Center and Greater Philadelphia Health Action, Inc.

Among the many awards given to Reverend Blanks, the Community Spirit Award from the African American Interdenominational Ministries; the Presidents award from the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity; the Human Rights Award from the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations; the Preacher of the Year Award by the Black United Methodist Preachers; the Outstanding Service to Community and Church Award from the City Council of Philadelphia; and the Liberty Bell Award from the City of Philadelphia.

I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Reverend Ralph E. Blanks, for his lifetime of service and dedicated commitment to the community, on his installation to the Superintendence of the Central District.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION****HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I accompanied constituents of mine from West Plains, Missouri, as they delivered supplies to the people that have been affected by Hurricane Katrina. As a result I missed rollcall votes Nos. 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, and 459 on September 6, 7, and 8, 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all of the aforementioned rollcall votes.

## TAIWAN PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian. In late September he will be making a brief stop in Miami en route to Central America and later staying overnight in San Francisco on his way back to Taiwan. During his stopovers in Miami and San Francisco, I am hopeful that a few of my colleagues will have a chance to visit with him, and—more importantly—exchange views on Taiwan's future, Taiwan's relations with China and the United States, and Taiwan's bid to re-enter the United Nations.

In the last five years, President Chen has shown strong leadership in guiding his people through turbulent times. Despite worldwide financial challenges, Taiwan's economy has continued to grow and despite pressures from Taiwan's opposition leaders, Taiwan has been faithful to its route of constitutional reform and full democratization. Today, Taiwan continues to be a beacon of prosperity and freedom throughout Asia. Taiwan's 23 million people enjoy high standards of living and full rights of freedom and liberty.

President Chen has been deft in handling cross-strait relations. Despite China's passage of the anti-secession law last spring, China's positioning of 700 missiles along Taiwan's coast and China's many other unfriendly acts toward Taiwan, President Chen has insisted on a peaceful solution to the Taiwan issue and an early resumption of talks between himself and other Chinese leaders. President Chen fully understands that peace and stability within the Taiwan Strait are in global community's best interest.

As for Taiwan's relations with the United States, we have strong trade and cultural relations with Taiwan. Taiwan is one of our largest trading partners and cultural exchanges between our two countries are vibrant. Moreover, we are committed to defending Taiwan under the framework of the Taiwan Relations Act, and we are fully committed to a peaceful solution of the Taiwan issue—no military conflict should ever occur in the Taiwan Strait. Moreover, we appreciate Taiwan's full cooperation with us in combating terrorism, its monetary contributions to the Twin Towers Fund, Pentagon Memorial Fund and its offer of humanitarian assistance to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

It is regrettable that Taiwan has been excluded from many world organizations such as the World Health Organization and the United Nations. It has been a gross injustice to deny Taiwan's 23 million people their proper voice in the world. The United States should take more active steps in helping Taiwan re-enter the World Health Organization and the United Nations.

It is my hope that President Chen and the people of Taiwan will receive both proper and greater international attention as President Chen travels to Central America and hopefully to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Busan, Korea, this November. The story of Taiwan, in the person of President Chen, needs to be told and heard around the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TASK FORCE ON MENTORING OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Task Force on Mentoring (TFM) of Montgomery County on the occasion of its fourteenth annual conference entitled "Saving Our Children—Compassionate Mentoring", which will be held on the Rockville campus of Johns Hopkins University on Thursday, October 6, 2005.

For more than fifteen years, the TFM has been a mainstay of support for at-risk youth in Montgomery County. It has been repeatedly recognized for the high quality mentoring programs it has implemented in partnership with many of our community's schools, civic organizations and, more recently, correctional facilities. Moreover, as if to underscore the spirit guiding its work, the TFM offers all of its recruitment assistance, training expertise and technical support free of charge.

Because of the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County—and its legions of trained and dedicated volunteers—more and more of our youth are growing up to become active, positive participants in our community. They are making great plans to lead great lives.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of its fourteenth annual conference, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County and in thanking the TFM for its consistent commitment to the children and youth of Montgomery County, Maryland.

