

1955. They began dating when he returned home for visits during those college years. Meanwhile, Cindy also attended college and worked.

Mr. Speaker, it was during Lew's first year attending the Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley that the Uhlers' life together really began. During the Thanksgiving break, Cindy agreed to Lew's marriage proposal and they decided to have the wedding the next time he was home. They both knew what they wanted and then made it happen. Thus, on the day after Christmas, December 26, 1955, they were married. This example of setting an important goal and then focusing on quickly realizing it reflects the pattern they have established ever since then.

Their first home together was Berkeley, California. Subsequently, Lew's duty in the Army led them to Baltimore, Maryland. However, their roots continued to be in Southern California until Governor Ronald Reagan designated Lew as the State Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, and the Uhlers relocated to the Sacramento area. They have made their home in the beautiful community of Granite Bay for 35 years.

Lew served in Governor Reagan's cabinet as Assistant Secretary of the Health and Welfare Agency. In 1972, Governor Reagan asked Lew to organize and serve as Chairman of the Governor's Tax Reduction Task Force. With the assistance of a nationwide panel of advisors (including Nobel Laureates Milton Friedman and James Buchanan), the task force developed California's landmark Revenue Control and Limitation Act, which became a model for tax-expenditure limitation measures in many states.

A devoted wife and mother, Cindy has always made family the priority in her life. Raising four sons, separated in age by 11 years, was her chief mission. While she has always been interested in working and serving in many ways outside of the home, such activities were always relegated to part-time endeavors so she could focus on the great mission of nurturing her children.

Mr. Speaker, Lew is founder and President of the National Tax Limitation Committee (NTLC), one of the Nation's leading grass roots taxpayer advocacy organizations. With offices in the Sacramento Area and Washington, DC, NTLC works with the White House, Members of Congress, state legislators across the Nation and grassroots organizations to limit state and federal spending through statutory and constitutional enactments. In fact, Lew has been at the forefront of the national movements for a Tax Limitation/Balanced Budget Amendment to the United States Constitution. He has written numerous articles and opinion pieces on taxes and spending. He is the author of the book, *Setting Limits: Constitutional Control of Government*. He speaks internationally on fiscal issues and has appeared on numerous national, regional and local television and radio programs and has also been widely quoted in the print media.

Cindy has always become very involved in her church wherever the family has gone. Several times, she has served as secretary to the pastor and, as one son puts it, "running the show." It would be difficult to account for all the good and worthwhile efforts to which she has contributed.

Along with his fiscal policy work, Lew has been active in land development in Northern

California. He is also a member of the California Bar and serves Of Counsel with the Newport Beach law firm of Davis, Punelli & Keathley.

Lew and Cindy have four grown sons and three lovely daughters-in-law: Jim, John and Tricia, Kirk and Tami, and Mark and Echo. Of course, they also take great joy in their eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, undoubtedly, the life Lew and Cindy have created together is a great American success story—one rooted in a love that has endured and grown for fifty years and counting. Today, I join in commending them for their commitment to one another and their ongoing service to their community. Their dedication to God, family, and country is worthy of praise and emulation.

REVEREND DR. FRED L. MAXWELL, PATRIARCH OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN CENTRAL FLORIDA, AUGUST 2, 1907–DECEMBER 13, 2005

### HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as a pastor at St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Orlando in the Third Congressional District of Florida and an advocate for poor and homeless people in Central Florida, it was in the early 1990's that Rev. Maxwell founded the Grand Avenue Economic Development Corporation. Then, in 1994, due to the tremendous and continually increasing need for permanent housing opportunities for the homeless in the community, Maxwell with the aid of "his Member of Congress" Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN, led an effort to apply for grant funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to create permanent housing for single, disabled homeless persons, a group rarely assisted. The effort was successful and the organization was awarded \$4,800,000 to create 100 units of permanent single room occupancy housing.

As a community advocate, economic development pioneer, and spiritual leader, Rev. Maxwell worked as a catalyst for change for more than a decade to bridge the gap between the rich and poor and black and white communities in Central Florida.

In addition to his public sector work, Rev. Maxwell was an author, "Where Is Thy Brother," a book of his sermons; a radio pastor for 22 years; started a community credit union; construction development company; tax preparation business; transportation company; citrus business, and even appeared in commercials promoting Florida orange juice.

Rev. Maxwell received the divine call to the ministry in 1926 at the age of 19, but it took him 20 years to heed the call in 1946. In 1950 he became the pastor of Zion Hill Baptist Church, one of the oldest Black churches in Orlando, and at the same time serving as pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Alachua, also known as one of the oldest Black churches in Alachua County. In 1964 he was called to pastor at St. John Missionary Baptist Church located on Carter Street in the City of Orlando. In 1971, he organized the purchase of St. John's current location at 2025 West Central Boulevard, Orlando.

