

community, his family, and the city he called home.

A native San Franciscan, he was born on October 2, 1935, and was a graduate of Yale University and Stanford Business School. He joined his family's firm, Wilbur-Ellis Co., in 1963, becoming its president and CEO in 1988 and chairman of the Board of Directors in 2000 after overseeing an extraordinary era of expansion. He served as a director of several San Francisco institutions, including Safeway Stores and the Chronicle Publishing Company.

Through his enthusiasm for the arts, Mr. Wilbur eloquently expressed his love for San Francisco. He served as a director of the San Francisco Opera, a trustee of the Asian Art Museum, and as the 15th president of the San Francisco Symphony, presiding over the inauguration of our beloved Davies Symphony Hall in 1980.

I offer my deepest sympathy to Judy, his beloved wife of 43 years, his children, Michael, Jennifer, Edward and Claire, his mother Dita, and his sisters Lolita and Mary. As they have lost a loved one, so the city of San Francisco has lost one of its most distinguished sons.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF NAPA EMERGENCY WOMEN'S SERVICES

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 2006*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Napa Emergency Women's Services, commonly known as NEWS, of Napa, California, as it celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Since its inception, NEWS has played a vital role in protecting and assisting women and children throughout the Napa Valley who are the victims of domestic violence. A group of concerned citizens took the initiative to address the growing problem of domestic violence and created an emergency hotline in 1979. With the dedication, leadership, and compassion of these individuals, NEWS came to fruition on October 5, 1981.

NEWS is the only organization in the Napa Valley dedicated to helping women and children lead lives free of violence. Over the past 25 years, NEWS has grown and expanded to provide numerous services to people throughout Napa County, including emergency shelter, counseling, legal advocacy, and education outreach programs. All of these services play an important role in providing women and children with the guidance and support necessary to help them overcome the physical and psychological damage caused by domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, the lifeblood of this organization is its devoted staff and volunteers who work day and night to ensure that women and children always have a safe place to seek shelter. These hardworking individuals have changed the lives of thousands of women and children in Napa County.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we take this time to thank and honor Napa Emergency Women's Services for its immeasurable service to Napa County. I congratulate NEWS on

their 25th Anniversary and wish them well as they continue their work to improve the lives of all Napa citizens.

A TRIBUTE TO LUTHER M. WRIGHT

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Luther M. Wright, and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the impressive accomplishments of this outstanding member of the community.

Luther M. Wright was born on June 2, 1942 in Louisa, Virginia, and he currently resides in Laurelton, New York.

Mr. Wright received his early education in New York City at P.S. 140. He graduated from Andrew Jackson High School and attended Queens College of the City University of New York from 1974–1977. He also attended the United States Coast Guard Engineer Program and received his license as a Chief Marine Engineer.

Mr. Wright served in the New York City Fire Department for 15 years as a Chief Engineer, retiring with 27 years of service. He served in the United States Army from 1964–1966 in active duty, as a reservist from 1969–1995 and participated in Desert Storm in 1991. Mr. Wright retired from the Army as a Master Sergeant. He is also a member of the Vulcan Society of the New York City Fire Department and Past President and Captain of the 231st Block Association.

Among his many community service projects, Mr. Wright was initiated into Tuscan Lodge No. 58 F&AM (PH) in 1978. He was elected to Worshipful Master of Tuscan Lodge No. 58 in 1986; Secretary of Tuscan Lodge No. 58 in 1987–present; Excellent High Priest of Mount Moriah Chapter No. 3 Holy Royal Arch Masons in June 2003; Ill. Commander in Chief of Long Island Consistory No. 61 AASR (PHA) in 2002 and 2003; Ill. Potentate of Abu-Bekr Temple No. 91 AEONMS (PHA) in 1994; and appointed Deputy of the Oasis for Abu-Bekr No. 91 in 2002, by Imperial Potentate William F. Crockett.

Additional leadership posts include: District Deputy Grand Master for the Second Masonic District from June 2001–2002; Worthy Patron in Fidelity Chapter No. 54 OES (PHA); District Deputy Grand Commander for the Second District; District Deputy Thrice Illustrious Master for the Royal & Select Masters and Assistant Recorder for the Grand Commandery Knights Templar State of New York.

Through these organizations, Mr. Wright has distributed toys and clothing to the needy children of East New York and Kings County Hospital, fed the homeless, and sponsored young children to attend Camp Eureka during the summers of 2002 and 2003.

