

HONORING LAURIE RICHARDSON

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the state of Nevada, I would like to congratulate Mrs. Laurie Richardson of Henderson, Nevada for her achievement and recognition as Mother of the Year by the American Mothers Inc. (AMI). While all 50 states are represented, as well as Puerto Rico, this is their 51st award and the first one that has been awarded to a resident of Nevada since the state's chapter began in the 1940's.

While this award recognizes her only as a mother, Mrs. Richardson is also a distinguished singer in a Grammy award-winning choir, a grandmother of nine, an advocate for children with special needs, and a dynamic guest speaker for special education issues. Mrs. Richardson has volunteered with various school districts for over 29 years before recently becoming a full-time child advocate.

While also raising three of her own children, Mrs. Richardson has opened her home and her heart to raise four foster children as well. Upon her reception of this distinguished award, Mrs. Richardson will represent AMI for the next calendar year as she advocates the importance of motherhood around the country.

Mrs. Richardson has not only set a benchmark for mothers throughout this country, but she is also a great example for all Nevada families. Mrs. Richardson's dedication to children is truly inspirational. As a Representative of Nevada, I am very proud to have her as a part of my community. I commend and congratulate her for this great achievement.

A PULITZER FOR THELONIOUS MONK

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the legendary jazz pianist Thelonious Monk. In April, the 90th annual Pulitzer Prizes were announced and Monk was selected to receive a posthumous Award "for a body of distinguished and innovative musical composition that has had a significant and enduring impact on the evolution of jazz."

Every few generations there are people who come along that change the way we look at the world, for musical enthusiasts Monk is one of these individuals. Tom Carter, President of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, put it quite succinctly when he recently said that Monk's "... unique sound and creative spirit revolutionized the music and transcends generations." Thelonious' piano playing and compositions were truly revolutionary and they helped bridge the gap from bebop to modern jazz.

Thelonious Sphere Monk (1917–1982) was one of the architects of bebop and his impact as a composer and pianist has had a profound influence on every genre of music.

Monk was born in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, but his parents, Barbara Batts and Thelonious Monk, soon moved the family to

New York City. Monk began piano lessons as a young child and by the age of 13 he had won the weekly amateur contest at the Apollo Theater so many times that he was barred from entering. At the age of 19, Monk joined the house band at Minton's Playhouse in Harlem, where along with Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, and a handful of other players, he developed the style of jazz that came to be known as bebop. Monk's compositions, among them "Round Midnight," were the canvasses over which these legendary soloists expressed their musical ideas.

In 1947, Monk made his first recordings as a leader for Blue Note. These albums are some of the earliest documents of his unique compositional and improvisational style, both of which employed unusual repetition of phrases, an offbeat use of space, and joyfully dissonant sounds. In the decades that followed, Monk played on recordings with Miles Davis, Charlie Parker, and Sonny Rollins and recorded as a leader for Prestige Records and later for Riverside Records. Brilliant Corners and Thelonious Monk with John Coltrane were two of the albums from this period that brought Monk international attention as a pianist and composer.

In 1957, the Thelonious Monk Quartet, which included John Coltrane, began a regular gig at the Five Spot. The group's performances were hugely successful and received the highest critical praise. Over the next few years, Monk toured the United States and Europe and made some of his most influential recordings. In 1964, Thelonious Monk appeared on the cover of Time magazine, an honor that has been bestowed on only three other jazz musicians. By this time, Monk was a favorite at jazz festivals around the world, where he performed with his quartet, which included long-time associate Charlie Rouse. In the early '70s he discontinued touring and recording and appeared only on rare occasions at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall and the Newport Jazz Festival.

Thelonious passed away on February 5, 1982. His more than 70 compositions are classics which continue to inspire artists in all forms of music. In his lifetime he received numerous awards and continues to be honored posthumously. The Smithsonian Institution has immortalized his work with an archive of his music. In addition, the U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp in his honor. A feature documentary on Monk's life, *Straight, No Chaser*, was released to critical acclaim. Monk's integrity, originality, and unique approach set a standard that is a shining example for all who strive for musical excellence.

Monk is the first jazz musician and composer to receive the honor since 1999, when a Special Citation was awarded to Duke Ellington on the centennial of his birth. In addition to Ellington and Monk, only three other jazz composers have been recipients of the Pulitzer: George Gershwin, Scott Joplin, and Wynton Marsalis.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH TENORE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, America lost one of its finest scientists this week. And I lost both a constituent and a dear friend.

