

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM HOWARD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brooklyn resident William Howard. Mr. Howard was born in Sumter, South Carolina. He is the second eldest of four boys.

Mr. Howard attended Lincoln High School in South Carolina. Following his graduation from high school, he answered a call to service; honorably serving in the United States Air Force for four-and-a-half years reaching the rank of Staff Sergeant. Mr. Howard later attended Knoxville College in Knoxville, Tennessee. After leaving college, he returned to New York accepting a civil service job with the New York City Transit Authority where he worked for 28 years, finally retiring as a Superintendent of Administration.

Mr. Howard is a member of the Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Sumter, and often attends St. Anthony Baptist Church in Brooklyn. He is active in the community serving as Chair of the fund raising committee of the Unity Democratic Club he is also active in the Club's Men's Council. Mr. Howard serves as a member of the NAACP, and is a 33rd Degree Mason in Tyree Grand Lodge. He is the Commander of the George P. Davis American Legion Post 116 in Brooklyn, New York. He is on the Board of Officers for the National New York Transit Retirees, and is the founder and president of the Flatbush Depot Alumni Society.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. William Howard's life of honor and service to the community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this great citizen as well as his contribution to New York City and our great Nation.

A MAN OF PRINCIPLE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a letter to the editor of the Carteret County News-Times by General John Batiste titled, "A Man of Principle." General Batiste commanded the 1st Infantry Division in Iraq and in this letter he rightfully praises one of the most courageous Members of Congress, my friend Rep. WALTER JONES of North Carolina. Rep. JONES, correctly observes General Batiste, is a man of principle and well understands the dilemma we face in Iraq. It is very encouraging for me to read the words of the highly experienced General Batiste affirming the correctness of Congressman JONES' position on Iraq, because I share Rep. JONES views about this very difficult situation we find ourselves. I also salute Rep. JONES for his courage and his determination to seek the truth.

[From the Carteret County News-Times, May 25, 2007]

A MAN OF PRINCIPLE

ROCHESTER, N.Y.,

May 22, 2007

TO THE EDITOR: Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina's 3rd District deserves our

unqualified support. He is a man of principle and well understands the dilemma we face in Iraq to include the fatally flawed strategy that took us to war in March 2003; the failure to modify the same strategy over time; the administration's continued reliance on the military without the necessary diplomatic, political, and economic components fundamental to a successful strategy; the administration's failure to mobilize the nation to deal with global Islamic extremism; and the dire straights our great soldiers and Marines find themselves in today.

Indeed, our Army and Marine Corps, the best fighting formations our country has ever fielded, are at a breaking point with little to show for it because of the reckless behavior of the current administration.

Walter Jones gets it. He personifies patriotism. He understands the American way of war.

I base this judgment on personal experience, a 31-year career in the Army, two combat tours in Iraq, many years of service in Balkans peace enforcement in both Bosnia and Kosovo and service in the Pentagon before, during and after Sept. 11th, 2001. I am a lifelong Republican. I respect Walter Jones for his moral courage and resolve to get things right.

I met Congressman Jones in his office in the Rayburn Office Building some eight months ago. I was impressed then with his grasp of the situation in Iraq and his unqualified love of country and support for our military. Indeed, for the last five years, he is one of only several congressional Republicans who have embraced their constitutional responsibilities to overwatch and hold accountable our executive branch of government. He asks the tough questions and never backs down. The vast majority of our party has long since abrogated this incredibly important aspect of their duty. He well represents his constituents and the best interests of both our country and our military. As President Gerald Ford once said, "Truth is the glue that holds our government together." Since our first meeting eight months ago, my respect of Walter Jones has multiplied tenfold.

People often ask me to describe how they can help get the country back on track. The answer almost invariably boils down to exercising the right to vote and casting one's vote for the candidate who understands the issues and has the moral courage to do the right thing. I have now expanded that answer to elect more public servants like Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina. Our nation desperately needs members of Congress with his character, commitment, and resolve. I salute Walter Jones as a man of principle with the courage of his convictions.

JOHN BATISTE,
Maj. Gen. USA (Ret.)

MARKET INCENTIVES FOR
BIOBASED PRODUCTS ACT OF 2007**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce a bill today related to Federal procurement of biobased products and the labeling of such products, known as the Market Incentives for Biobased Products Act of 2007. The Federal Government serves a vital role in promoting new technologies and products by creating a market as the country's largest consumer.