**A TRIBUTE TO JAMES EDWIN KUHN****HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life and memory of a good friend and a great American, Mr. James Edwin Kuhn of El Centro, California. Jim died shortly after midnight on Monday, August 29, 2005, when his sports utility vehicle overturned on Evan Hewes Highway.

Those of us who knew Jim best remember a family man and an agricultural innovator who shared his passion for the outdoors. He is from a family of farmers that settled in Imperial Valley in the early years of the 20th century and helped build one of the strongest agricultural sectors in the country.

Jim was born April 21, 1964, spending much of his early childhood working on the family farm. In high school, he shined as a wrestler and a football player, demonstrating himself as a leader and making obvious his desire for success. Jim's father reinforced the importance of receiving a well-rounded college education, but also advised him to learn as much as he could about Imperial Valley, business, and agriculture. When he graduated

high school, Jim left for Stanford University and graduated in 1986 with a degree in Slavic languages and literature. He immediately returned to Imperial Valley and continued the Kuhn farming tradition started by Jim's grandfather.

Jim immediately began looking and thinking of ways to improve and expand the family business. He took his father's idea of exporting compressed hay to dairies in Japan and before long, Kuhn farms grew into a large, vertically-integrated farming, processing, and exporting company with more than 300 employees. Jim received much admiration and respect from his workers and their families, and just like Jim, they took great pride in the work done at Kuhn farms.

While maintaining a reputation as an innovator in the transport and international sale of hay and forage products, Jim also founded KF Dairy in 1992 and, in conjunction with Gossner Foods of Utah, established Imperial Valley Cheese—a local cheese production facility. He is also credited for introducing Klein Grass to Imperial Valley, where it has become a significant crop.

Jim also created the Salton Sea International Bird Festival in an effort to share with the community his passion for photographing birdlife and desert scenery. He recognized the value and beauty of Imperial Valley, and wanted nothing more than to show everyone living, visiting, or traveling through his community that agriculture and wildlife can coexist. The Bird Festival has become an annual event bringing people from all over the world to Imperial Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I know Jim's loving wife, Heidi, and his two children, Vienna and Fritz, will continue to share with family and friends his passion for adventure and the outdoors.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and paying tribute to the life and memory of James Edwin Kuhn.

**HONORING THE EAST  
BRANDYWINE FIRE COMPANY**

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the East Brandywine Fire Company, Station 49, on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

The East Brandywine Fire Company has a long and distinguished history of improving the quality of life within its community by providing the highest quality of emergency fire and medical service. Located in Guthriesville, Pennsylvania, the East Brandywine Fire Company proudly serves both East and West Brandywine Townships and a portion of Upper Uwchlan Township. The Company was formed out of necessity in 1955 when two devastating fires broke out and the existing fire companies didn't respond in a timely manner. Residents were upset by the slow response and decided to take matters into their own hands and form a fire company of their own. On April 12, 1956, a charter was drawn and the East Brandywine Fire Company had its first monthly meeting.

Today, the Company consists of 20 plus active members who are always on call. The

members meet weekly for training and update themselves regularly on new fire training and rescue techniques so they can be prepared for any emergency situation they may be presented with. In total, the Company serves 26 square miles and approximately 14,000 people. Over the past 50 years, literally hundreds of men and women made significant contributions of time and effort to the Company.

An important asset of the East Brandywine Fire Company is the Ladies Auxiliary—an organization that has played multiple roles throughout the Company's history. The Auxiliary has brought in thousands of dollars by catering banquets, selling antiques, and hosting chicken barbeques in the community. Today, there are 90 members, 15 of which are active.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the East Brandywine Fire Company, Station 49, for their invaluable service and contributions they have made to their community over the past 50 years.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND  
BIRTHDAY OF JACK DANIEL**

**HON. LINCOLN DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, travel to almost any country in the world, tell folks you're from Tennessee, and they're likely to respond with a smile and the name of someone they know from my 4th Congressional District—Jack Daniel.