Kenneth Tenore, a coastal ecologist from Hollywood, Maryland, died of acute pancreatitis Sunday at University of Maryland Medical Center. He was 63.

I had the privilege of working with Ken in his role as director of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's Chesapeake Biological Laboratory on Solomons Island.

Ken's work made an invaluable contribution to the health and vibrancy of the Chesapeake Bay, and his leadership brought together marine scientists from around the world to bolster the health of coastal waterways.

While at Solomons, he led collaborative research programs involving marine scientists from the United States, the Galicia region of Spain and Portugal.

His frequent visits to both countries have helped build strong scientific relationships that endure today.

At the time of his death, he was leading the Navigator Project, an international effort supported by the National Science Foundation and the Luso-American Foundation, to characterize and compare the ecology of coastal seas around the world.

Ken's efforts while serving the University of Maryland, my alma mater, reflect a man deeply committed to preserving the Earth for future generations.

While Ken was passionate about advancing technology to make new discoveries in his discipline, he was also a man that followed a higher moral code—even teaching a science and ethics course at the University of Notre Dame.

Father Ernan McMullin, a retired Notre Dame professor said of Ken: "He was an inspirational teacher who had a strong feeling for the philosophical and ethical issues in science."

Among his tremendous accomplishments, Ken founded and directed the Alliance for Coastal Technologies, a partnership of research institutions, environmental managers, and industry representatives which foster sensor technologies for use in monitoring coastal environments.

Ken leaves behind a sister, Dr. Elizabeth J. Tenore, a brother, Louis James Tenore, and a nephew, Louis James Tenore Jr.

Ken's life touched so many around the world: family, friends, and colleagues. I was privileged to know him.

On behalf of the Fifth Congressional District, I want to extend my sympathies to his family and join the scores of others in honoring his life's work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed three votes on May 9th, 2006. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 1499 (the Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunities Act); "yes" on H.R. 5037 (the Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act) and "yes" on H.R. 3829 (the Jack C. Montgomery Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Designation Act).

NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor all teachers today on National Teacher Day. I want to thank teachers everywhere for their devotion to children and a better tomorrow.

Teachers are our greatest public servants; they spend their lives educating our young people and shaping our Nation for tomorrow. Education is the key to success in life, and teachers make a lasting impact in the lives of their students.

Even as we thank our teachers for the invaluable work they do, there are proposals to cut funding from numerous educational programs, including GEAR-UP and the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Program. Education should be one of our top funding priorities; talking about it does not help the teachers and students who desperately need promises fulfilled.

An education provides today's children with valuable and necessary skills to lead a productive life in tomorrow's society. Education makes children less dependent upon others and opens doors to better jobs and career possibilities. Education is the silver bullet to improve this Nation's standing worldwide . . . and our teachers know that.

I have supported teachers and their efforts to provide quality education to our children, and will always continue to do that. I fought for Texas teachers' Social Security benefits by advocating the amendment to the Teacher Social Security Protection Act that protected them. I have fought to protect those benefits that ensure better salaries for teachers across the Nation such as grants to pay off student loans and funding for Teach for America. Still, we must all do more to show our continued appreciation for our Nation's leading role models.

Today, let us remember the essence of why teachers are our most important public servants. There is a story about a dinner conversation with a puffed up CEO who demeaned a teacher at the table by asking: "What's a kid going to learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher? What do you make?"

The teacher smiled a contented smile, and enlightened her dinner companions: "I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could. I make kids enjoy learning. I make them dream, wonder, question, criticize, apologize (and mean it) . . . I make them write, work, and discover. I make them responsible. I make them achieve. You want to know what I make? I make a difference. What was it again you make?"

Amen . . . teachers make a difference in every single life they touch, and today I thank each teacher for the work they do and the lives they change every day.

THE PASSING OF EARL WOODS

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I learned of the passing of Earl

Woods, the father of golfing legend Tiger Woods, of cancer.

Earl Woods was a father, coach, and mentor to Tiger Woods. There is no doubt that the world would not now have the opportunity to witness the genius of Tiger Woods on a golf course without the input from Earl Woods. Theirs was a father-son match made in heaven.