This bill, which will amend section 9002 of the Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, will require the Secretary of Agriculture to set biobased product procurement guidelines for Federal agencies. A stronger biobased procurement program will help strengthen rural communities and uplift our Nation's farmers by creating new jobs and new markets. Additionally, by replacing petroleum-based products with bio-based products, this program will decrease our Nation's dependence on foreign oil and protect the environment.

Just as the mandate to purchase recycled paper spurred the growth of that industry, we can do the same with biobased products. Although it took 12 years for the EPA to establish guidelines for recycled paper, all 50 States followed suit and it has become a mainstream product whose quality has improved vastly over the years. While the USDA has made great strides in establishing the BioPreferred Program, I hope this bill will stimulate expansion of biobased product use in a timely manner.

This bill also requires the Secretary to establish labeling requirements for finished products and intermediate ingredients in consultation with Federal agencies, producers of biobased products, and various interested organizations within 90 days of enactment. Setting uniform labeling standards will aid in purchasing decisions, dissemination of products, and eventually build consumer confidence in bio-based products.

Finally, this bill sets reporting requirements so Congress can ensure the progress of the procurement and labeling program. I believe that proper oversight is essential to guarantee forward movement of this program and conscientious use of taxpayer dollars.

By setting high goals and standards, this body can pave the way for the expansion of a burgeoning industry, and have positive affects our farmers, our environment, and our national security.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. EARNEST
FLOWERS**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Earnest Flowers, a career Financial Advisor who has worked for security houses and alongside investment banks since 1994.

Mr. Flowers joined Whales Securities after two years of training. There he became a vice-president of private client services and a top producer. While at Whale, he participated in finding various Initial Public Offerings (IPO's) including the World Heart Corporation, and Take-Two Interactive Software Incorporated.

Mr. Flowers was recruited in 2000 by his former manager to join Ladenburg, Thalmann & Company, Incorporated, the second oldest firm on Wall Street. In 2002, Mr. Flowers went independent and has since provided wealth management through firms such as the Concord Equity Group, the Investors Capital Corporation and most recently, Aura Financial Services.

Mr. Flower's independence has allowed him to raise capital and work on alternative

projects. Current projects range from economic and social development in Africa to the financing of media companies. Among them: Vardo Entertainment; Mindtree; Urbintel; and VuVango Media. Mr. Flowers has financed the public works of Clarence B. Jones, worked as a former draft speech writer and counsel to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and assisted with future film projects like Pilgrims Progress, Clara Ward, the Shea Foundation, and a gospel reality pilot for Black Entertainment Television.

Mr. Flowers is a member of various boards in the religious, political and business communities. Among them are: the Insight Broadcasting Corporation; the Atlantic Union of SDA Executive Committee; the Atlantic Union Adventist Media/3 ABN; Northeastern Academy Alumni; Northeastern Conference Youth Advisory Committee; Elmer H. Blackburn Regular Democratic Club; Harlem Advent Care Center; Daly Day Academy; and the Northeastern Conference Junior Basketball League.

Mr. Flowers holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree from Oakwood College and is currently in the last semester of the St. Johns' University MBA Program. Mr. Flowers is an ordained Elder at City Tabernacle SDA Church and a former Associate Coordinator and current Master Guide in the Bronx/Manhattan Pathfinder Association. He is married to Dr. Alicia Massop-Flowers.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the distinguished accomplishments and achievements of Mr. Flowers.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this extraordinary gentleman.

BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I recently led a bipartisan House delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly meetings in Madeira and Lisbon, Portugal, and to additional meetings in Tunisia and Morocco from May 24–June 3. The co-chair of my delegation was the Hon. PAUL GILLMOR. In addition, Representatives RALPH REGULA, JO ANN EMERSON, JOHN SHIMKUS, ELLEN TAUSCHER, DENNIS MOORE, TOM TANCREDO, JOHN BOOZMAN, BARON HILL, BEN CHANDLER, KENDRICK MEEK, and CHARLES MELANCON, and staff, worked to make this a highly successful trip in which we examined a range of NATO and Mediterranean security issues.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly, NPA, consists of parliamentarians from all 26 NATO member states. In addition, members of parliament present from such associated governments as Russia, Georgia, Croatia, and Afghanistan join discussions and debates over the key issues of interest to the alliance. The NPA thereby provides a forum for elected officials to analyze issues that NATO discusses in Brussels. Delegates have the opportunity to learn first-hand the views and concerns that other countries have over the key security issues of the day. An invaluable aspect of the meetings is the chance to meet and come to

know members of parliaments who play important roles in their own countries in shaping the security agenda that their governments debate at NATO headquarters. These contacts can endure through a career, and can provide an invaluable private avenue for insights into each ally's particular views on an issue.

