

years. But also left them with hope for the creation of an avenue that would rightfully address the life altering negative injustice that black women have and continue to be confronted by while in performance of their military duties, as well as afterward as "veterans" seeking help through the VA. For many years they did not believe that anyone cared, or would ever be concerned about the injustice that black women have endured at the hands of the U.S. military.

Again, the generosity of Wayne Gatewood, Jr., President and CEO of Quality Support, Inc., and Amistad Associates paved the way for a gala evening of socializing, recognition and public acknowledgement for the following female veterans and groups from the Civil war to World War II to the war in Afghanistan and Iraq: Deborah Bretey, Antoniette Edwards, Mary Jackson Fears, State Representative Gloria Fox, Vernessa Franklin, Sgt. Casaundra Grant, Col. Delores Hampton, USA, Ret., Hattie Harris, Vera Haskins (now deceased), Lorenza Hilliard, Lt. Col. Patricia Jackson, USA, Ret., Sarah Jackson, Willette Jenkins, Lillie B. Johnson (known as Miss Lillie B, now deceased), Spc. Shoshanna Johnson, Pfc. Sarah L. Keys (Sarah Keys Evans), Noel Mitchell, Capt. Margaret Oglesby, MNG, Col. Marie Rogers, USA, Ret., Mildred Smith-Kidd, Willie Whiting; House of Imagene, Mozella's House, My Women Veterans Group, Black Women's Leadership Caucus, Center for Women Veterans (Department of Veterans Affairs), National Association of Black Military Women, Harriet Tubman Home, League of Women for Community Service, and the Colored Ladies Christian Relief Society of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteers.

In return, they especially thanked us for giving accolades to the female veterans of color, and for always remembering heroine Harriet Tubman. Some felt humbled to receive their awards, other felt good to read the words of acknowledgement and appreciation in addition to giving them motivation to continue on in both their personal and professional lives. As well as for providing one of the few venues that allows them to smell their flowers, or roses before they die.

In closing, I thank Sarah Ann Shaw, Drs. Brenda Moore, Laura Miller, Leisa Meyers, Robernia Gary, A.V. Hankins, Shari Miles and Ron Armstead for their continuing help in making the Veterans Braintrust an ongoing success. Also speaking on behalf of all my colleagues I thanked our African American veterans in the audience for coming and their service to our great nation. Needless to say, it was overwhelming to be in a room with so many true heroines and heroes, because it makes me very very proud that this is one of the best-attended issues forums during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference (ALC).

Lastly, Representative SANFORD BISHOP, Jr. and I agree Gen. George Washington had it right when he said, "the morale and strength of the nation's military forces would be directly proportional to how well veterans who already served and sacrificed for the country are treated and appreciated."

TRIBUTE TO DON CHALMERS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise today in recognition of Mr. Don Chalmers, an outstanding citizen in my district. In acknowledgment of the successful management of his business, Don Chalmers Ford in Rio Rancho, N.M., Mr. Chalmers recently received the Zia Award, Quality New Mexico's highest performance excellence honor.

The New Mexico Quality Awards program is modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards, a program initiated in 1987 when President Ronald Reagan signed the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Improvement Act of 1987. Every year businesses that apply for New Mexico Quality Awards participate in training, education, and assessment programs. Throughout the year, performance levels are checked and commitment to quality business is assessed. Participants are then considered for three levels of recognition. The most outstanding of these is the Zia Award for performance excellence.

By participating in New Mexico Quality training and analysis programs, Mr. Chalmers dealership has become a benchmark for excellence in New Mexico. Mr. Chalmers demonstrated a commitment to improving his already very successful business by surpassing the needs and expectations of his employees and the residents of our New Mexico communities. Because of these accomplishments, Don Chalmers Ford received the most prestigious of performance awards, the Zia Award.

Beyond his business success, Mr. Chalmers has been an active and outstanding citizen of New Mexico over the last 10 years. Mr. Chalmers has participated in a number of community projects such as the Equal Access to Justice Campaign, the New Mexico Balloon Fiesta, and Women on the Move.

It is with pride an appreciation that I congratulate this outstanding citizen on his contributions to our great State and on receiving the one and only Zia Award granted by Quality New Mexico in 2005.

TRIBUTE TO RADM CHRISTOPHER WEAVER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor RADM Christopher Weaver, United States Navy, who is retiring after more than 34 years of faithful service to our Nation.