Luther Wright is a member of the Good News Baptist Church of Hollis Queens, New York. He has been married to the beautiful Phyllis A. Wright for the past 34 years, and they have three grown children, all 4-year college graduates.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Luther Wright as he offers his talents

for the betterment of our local and national communities.

Mr. Speaker, Luther Wright's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING AUDREY YVONNE WILLSON, WHOSE LIFE JOURNEY LED HER TO BECOME YVE-I RASTAFARI

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 2006*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Audrey Yvonne Willson, whose spiritual evolution led to her being known at the end of her life as Yve-I Rastafari. Yve-I was a beloved mother, wife, grandmother, friend, artist, educator and leader in our community and our world. She passed away on March 13, 2006 at the age of 63.

Born Audrey Yvonne Willson, she grew up in the Fort Greene Projects of Brooklyn, New York, where she developed the quick wit and savvy nature for which she was known throughout her life. Living in New York, she met and married Bob Law in 1962. During that period, she became an active member of the Congress for Racial Equality, and was at the forefront of the Black Cultural/Consciousness movement, identifying strongly with her African heritage as an activist of that era and throughout her life.

In the decade that followed, Audrey began a new journey, moving to Silver Spring, Maryland and obtaining her Masters Degree in Education as well as her Montessori certification. These achievements began her lifelong devotion to the education and healthy development of children, which included her own young daughters, and ultimately led Audrey to create her own educational model.

Audrey's journey of intellectual, cultural and spiritual discovery soon led her to West Africa, where she immediately fell in love with the people, their land, and their struggles. Her proficiency in the Spanish, Twi, Amharic and Arabic languages allowed her to be a teacher and a student of the people she met there, and through her travels she forged human and spiritual ties that would last a lifetime.

In the years that followed, her newfound faith of Islam led her to change her name to Ameena, and during her time in Africa she met and married her second husband, an American named Daud Malik Watts. Upon her return to the United States, she rededicated herself to her life's mission of serving our young people by opening, with Daud, the Reston Montessori School in Virginia.

As she continued her spiritual exploration in the 1980s, she was led to return to her birth name of Audrey. During that time she also traveled frequently to the west coast and split her time between working in the non-profit sector and developing her own small business selling her delicious homemade apple pies.

As she neared the conclusion of her spiritual journey, she changed her name to Yve-I Rastafari, which was a reflection of her becoming a Rastafarian. In the 1990s, when she underwent this transition, she also moved to

Hawaii, where she started Artists for Orphans, an international non-profit dedicated to providing educational, financial, physical and emotional support to orphans in Ethiopia.

After devoting herself to this bold, compassionate work for more than a decade, Yve-I left Hawaii to move back northeast to be with her ailing father, caring for him until his last day. After his passing, she returned to working with young children in Washington, D.C. before ultimately moving to California to be with and care for her youngest grandchildren.

Yve-I gave of herself easily and was wonderful with children. I witnessed time and time again, as she was the mother-in-law to my son, and along with me, was a grandmother to Simone the daughter of my son and her daughter. Whether we were together at family gatherings on special occasions or simply spending time with our children and grandchildren, Yve-I's generous and loving spirit brought a sense of comfort and togetherness to our family which has not only nurtured our youngest members, but has strengthened the ties between us all.

Throughout her life, Yve-I was fully dedicated to complete spiritual and human development and her devotion to becoming the most complete and aware person that she could was evidenced by her constant growth and personal evolution. At the end of her life it became her goal to return to Ethiopia to live out her days so that she could continue the work of Artists for Orphans and practice her religion at an age-old founding church of her faith, and that is what she did, being laid to rest on March 17, 2006 in Shashamene, Ethiopia, where she was known as Mama Love. She is survived by her life partner, Menelek Fitzgerald, her children Aisha Patrice, Abina, Yasmina, Memuna, Bilqis, Nasir, Mahmud, and Netanya; her siblings Adrienne, Donald and Wayne; thirteen grandchildren; her nephews; and numerous cousins, colleagues and friends.

Today the family and friends of the woman who journeyed from Audrey to Yve-I come together to celebrate her life and the countless ways in which her bright and compassionate spirit touched lives of others, no matter what name they knew her by during her lifetime. Her giving nature and deep wisdom was known to and cherished by all, and will continue to lift up the lives of our young people and all who knew her for generations to come. On behalf of California's 9th U.S. Congressional District, I am proud to add my voice to the countless others who have united in thanks, appreciation, and joy to remember this very special, remarkable and loving woman, Yve-I Rastafari.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ERMA BYRD

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 2006*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the memory of Erma Byrd, the wife of the senior Senator from West Virginia. We mourn the death of this great lady.

