

We must break the link between private financing of campaigns and the electoral process. During the 109th Congress, Chairman OBEY introduced legislation to do just that. His bill would have set specific expenditure limitations for general elections, established the Grassroots Good Citizenship Fund to provide public funding for House candidates' expenditures, and banned independent expenditures in House elections. This bill would take money laden with strings and political debts out of House elections. I cosponsored this bill last Congress, and I hope Chairman OBEY will be reintroducing it soon.

We must also take the job of reorganizing districts out of the realm of partisan politics and special interests. H.R. 543, the Fairness and Independence in Redistricting Act of 2007, introduced by Representative JOHN TANNER, would establish an independent commission for the purpose of doing the work of redistricting. I am a cosponsor of this legislation, and hope that this Congress will look very seriously at passing it.

We must utilize the public airways to make campaigns less costly. Most of what is spent in an election is spent on advertising. We can change this. By fairly utilizing publicly owned airways to run campaign ads, the exorbitant cost of campaigns can be reduced, and the associated fundraising, and perceived corruption could be curbed.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. WESS STAFFORD'S 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY AT COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Wess Stafford's 30th anniversary with Compassion International. A widely respected child advocacy organization, Compassion International has helped over one and a half million children since its inception in 1952 and currently operates in 24 developing countries worldwide.

Dr. Stafford began his work with this worthy group on May 1, 1977 and was elected its president in 1993. Raised by missionary parents in a poverty-stricken town in the Ivory Coast, Dr. Stafford witnessed first hand, immense suffering and tragedy. This experience led him to become a passionate advocate for children all over the world. An admirable Christian, Dr. Stafford believes that all human life is precious and deserves to be protected and cherished; a value he extols in his book *Too Small to Ignore*.

The mission of Compassion is to "release children from poverty in Jesus' name," and Dr. Stafford has tried to do just that. Today, the organization not only provides a child sponsorship program, it has also put into action an AIDS Initiative, Child Survival Program, and Leadership Development Program. Since becoming its leader, Dr. Stafford has increased the number of children served by Compassion from 180,000 to over 800,000.

Dr. Stafford's evident enthusiasm for his work and selfless dedication to the service of others are a true inspiration. He and those with whom he works are undeterred by the

enormity of the problems they seek to solve. Rather than feeling that the mission is an insurmountable challenge, they understand that victory is achieved when one life is saved. Today I offer Dr. Stafford my congratulations on this milestone and appreciation for his work. I am proud and humbled by the privilege of representing him, and all of those who are a part of Compassion International.

TRIBUTE TO JIM BURGER

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Burger, Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Helsel Lumber, who has been named the Small Business Association's Regional Exporter of the Year. Jim was presented with this award at the SBA's annual awards luncheon on May 25th in Pittsburgh, PA, and will also be recognized at the St. Francis University Small Business Development Center's annual luncheon on June 12th.

The SBA Exporter of the Year is chosen from companies in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, DC. This award recognizes exceptional business professionals whose business has seen an increase in sales and profits as well as growth in the number of employees as a result of exporting. Jim was nominated by the St. Francis University Small Business Development Center.

Mr. Burger began his career with Helsel Lumber, an exporting company in Duncansville, PA, at the age of 16 as an after-school job, returning to the mill full time after graduating from Penn State University and working his way up to vice president and co-owner of the facility in 2001. As vice president, Jim has worked tirelessly to lead the business to become an active and successful exporting company. His efforts have paid off, as Helsel Lumber has grown to include export sales to Europe and Asia and has recently done significant work in China. Helsel Lumber received an Export Achievement Award from the U.S. Commercial Service in 2006.

Jim has made a significant contribution not only to the betterment of Helsel Lumber, but to the region's economic growth and success as well. Our small business leaders are key to the continued economic vitality and success of our communities. The company and the community are lucky to have such a devoted leader, and the members of our community who have benefited from the efforts of Helsel Lumber and Jim Burger would certainly join me in thanking him for his contributions to the community and economy.

BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, more than three million American women are currently living with breast cancer. The American Can-

cer Society estimates that this year, approximately 179,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed among women in the United States and that 41,000 women will die from the disease. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), breast cancer will affect one in eight women over the course of their lifetime. Although important advances have been made in screening for and treating breast cancer, we still do not know what causes this disease, or how to prevent it.

There is currently a dearth of studies providing conclusive evidence regarding the effects of environmental factors such as pesticides and other toxins on the development of breast cancer. Further study of these and many other factors, suspected of playing a role but not yet comprehensively examined, could be invaluable in helping to prevent breast cancer.

Many of us have voiced our support for this critical research by co-sponsoring the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act over several Congresses. The legislation, H.R. 1157 in the 110th Congress, would authorize \$40 million a year for five years for the National Institutes of Health to make grants on a competitive, peer-reviewed basis, for the creation of multi-disciplinary Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Centers of Excellence. The Centers would be the first federally funded entities established specifically to study the potential links between breast cancer and the environment. The Centers would be required to collaborate with community organizations such as those representing women with breast cancer.

Breast cancer is a disease that has unfortunately touched the lives of almost every family in our country. Those of us who have supported programs such as the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program and the DOD Breast Cancer Research program must be equally willing to support efforts to uncover the causes of this terrible disease. H.R. 1157 is an important piece of legislation and I urge my colleagues to support it.

TRIBUTE TO THIRLEE SMITH, SR.

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Thirlee Smith, Sr., one of the preeminent role models of our community. A man of great repute and high standing who enriched the lives of so many community members throughout Miami, Thirlee Smith, Sr. lived a meaningful and fulfilling life dedicated to the betterment of our society through acts of good will.

We have lost an outstanding leader, but we are blessed to have been touched by his greatness. It is our collective responsibility to carry forward and continue the good works and deeds that Thirlee Smith, Sr. practiced on a daily basis.

Thirlee Smith, Sr. led voter registration drives throughout the community, because he understood that voting is a civil right. Thirlee Smith, Sr. stood at the forefront of this civil rights voter registration fight. Our democracy is more vibrant, our community is better represented, and our voices are now heard thanks to his tireless efforts.

Thirlee Smith, Sr. was born in Timpson, Texas on June 2, 1912, the second oldest of six children born to his loving parents. In the late 1930s, Thirlee Smith, Sr. married Beulah Finley, and built a three bedroom home in Liberty City which still stands to this day. Together Thirlee, Sr. and Beulah raised three outstanding children, who contributed to our community in their own right: Odessa S. Felder Cook, a retired Miami-Dade County Public School teacher; Thirlee Smith, Jr., a former Miami-Dade County Public School administrator and the first Black reporter for The Miami Herald; and the Honorable Frederica Wilson, my Florida State Senator.

Thirlee, Sr. was a 20-year member of the Revival Tabernacle Assembly of God under the leadership of retired Rev. Selwyn Scott,

and served there as a deacon for many years, mentoring children and young adults. Thirlee, Sr. left this world a better place, and now, he returns home to a greater place in God's heavenly kingdom alongside his beloved Beulah Finley Smith.

It is only appropriate that on Friday, March 2, 2007, the city of Opa-Locka held a street naming ceremony in honor of Thirlee Smith, Sr. across the street from the billiard parlor where he registered members of the Black community to vote, led a community drive that resulted in the sanitation workers of Opa-Locka being issued uniforms and pay raises, and dispensed sage-like political and personal advice to friends who were also his patrons.

A husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and friend, Thirlee, Sr.

was a family man who leaves behind his devoted daughters; Odessa Felder Cook (Carliss), and Frederica S. Wilson; five loving grandchildren, Chandra Stephens (Clyde), Kimberly Emmanuel (Nicholas), Lakesha Wilson-Rochelle (Shelly) and Paul Wilson, Jr. (Farrah); five great-grand children, Cailey and Clifford Stephens, Najee and Chelsey Emmanuel, and Triston Paul Wilson; and nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends in Miami, Milwaukee, California, Texas and the Bahamas.

A man of great faith and spirituality who was the patriarch of a family that continues to serve our community with the highest levels of distinction, Thirlee Smith, Sr. left our world a better place than the world in which he entered.