

CONGRATULATING WES FREEDMAN, THE MAN OF THE YEAR AT B'NAI B'RITH AMOS LODGE NO. 136

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Wes Freedman, recipient of the "Man of the Year" award from B'nai B'rith Amos Lodge No. 136.

A highly respected and talented businessman and community leader, Mr. Freedman earned a reputation for personal integrity. His community service over the years has benefited both young and old alike.

For more than 30 years, Mr. Freedman owned and operated several catalog showrooms in northeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Mr. Freedman served on the boards of directors at Johnson Technical School, PNC Bank and Marywood College. He currently serves on the boards at Mercy Hospital, the Jewish Home of Eastern Pennsylvania, Elan Gardens, an assisted living facility, and the Foundation for the Jewish Elderly of Eastern Pennsylvania. He is currently president of the board of Webster Towers, a high rise apartment complex for the independent aging.

Mr. Freedman is a life member of the Jewish Community Center in Scranton and has been a member of B'nai B'rith and Temple Israel for many years.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Freedman on this honor. His commitment to his community reflects a genuine selflessness and devotion to others in need. Mr. Freedman's record of service is exemplary and has helped improve the quality of life for many in northeastern Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT H. GRIFFIN, DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer tribute to a truly superb soldier and engineer, Major General Robert H. Griffin, on the occasion of his retirement as Deputy Commanding General of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. In so doing, I note that this is his second retirement this year—he left Corps Headquarters in August, but agreed to return last month to help guide the Corps through its response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

It has been my pleasure to know and work with General Griffin as he served this nation in three capacities—first as commander of the Corps of Engineers' Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, which includes my home district; then as Director of Civil Works; and finally as Deputy Commander of the Corps of Engineers.

General Griffin's distinguished military service spanned 34 years of dedicated and honor-

able service to this nation. Since his graduation from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and his commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in 1971, he has led at every level of command. During his last ten years, while serving as commander of the Corps of Engineers District in Mobile, Alabama; Chief of Staff at Corps Headquarters in Washington; Commanding General of the Corps' Northwestern Division and then of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division; Director of the \$5 billion annual Army Civil Works program my subcommittee oversees; and finally as Deputy Commanding General of the Corps of Engineers; he significantly contributed to our nation's global goals and objectives.

General Griffin's technical expertise and superior leadership have been critical to the success of the Army Corps of Engineers' many complex missions. His ability to handle complex tasks, large organizations, difficult negotiations and the most pressing problems has been truly remarkable. He has been equally adept at interacting with the highest levels of government, setting overall strategy for meeting the nation's military construction and water resource needs, and dealing with the intricacies of project design. The organizations he has led have been known for command climates that emphasize teamwork, common sense, prudent risk taking and mission accomplishment. All in all, I know of no finer member of our Army, and I wish him the best in the years ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF SHIRLEY HORN RESOLUTION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce the introduction of a resolution honoring the late Shirley Horn, a great jazz vocalist who passed away on October 20. For those of you who did not follow her career, Shirley Horn was one of this country's musical and cultural greats.

The resolution speaks for itself, but I would like to highlight some aspects of her life. She was born in the Nation's capital in 1934 and started her musical career as a young child on her grandmother's piano. She continued to study music at Howard University and was invited to attend the prestigious Juilliard School in New York.

She recorded over two dozen albums and was lauded with numerous honors, including being elected into the Lionel Hampton Jazz Hall of Fame, receiving Grammy Awards, an honorary doctorate from Berklee College of Music, and receiving the 2003 Jazz at Lincoln Center Award.

Importantly, Ms. Horn never forgot her background. She was dedicated to the Washington, DC community and, as a result, earned the Mayor's Arts Award for Excellence in an Artistic Discipline.

I would like to express my deepest sympathies to her family and express to them that her passing is a loss to all of us.