Earl Woods was the driving force in the development of Tiger Woods as not only a golf player but human being. Almost before Tiger could walk, his father had acclimated him to the game of golf. According to one account, Earl would hit golf balls in the garage on a makeshift range with Tiger watching him from his high chair. Earl later recounted that Tiger, at the tender age of 9 months, first demonstrated to him his incredible potential as a golf player.

Mr. Speaker, Earl Woods is a model of fatherhood. He supported, nurtured, and literally raised Tiger Woods to the heights of the golfing world. I am particularly struck by the close relationship Earl Woods had with his son.

When you hear so many professional athletes thanking or saying hello to their mothers after a television interview, it was refreshing to hear Tiger mention both his father and mother.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. LEA ANN PITCHER

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Lea Ann Pitcher as being named one of the most 'Outstanding Mathematics Teachers in the United States' by The Presidential Award for Excellence. This award was established in 1983 by an Act of Congress and is administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation. Offered every other year to high school teachers, only two teachers per state are bestowed this great honor. Recognizing only the most exceptional teachers from across the United States, this awards' program is designed to honor teachers for their ingenious contributions to the classroom and to their profession. Mrs. Pitcher personifies excellence both in the classroom and as a professional. "Awardees serve as an example for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the quality of mathematics and science." As a high school math teacher, Mr. Pitcher does just that.

Mrs. Pitcher's work at Lee's Summit Senior High School is exemplary. She educates our children in one of the areas we need strengthening the most—mathematics. After a decade as a pharmacist, she left to pursue teaching. Her students respect and rely on her knowledge; her peers emulate her dedication and teaching practices of using debate and discussion in math; and I know that Principal Faulkenberry considers her to be one of the school's greatest assets. She has truly touched our community and changed the lives of students in Lee's Summit throughout her 11 years as an educator. As a longtime resident, she has shown her dedication to our community, her students, and education throughout her long career as a teacher in the Greater Kansas City Area, having worked at both Hick-

man Mills High School and Lee's Summit High School.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today, May 9, 2006, on National Teacher Day, in thanking Mrs. Lea Ann Pitcher for her unyielding commitment to education, but more importantly, thank her for her significant contributions to the students of Lee's Summit Senior High School in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. This year's theme of National Teacher Day is "Great Teachers Make Great Public Schools" and is a fitting description of Mrs. Pitcher's contribution to our society. Rarely do people touch the lives of students and communities in a way that will follow them forever. I want to thank her again for her outstanding work and her extraordinary commitment to the Lee's Summit students. As one former recipient of the Presidential Award exclaimed, "I think of this as the Nobel Prize of my profession." Mrs. Pitcher has truly attained the highest honor in her field. This accolade is something to celebrate because it recognizes someone to emulate. I urge my colleagues of the 109th Congress to please join me in congratulating Mrs. Lea Ann Pitcher on her well-deserved recognition.

TOWARDS A RULE BASED INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call my colleagues' attention to an alarming, but accurate portrayal of where the Bush Administration has been taking America. This survey shows how they have dragged down the United States from its traditional leadership in international law and peace-keeping institutions and turned America into a worldwide pariah for flouting the rule of law. In the latest issue of the "New York Review of Books," scholar Brian Urquhart reviews the work of three authors. Their common theme is the damage done by the Bush/Cheney doctrines to the world's peacekeeping structure. As Urquhart notes, they have "brushed aside fifty years of international law in the name of the 'global war on terrorism.'" A pioneer of international peace-keeping and a former U.N. Undersecretary General, Urquhart is well-placed to summarize the Bush Administration's disdain for the rule of law, or as he puts it: "the ideological opposition of the Bush Administration, both to vital treaties and to international institutions."

One of the authors reviewed, Phillippe Sands, a professor and veteran international lawyer, has provided a history of how modern governments like the United States have alternated between weaving a stronger fabric of international law, and at other times taking actions that unraveled it. Sands has made especially invaluable contributions to our understanding of how President Bush and Prime Minister Blair secretly plotted to drag both nations into war with Iraq. For this I salute him.

Last spring, the British press published classified minutes of a series of 2002 secret meetings between Prime Minister Tony Blair and his senior national security advisors about planning for war in Iraq. They were originally described in Sands' book, *The Lawless World*,