In the early 1980's many poor and homeless people were affected by major winter storms in Central Florida and Pastor Maxwell used the church's fellowship hall to provide food, shelter and clothing to people with no homes. It was at this time he became an advocate for the homeless and prayed, "Lord, let your will be done. I desire to do something to make conditions better for some homeless people, Lord, teach me, lead me, and guide me."

Maxwell retired as Senior Pastor of St. John Missionary Church in 2001, but never from the ministry and stated, "Retired, but not slacked up one bit."

[From the Orlando Sentinel, Dec. 14, 2005]

REVERED MINISTER, MENTOR DIES AT 98

(By Jeff Kunerth)

The Rev. Fred Maxwell, a man considered the father of Central Florida's black preachers, died Tuesday. He was 98.

Maxwell, who served as pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church for 37 years, was a civil-rights leader, ardent advocate for the homeless, human history book and a man so universally respected that he often was called in to mediate church disputes.

"This was a man anyone would want to know—similar to Rosa Parks to me. The Reverend Maxwell had that kind of presence," Orlando City Commissioner Daisy Lynum said. "You are talking about an icon."

To ministers such as the Rev. Randolph Bracy of New Covenant Baptist Church of Orlando, Maxwell was a mentor who encouraged them, and helped resolve the problems that arise with pastoring.

"He knew how to bring calm to a very raucous situation. He had a special gift that way," Bracy said. "I have lost a dear friend. I have lost a mentor."

Orange County Commissioner Homer Hartage remembers Maxwell as a tireless advocate for the homeless.

Maxwell was instrumental in securing a \$4.8 million federal grant to convert a former motel on Colonial Drive and John Young Parkway into a 127-unit rental complex for the homeless that became known as Maxwell Terrace.

But he didn't stop there. When Maxwell came to Hartage seeking support for another motel conversion on South Orange Blossom Trail, Hartage turned him down—four times. Maxwell kept coming back until Hartage finally relented.

Two years later, Hartage had a cousin who got out of prison and needed a place to transition back into society. He found an apartment at Maxwell Gardens on South Orange Blossom Trail.

"He ended up living in the same place I had problems approving," Hartage said.

Maxwell, who used a wheelchair, was still active and alert, working on a land deal in Maitland just a few months ago, Hartage said.

"He was still strong, and he was still able," Hartage said. "You really, in your heart, wanted to see him around forever. You just expect him to be there."

Eatonville Mayor Anthony Grant called for a moment of silence at a Town Council meeting Tuesday night to honor Maxwell.

"He stood up for everything that was right. We have lost a good leader," said Ella Dinkins, 87, a volunteer at the Zora Neale Hurston Museum.

Born in Williston on Aug. 2, 1907, Maxwell grew up in Lake County as the son of turpentine industry workers.

He said he first heard the calling to the ministry when he was 19 but rejected it. He worked as a carpenter, grew citrus and started a janitorial business.

Decades later, when he finally answered the calling, he was the father of six children.

Maxwell preached throughout Central Florida. He became minister of Orlando's St. John Missionary Baptist in 1964 and remained there until 2001.

A man who left school in the third grade, Maxwell obtained his high-school diploma later in life and would become known for his intellect and eloquence. That was his entry into the worlds of the humble and the mighty.

"He was not pretentious, even though he was very intelligent, very capable," Lynum said.

"He is going to be remembered as an advocate, but not just for the homeless. He worked in the community unselfishly."

Maxwell's life spanned the Ocoee race riot of 1920 to the civil-rights struggles of the 1960s to the election of blacks to public office.

And he remembered it all until the end.

"He was just a rich repository of African-American history in Central Florida," Bracy said. "He was a living legacy."

#### TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ

##### HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, millions of Iraqis turned out to vote, and the fledgling democracy in Iraq took another step forward. I join all my colleagues in commending the Iraqi men and women for their action, and continue to thank the American men and women who are honorably serving abroad. Unfortunately, despite this important step, there still is a lack of leadership from the White House or from the Majority on the strategy that will bring our soldiers home victorious and bring them home soon.

And yet again, an opportunity for a meaningful debate on Iraq has failed to emerge. This debate must occur, and it must occur now. We see Iraqis voting, but we don't know when their governmental authority will take hold. We see the Iraqi army training, but we don't know when they will be ready to independently defend their nation. We see American troops serving and dying, but we don't know when they will return.