A native of Harrisonville, MO, Rear Admiral Weaver began his career in 1971, when he graduated from the United States Naval Academy. He holds a bachelor of science degree from the Naval Academy and a master of public administration degree from George Washington University. He is also a distinguished graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Rear Admiral Weaver is an honorary Seabee and honorary master chief petty officer.

During the years that followed, Rear Admiral Weaver accrued an impressive operational career highlighted by command of USS *Exultant* and USS *Spruance*. Rear Admiral Weaver was designated a surface warfare officer in 1973. His sea tours also include duty aboard USS *Marvin Shields*, USS *Capodanno*, USS *Boulder*, and USS *Samuel Eliot Morison*.

Ashore he commanded U.S. Naval Station, Norfolk, VA, the world's largest Navy base, and served as an assignment officer in the Bureau of Naval Personnel, as head of the Seamanship and Navigation Department at the U.S. Naval Academy, as head of the Surface Combatant Branch of the Surface Warfare Division and as head of the Mine Warfare Branch of the Expeditionary Warfare Division. He also served as executive officer to the director of Logistics, J4, the Joint Staff.

He was selected for Flag rank in February 1997. Rear Admiral Weaver served as the 83rd commandant of Naval District Washington, the oldest continuously operated Navy installation in the Nation. In his most recent assignment as commander, Navy Installations Command, and director, Ashore Readiness Division, Rear Admiral Weaver led unprecedented organizational change amid an historic time of overall Navy transformation in the Navy's shore infrastructure.

Rear Admiral Weaver is an exceptional leader. He is an individual of uncommon character and his professionalism will be sincerely missed in the Navy. Mr. Speaker, I am certain that my colleagues will join me in thanking RADM Christopher Weaver for his honorable service in the United States Navy, and wishing him and his wife Chris all the best in the years to come.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE THAT SYMBOLS AND TRADITIONS OF CHRISTMAS SHOULD BE PROTECTED

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is an excellent example of how the House Leadership politicizes non-issues to distract Congress from substantive issues.

The Federal Government is obviously not opposed to Christmas, an annual celebration that has deep significance for those of us from a Christian tradition. In that sense, a "Yes" vote is appropriate.

But Christmas is not under assault from the Federal Government; there is no need for this resolution. Therefore, a vote of "Present" could be appropriate; there is simply no controversy here.

I chose to vote "No," however, because the resolution is flawed. It misses the point. Christmas is not being threatened by the federal government. Instead, the season that celebrates Christ's humble birth in a manger has been commercialized and cheapened by those who celebrate it as the retail highlight of the year.

My sincere wish for the New Year is that House leadership sets aside its penchant for distracting and divisive issues to focus on solutions to problems that face Americans every day.

IN RECOGNITION OF REV. JOHN R.
CLAYPOOL IV

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and pay tribute to the Reverend John Rowan Claypool IV, who passed September 3, 2005. He was internationally and nationally recognized as one of the most gifted spiritual leaders and teachers of our time.

Dr. Claypool was ordained to ministry in 1953 and served as Pastor of five Baptist Churches in Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas and Mississippi. He was ordained an Episcopal priest in 1986 and served as Rector of Saint Luke's Episcopal Church in Birmingham, Alabama for nearly 14 years. He retired from full time parish ministry in 2000 and, since that time, had served as the Professor of Homiletics at Mercer University's School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia.

He has written many books education others of the things he has learned through the death of his 10 year old daughter, and the accounts of his role in the struggle for Civil Rights. Dr. Claypool was truly a model citizen and will be sorely missed. His word lives on through his wife, Ann; and their children.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to honor and pay homage to the Reverend John R. Claypool IV in the House today and hope that we may all strive to live as he did.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM
"BILL" PRYOR NEWBY

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I stand to honor the life of William "Bill" Pryor Newby of Kingston, Tennessee. Mr. Newby, at the age of 85, recently passed away at his home after a long and successful life.

A veteran of World War II serving in the U.S. Navy, Mr. Newby was loved by many family and friends. He was a 64-year veteran of the Tennessee Valley Authority, serving longer than any previous TVA employee.

Mr. Newby began his career with the TVA on August 19, 1941 when he was hired as an electrician apprentice at Fort Loudoun Dam. He also worked at the Fontana and Douglas Dams, and the Johnsonville Fossil Plant. He ended his career at the Kingston Fossil Plant where he was a maintenance supervisor.

Speaking of Mr. Newby, Kingston Plant Manager Earl Deskins said, "He was a hero who has spanned the technology changes of this industry. His selflessness, ability, sharing past experiences and just treating people in the true STAR 7 fashion has earned him the title of 'our hero.'"