HONORING ARMY CAPTAIN JOEL CAHILL

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to Army Captain Joel Cahill, a company commander in the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry, Fort Benning, Georgia. Captain Cahill was killed in western Iraq on Sunday, the 5th of November. He served two tours in Iraq, as well as two tours in Afghanistan with a unit of the U.S. Army Rangers.

Captain Cahill grew up in Nebraska, and after graduating from Papillion La Vista High School, he joined the Army and began Special Forces training. He was awarded several citations including the Army Achievement Medal and the Soldier's Medal. He was a graduate with honors from the University of Nebraska—Omaha in 1999, earning his commission from the UNO-Creighton ROTC program.

Because of his professionalism and bravery, Captain Cahill was accepted into the Army Rangers, one of the elite groups in the Armed Forces.

Captain Cahill was a devoted father to his two daughters, Faith and Brenna, and devoted husband to their mother, Mary. Faith and Brenna were the joys of his life whenever he could be stateside.

My prayers are with his family, and I offer my condolences to his parents, Larry and Barbara; his three brothers, Larry Jr., Randy, and Jason; and his sister, Erin Christensen.

As a nation, we will honor Captain Cahill's service to the United States with his burial with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery Friday, November 18, 2005.

We are blessed to have men and women like Captain Cahill serve in our military. His deeds, actions, decency, and passion for defending the freedoms we all enjoy will not be forgotten. May he be laid to rest as a hero to his family and to all of us who honor his service to America.

TRIBUTE TO NASHVILLE PUBLIC TELEVISION PRESIDENT STEVE BASS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment today to recognize Nashville Public Television President and CEO Steve Bass for his years of service to our community.

While Steve is leaving us to take on another challenge, his accomplishments in Nashville will be a wonderful legacy to his leadership and dedication.

Since coming to Nashville in 1998, Steve has worked to help establish our area's public television station as a model for the 21st century.

He has made it his mission to put the station on solid financial ground, and that work is paying off. Steve has set an example for the nation's public television stations.

He has expanded programming and highlighted Nashville's unique history and culture.

We are thankful for Steve's service and we wish him nothing but the best in his next endeavor.

TRIBUTE TO USAF LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT M. WALKER

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to USAF Lt Colonel Robert M. Walker, Deputy Group Commander of the 460th Operations Group, 460th Space Wing, Buckley Air Force Base. Lt Col Walker has been assigned to Buckley AFB since February 20, 2004, and has recently been selected to attend the prestigious USAF Air War College.

Lt Col Walker distinguished himself in 2004 in the performance of outstanding service to the United States as Director of the Space-Based Infrared System Mission Transfer Site Activation Task Force. He led a Total Force 25 person task force that seamlessly transferred the \$16B Space-Based Infrared System to the newly activated 460th Space Wing, Buckley AFB, Aurora CO thus realizing USAF Space Command's vision for space-based warning operations.

In undertaking this endeavor, Lt Col Walker's tireless efforts and ability to work with myriad agencies, organizations, and people allowed for the activation of the 460th Space Wing in a timely and efficient manner.

Lt Col Walker distinguished service continued into 2005 when, as Deputy Group Commander of the 460th Operations Group, 460th Space Wing, Buckley Air Force Base, Lt Col Walker was second in command of an 850 person Total Force Group where his wisdom, experience and work ethic established a foundation for excellence in operations, personnel, communications, and strategic planning.

His accomplishments have truly had a profound impact not only on Buckley AFB but on the surrounding community as well.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to offer my thanks to Lt Col Walker for his commitment and record of achievement at Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora, Colorado. Lt Col Walker is a valuable asset to the United States Air Force and our nation and I wish him well in his future endeavors.

HONORING REV. VINCENT M. COOKE, S.J. UPON RECEIVING THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE FRIENDS OF ARCHITECTURE AWARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Father Vincent M. Cooke, S.J., President of Canisius College in Buffalo, New York, who is being recognized by the American Institute of Architecture with the Friends of Architecture Award.