Here in this chamber it is important that we acknowledge the importance of the spouses of those who serve in the U.S. Congress. There

is no more distinguished member of the legislative branch than the Senator from West Virginia, and certainly none who has served so effectively for so long. Surely, some of the credit for this distinguished service should go to Erma Byrd.

My family and I have known the Byrds for much longer than half a century. Senator BYRD and his wife have been devoted to each other for almost 69 years. She has been his closest companion and, I believe, his closest advisor. When they first married, he turned over to her his wallet and the family finances. He relied on her for everything domestic. For decades, in the evenings after his superb legislative and political work on Capitol Hill, when other members of Congress set off for receptions and social functions, Senator BYRD returned home to sit with Erma and read, often to each other.

Erma Byrd has been a dear friend of my mother. The daughter of a coal miner, Erma Byrd was a woman who showed great consideration for other people. She was a woman with a backbone and what we would call West Virginia gumption. The whole country of the United States knows Senator BYRD as a great legislator and great orator who can be counted on as the most adamant defender of our Constitution and a champion of the honor and traditions of the Congress, especially the U.S. Senate. What many Americans may not know is the man who has given devotion to and, until her death last week, received devotion from his honorable and capable wife. I join others here in expressing my sympathies to this great colleague.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ERMA BYRD

**HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 2006*

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, hearts are heavy in West Virginia this week as we mourn the loss of a very special woman: Mrs. Erma Byrd, the beloved wife of our distinguished senior Senator.

ROBERT C. BYRD and Erma Ora James met as students at Mark Twain Grade School in Raleigh county. They married in 1937, at the tender age of 19. In that simple ceremony, a lasting bond was forged, and an incredible journey was begun.

Their journey took them from the coalfields of southern West Virginia to the halls of this great Capitol. At every point along the way, Erma Byrd was a constant source of strength, support and inspiration—whether in raising their wonderful family or anchoring the incredible career of her devoted husband.

In his words, she was a “priceless treasure, a multifaceted woman of great insight and wisdom, of quiet humor and common sense.”

What a wonderful tribute to a wonderful woman.

On the sad occasion of her passing, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing heartfelt condolences to Senator BYRD and his family. Our thoughts are with them as they say goodbye to Erma Byrd and cherish the memory of her caring kindness and love.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 609) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, with Mr. BISHOP of Utah in the chair.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to reiterate and reinforce my remarks yesterday during the debate on the McMorris-Holt amendment. I restate my commitment to work with those who want to see improvements in the adjunct teacher corps.

As I said in my previous comments, having been a professor of physics at the university level, I am well aware that knowledge of a subject is only one part of helping students learn. Being an effective teacher is much more than that. Pedagogy is both an art and a science, and pedagogical training is a critical part of being an educator.

Placing an Adjunct Teacher directly into the classroom without any pre-service training would be unfair to the Adjunct Teacher and to the students he or she would be teaching. To raise the level of performance in the classroom, Adjunct Teachers must undergo advanced training. This training must not be cursory, and should include pedagogy and the most recent research on how students learn science, mathematics, and foreign languages. It should also include practical experience with real students in classroom settings.

I want to emphasize that the Adjunct Teacher Corps program is not about replacing teachers. As the word “adjunct” signifies, these teachers would be an additional supplement to school facilities. Schools applying for these grants will tailor their Adjunct program to suit their unique needs, and in doing so, they must include parents and teachers in the planning process. This program will particularly help those educational agencies facing dire teacher shortages, or levels of achievement so low that no one teacher can solve it on his or her own. As it currently stands, many of our high-need school districts do not have enough people who are currently qualified under No Child Left Behind to teach math, science and foreign languages. While we increase those ranks, we can also supplement them with adjunct teachers with subject matter expertise. Specifically, this amendment requires adjunct teachers to possess, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree and demonstrated expertise in mathematics, science, or a critical foreign language as defined by No Child Left Behind. Every school, in every town, should have a diverse faculty with pedagogical and subject matter expertise.

I also want to state that the size of this program is very small. This program will be competing for funding with five others for a share of a \$41 million authorization.

It is my hope that this program will have long-term beneficial results. Before it was introduced, I wanted to ensure that the amendment includes provision for pre-service training and continued mentoring of these content specialists. Just as Teach for America has been a valuable asset to many school districts, I believe that these content specialists can make