Mr. Newby is survived by his wife, Sarah, six children; James Herbert Newby, Elizabeth Pryor Newby, William Milton Newby, Sarah Jane Newby, Katherine N. Burnette, and Tom Newby, and seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

He was laid to rest at Roselawn Cemetery in Athens, Alabama with military honors pro-

vided by the Roane County Military Memorial Honor Guard.

RECOGNIZING CENTENARIAN
LORETTE NOSTER OF HERNANDO
COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lorette Noster of Hernando County, Florida. Lorette will do something this June 3rd that all of us strive for, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate her 100th birthday.

Born in Manchester, New Hampshire, Lorette was raised by her grandparents from a young age on. Lorette attended Notre Dame school in Stanbridge, Canada, and then worked with her grandparents in their house painting business painting woodwork for nearly forty years. One of Lorette's fondest childhood memories was having her own horse, a retired racehorse named Josie, that she cared for and rode for nearly 12 years.

Lorette married Fred Noster in 1931 and was happily married for 65 years until his death in 1996. Blessed with both a son and a daughter, Lorette and Fred also had five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. She moved to Hernando County in the spring of 2000 to be close to her family and enjoys the county's friendly people and comfortable winters.

One of Lorette's memories was her surprise 90th birthday party where she got to see so many family members and friends. Over the years she is most proud of winning prizes for her handmade clothes at the county fairs and her square dancing.

Today, Lorette says that working in her garden gives her the most pleasure. She says that if she had to live her life over, she would continue her education past grade school and study music. Her favorite flower is the lilac and her favorite color is red. Lorette's advice for the young people today is, "go to college, don't smoke and eat natural foods."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Lorette Noster for reaching her 100th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as she has.

UNDONE BUSINESS IN ENERGY
CONSERVATION

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a package of bills designed to take the next step in furthering energy conservation activities in the U.S., especially in the federal government. We stand here today facing the beginning of the winter heating season and a forecast of record high energy prices. It is possible that spot shortages may develop in parts of the country if the winter is especially severe.

Regardless of what happens with supply, energy costs will be high this winter. However,

they don't have to be as high in future winters and summers for homeowners and the federal government if we begin now to take some of the low-cost steps to better control our use of energy. Adoption of these measures now will pay big dividends in the future in the form of lower energy costs.

The federal government needs to be a leader on this issue. In 2000, federal agencies spent \$7.4 billion to consume 1 quadrillion BTUs of energy. Although energy consumption in government buildings has dropped by almost 25 percent since 1985, approximately \$1 billion in taxpayer dollars is still wasted each year. These bills will help ensure that federal buildings are meeting strong energy efficiency goals and that the federal government is taking a look at the full range of energy-saving technologies.

Installation of Metering in Federal Buildings: The installation of appropriate metering equipment in federal buildings for electricity, natural gas and other petroleum-based fuels, as well as steam and chilled water, provides the data that can enable the building operator to manage energy consumption and help cut the federal government's energy bill. Often this will require the installation of "smart meters" that provide much additional information for managing energy consumption. This bill amends the "National Energy Conservation Policy Act" (NECPA) to advance from 2012 to 2008 the date by which metering must be installed in certain large Federal buildings. Section 103 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 amended NECPA to require metering in Federal buildings by 2012. However, under current law, new buildings that will be built between now and the deadline will not be required to have metering installed that provides the relevant data for meaningful monitoring of energy consumption. Metering is far easier to install during construction than after the building is completed. Without this basic information, building performance cannot be evaluated and improved. I believe there is no reason why the government shouldn't get on with this program now rather than waiting another 7 years.

AOC Energy Management Responsibility: This bill clarifies the intent of the recently enacted H.R. 6, "The Energy Policy Act of 2005" with respect to the obligations of the Architect of the Capitol in energy conservation. The bill explicitly requires the AOC to comply with substantially all of the same building management requirements as the federal agencies. An exception is made with respect to reporting requirements. Under this legislation, the AOC will report results to the committees of jurisdiction, rather than the Secretary of Energy.

Validation of Design Energy Performance in Federal Buildings: A significant problem in new federal buildings is that they often use more energy than they were designed to use. Some of the excess consumption is due to the lack of adequate monitoring of the HVAC systems to ensure they are performing properly. However, some buildings are actually short-changed during the construction process as costs rise. Often omitted for cost reasons are some of the features that are designed to save energy. My bill directs the head of each federal agency to prepare a report comparing the actual energy performance of each new federal building with the design energy efficiency performance of the building. The report is to be completed 18 months after completion of the building and should also include remedies to bring the building into compliance