In 1993 Western New York was pleased to welcome Father Cooke as the new President

of Canisius, a 36-acre private Jesuit college located on Main Street in the City of Buffalo.

A man with a brilliant educational past, with certificates of degree from Fordham University, Loyola Seminary, Woodstock College, Yale University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Fr. Cooke's vision for Canisius' future would take the college and surrounding community to places never imagined.

Over the past 13 years, Fr. Cooke has led the way in planning and implementing \$115 million in capital projects at Canisius, converting the college from a commuter college to an institution ranked number one residential college experience among Jesuit institutions and number five nationwide.

Father Cooke has taken a hands-on approach with each and every project which has resulted in state-of-the-art living and recreation spaces and cutting edge classrooms. His success has earned him recognition by The Buffalo News as the second most influential civic leader in terms of his positive impact on the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and gratitude that I stand here today to recognize Father Vincent Cooke as a Friend of Architecture. Canisius College employs the motto "Where leaders are made" and Fr. Cooke stands as a shining role model for his students and an example of how true leadership can transform a college and a community.

SCHOOL BUILDING ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will help schools implement energy saving measures to reduce their energy costs.

We are all too painfully aware of the rising cost of energy. Americans across the Nation are being forced to make tough decisions in order to heat their homes or fill up their gas tanks. The recent spike in energy prices will also be felt in our schools which already spend \$6 billion on energy costs—more than the amount they spend on textbooks and computers combined. Schools across the country are already facing tight budgets; rising energy costs will only worsen their budget situation and could lead to the loss of important school programs.

However, there are ways that schools can offset the soaring price of energy. Through basic changes in the operations and maintenance of school buildings, operating costs can be reduced from 5-15 percent. To achieve even greater savings, schools can retrofit their buildings with more efficient systems and appliances.

Although these investments produce economic benefits in the long term, start up financing is often difficult for cash strapped school systems. That is why I am introducing legislation that will provide schools with federal funding to implement these structural changes. Specifically, my legislation will provide grants through the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy for schools that are seeking to make energy efficient upgrades

in their schools or build a new energy efficient building. Additionally, this legislation will allow schools to work with the Department of Energy to improve transportation systems that are available to students, employees and other members of the community.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill that will benefit our environment while assisting schools reduce their operating costs.

CONGRATULATING PAULA DAWNING

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Paula Dawning who recently was awarded the honor of State Superintendent of the Year for 2006 in the State of Michigan. Dawning has been the Superintendent of Benton Harbor Areas Schools since July of 2002 after she retired from her career as an executive at AT&T.

The Benton Harbor school system has made progress by leaps and bounds under her direction of during the past few years. Her constant commitment to academic improvement and reform—including additions like the new freshmen academy, improved reading programs, and her fiscal responsibility—have helped bring about a new sense of hope and achievement in a school system that has faced difficult challenges.

The award came as a surprise to Paula, who was not even made aware of her nomination until she had already received the award. In her usual humble demeanor she accepted the prestigious award that recognized her as an outstanding school superintendent; evidence that she stands out as the best among many highly qualified school system administrators.

I want to personally thank Paula for her service which has improved not only the education, but also the lives of the students in Benton Harbor. Paula's hard work and dedication to the children of her community make her a living example to all of people of Southwestern Michigan. I congratulate her once again for her distinguished award.

IN SUPPORT OF MALCOLM MELVILLE "MAC" LAWRENCE POST OFFICE

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, some say the measure of a man is the depth of the footprint he leaves behind. Malcolm Melville Lawrence, known as "Mac," left a deep footprint on the community of Francesville as a war hero, community leader, and a teacher.

Born on a farm in Wheatfield, Indiana, Mac attended Purdue University on scholarship where he pursued a degree in Vocational Agriculture, Education, and Science. Despite being denied acceptance into the ROTC program at Purdue, Mac was drafted 5 months after graduating from college and immediately called to Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis to serve his country.