I'm proud to represent the people who craft one of America's best-known and most-loved products. Every drop of the 7 million cases of Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey wetting the whistles of folks in more than 140 countries is made and mellowed, drop by drop, in Lynchburg, Tennessee. That's quite an accomplishment for a town with just one traffic light and whose population is advertised as just 361.

Now, to tell you the truth, Lynchburg's population is a bit larger than that. As one of my Moore County constituents has confided, "Why does it say population 361 on the bottle? There is probably five or six hundred people living in Lynchburg. They just want us to look small."

Small or not, as the home to the Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey and America's oldest registered distillery, Lynchburg and Moore County have made sizeable contributions to the American way of life. In fact, the little town of Lynchburg may be the largest per capita tax contributor in the country when it comes to federal revenues generated by the fruits of their labors. Each gallon of whiskey in Jack Daniel's warehouses will generate about \$13.50 in federal taxes. Multiply by the more than a million gallons resting in each warehouse, then multiply it again by the 74 warehouses dotting the hillsides, and it adds up to right at a billion dollars. And that's not just a one-time contribution. The whiskey made by the people of Moore County and the Jack Daniel Distillery generates more than \$115 million a year in federal, state and local taxes across the country.

But as significant as these taxes revenues are, Jack Daniel's contributions to American culture are far greater. Through the years,

Jack Daniel's virtues have been heralded by presidents, movie stars and musicians.

U.S. Vice President John Nance "Cactus Jack" Garner, in office during the repeal of Prohibition, was said to have invited friends to his office right here in the Capitol to "strike a blow for liberty" with the help of Jack Daniel's.

It's been reported that Winston Churchill approved of the whiskey to the point his appreciation provoked extraordinary discomfort among his country's Scotch-makers.

Jack Daniel's association with the Rat Pack and its Chairman of the Board, Frank Sinatra, is legendary. During his lifetime, he was said to have always traveled with a supply of Jack Daniel's just in case his favorite libation was unavailable. That may also be the case with his final journey. A small bottle of Jack is reported to have been buried with Mr. Sinatra.

With this rich heritage, the legend of Jack Daniel's lives on stronger than ever today. The Rolling Stone, has named Jack Daniel's an American Icon while Stephan Jenkins of Third Eye Blind—a popular rock band, so I am told—has said to the people of Lynchburg, "Ya'll should be proud of yourselves because Rock 'n' Roll would not have been invented without your product."

And, finally, no less than the great American writer and Noble Prize-winning author William Faulkner once sized up Jack Daniel's real appeal when he said "It's a good thing that in a changing world there are some things you can count on, like the quality of Jack Daniel's."

As in the best of American stories, Jack Daniel rose to its heralded place from humble beginnings. It all started with Jasper Newton Daniel born in Lynchburg sometime in September, sometime around 1850. Then as now, Jasper Newton's friends just called him Jack. And a fortunate thing, since I can't imagine a glass of Jasper would have captured the America's fancy as completely. Jack was just five-foot-two-inches tall and left home before he'd reached the age of ten. He took up with and learned the art of making whiskey from a local Lutheran preacher named Dan Call and his African American still hand, Nearest Green. Jack later bought the minister's distilling operation when Call's congregation forced their spiritual advisor to choose between making spirits and saving them.

About the time Jack set out on his own, the American Civil War broke out. The land around Lynchburg was taken and retaken by Union troops seven times, and the foraging armies of the North and South made corn and grain for whiskey-making hard to come by. Through it all, Jack held fast to his simple philosophy—"Every day that we make it, we'll make it the best that we can."

Making it Mr. Jack's way meant adding an extra step to the traditional whiskey-making process. Jack mellowed his whiskey drop by drop through 10 feet of sugar maple charcoal before putting it up to mature in white oak barrels. This extra blessing added time and expense to making his whiskey, but a taste of what emerged from the barrels had most folks agreeing it was worth the wait. During its 150-some-year history, Jack Daniel's Old No. 7 has been awarded seven international gold medals, beginning with the first it won at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. The 1904 World's Fair helped usher in the American Century, which the little man from Tennessee and his whiskey was destined to be a growing part of.