A strategy must be outlined, both to the American people and to the Iraqi people, which demonstrates a path to success. Rhetoric must be replaced with substance for such a strategy to develop. I believe that a concentrated effort will be necessary to urge the Iraqi people to take a lead in the war efforts and in the redevelopment efforts. Only by accelerating the transfer of responsibility to the Iraqis will they be ready to lead their nation toward a stronger democracy sooner rather than later.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the President finally admitted that this war was based on several false pretenses and was supported by claims and arguments that were wrong. The President and the Majority must admit that this continued lack of planning on their part is most importantly a disservice to our soldiers, a disservice to Congress, and a disservice to the American people. If we do not learn from this mistake it will be repeated—and the consequence will be more loss of American lives. I again join others in calling for a debate on

Iraq, I call for a real strategy and a real plan for success, and I applaud the Iraqi people for their recent success in taking part in the democratic process.

#### TRIBUTE TO RETIRING COLONEL TONY A. IMONDI

##### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2005*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Colonel Tony A. Imondi is retiring after a long and distinguished career.

Colonel Imondi received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aeronautics from Dowling College in 1975. After completing Officer Training School in 1976, he entered the Air Force. In 1981, he received a Master of Science Degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California.

In 1987, he joined the B-2 Stealth Bomber program and became a member of the B-2 Operational Test and Evaluation team and the Deputy Commander for Operations of the 31st Test and Evaluation Squadron at Edwards AFB, CA. In September 1991, he became Strategic Air Command's very first B-2 pilot. He subsequently moved to Whiteman AFB, MO, upon delivery of the first production B-2. He was appointed Deputy Commander of the 509th Operations Group at Whiteman AFB, MO, in December 1993.

After his promotion to Colonel, he attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair in Washington, DC. Following his distinguished graduation from ICAF, he served two years on the staff of the Secretary of Defense monitoring weapons testing before returning to Whiteman as the Commander of the 509th Operations Group in 1998.

In 2000, Colonel Imondi assumed duties as the Vice Commander of the 2nd Bomb Wing, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. In September 2001, after the terrorist attacks on the United States, Colonel Imondi deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as Vice Commander of the 28th AEW, conducting combat missions in Afghanistan. In 2002, Colonel Imondi was assigned to the Directorate of Operations, Headquarters AETC. Colonel Imondi is a command pilot with more than 5,500 hours of flying experience in a wide variety of Air Force aircraft.

Colonel Imondi's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, the Legion of Merit Award, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal and the Aerial Achievement Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Colonel Tony A. Imondi for his exception commitment to the United States Air Force and the United States of America.

PROVIDING THAT HAMAS AND OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS HELD BY PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

##### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2005*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsors to this resolution for their good intentions in opposing terrorism and promoting peace in the Middle East. However, I am concerned that it could have the opposite effect.

I join my colleagues in reaffirming the United States' total commitment to the security of Israel. I condemn Hamas wholeheartedly as a terrorist group whose aims are the destruction of Israel and whose tactics of murder are inexcusable and unjustifiable. They commit horrific terror attacks against innocent Israelis and, in doing so, set back the aspirations of the Palestinian people to statehood.

Through its social service networks and other actions, Hamas has made itself an important political force in Palestinian society. Therefore, the reality is that the way to defeat Hamas begins at the ballot box. I agree with leading Israeli and American security experts who believe that any efforts to exclude Hamas will only backfire and strengthen them. Instead, we must recommit to working against Hamas—to marginalize them, weaken them, disarm them, contain them, strengthen their democratic opponents, limit their power and influence, and eventually eliminate them.

As General (Ret.) Ephraim Sneh—the former West Bank military governor and Deputy Israeli Defense Minister—wrote in the Washington Post, "Under current conditions in the Palestinian territories, especially given the Palestinian government's weakness, political containment should precede the dismantling of Hamas's military infrastructure. The urgent objective is to defeat it in the next parliamentary elections. Steps that could strengthen it in the elections should be strictly avoided. Attempts to postpone the elections yet again, or to prevent Hamas's participation, or Israeli disruption of the elections as 'punishment' for the participation of Hamas, will strengthen Hamas in the Palestinian street instead of weakening it."

I am concerned that this resolution sends a message that would be harmful to Israeli security and set back efforts to establish the vision of a democratic Palestinian state that lives side-by-side with Israel in peace. Therefore, I cannot support the resolution.

RECOGNIZING CENTENARIAN  
ELSIE JOHNSON 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 Elsie Johnson of Hernando County, Florida.

Elsie has done something that all of us strive for, but that very few of us I will ever accomplish, celebrate her 101st birthday.

Born April 17, 1904 in Coventry, Connecticut, Elsie Johnson attended school in