The key issues before NATO today are Russia, missile defense, and the conflict in Afghanistan. Each of these was on vigorous display at the NPA meetings. Russia under Putin is following an increasingly assertive policy in its use of energy supplies as a political lever, and in efforts to intimidate neighboring states such as Estonia and Georgia. It was clear from our meetings that not only the United States and NATO, but the European Union as well, are concerned about Moscow's posture on a wide range of issues. The Bush Administration's missile defense proposal for Europe was also a central subject of discussion. While many governments accept in the abstract the need to consider such a defensive system in an era of missile and nuclear proliferation, the meetings revealed a wide array of views among the allies on the efficacy and timeliness of this particular system. The United States has approximately 25,000 troops in Afghanistan, of whom 17,000 are engaged in NATO's International Security Assistance Force, ISAF, fighting the Taliban.

Portugal hosted the NP A meetings in Madeira. Before the opening sessions, the delegation had a detailed briefing and discussion with Ambassador Victoria Nuland, the U.S. representative to NATO. She very ably prepared us for the nuances of the discussion of the issues that would be debated in the NPA sessions. There followed another private meeting with NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, who gave an overview of member state perspectives on the most controversial issues confronting the alliance; he later addressed the NPA's plenary session. The Prime Minister of Portugal also addressed the plenary, and emphasized the importance of Mediterranean security issues, which were a recurrent theme in our trip.

There followed 2 days of NPA committee meetings. There are 5 NPA committees. In each, parliamentarians present reports on issues before the alliance, which are then debated by all members of the committee who may make counter-arguments or suggestions for amending a report. We divided our delegation so that U.S. Members were present in each committee meeting.

I chaired the Economics and Security Committee, which heard reports on the Republic of Georgia's progress towards democracy and its increasingly close association with NATO, on defense resource management, and on economic developments in East Asia. Representative BOOZMAN was the co-rapporteur of this last report, which he very ably presented, and which aroused an interesting discussion. Rep. BOOZMAN noted the growing commercial interests of the United States and its allies in East Asia, and the political and security implications of this growing web of economic connections. The Committee also heard a provocative and interesting presentation by Lawrence Korb of the Center for American Progress. He discussed the U.S. defense budget debate, and the effects that the Iraq war is having on U.S. military capabilities around the world.

The NPA Political Committee, of which Rep. CHANDLER is a vice-chairman, heard several

reports that touched off sometimes contentious debates. Most notable were exchanges between the Russian delegates and their counterparts from NATO parliaments over the cyber attacks on Estonia's government and business electronic systems, in all probability launched in retaliation for Estonia's relocation of a Soviet-era war memorial. There was also a report by a Canadian delegate on the conflict in Afghanistan. Backed by her U.S. colleagues, she called for a reduction in caveats—restrictions that some allies place on their forces in Afghanistan—and a greater sharing of the combat burden among member states.

The Defense and Security Committee also heard a report on Afghanistan that concentrated on military operations there. Representative SHIMKUS then gave a clear, succinct, and analytical presentation on his report on the NATO–EU security relationship. He called for better coordination between the 2 organizations so that member governments might pool and share resources more smoothly as NATO and the EU work more closely together in such missions as Afghanistan and Kosovo. His report was well-received, and led to an interesting debate. Representative TAUSCHER is a vice-chair of one of the Committee's subcommittees.

The Science and Technology Committee heard reports on climate change and on the transformation of warfare brought on by the increasing use of computers and other high technology. A report by a Russian delegate set off a broad debate on the administration's missile defense proposals. The concerns of Moscow were clearly, if ideologically, laid out by the Russian delegate, with responses from a range of European delegates. Representative TAUSCHER provided a clear and concise congressional perspective on missile defense after a presentation on the issue by a U.S. Department of Defense official.

The Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security heard reports on a range of issues, the most interesting of which was the protection of critical infrastructures. The issue of the recent cyber attacks in Estonia was again raised; vulnerability of communications and other electronic networks in allied states is likely to become a matter of growing debate in the alliance. Representative EMERSON is a vice-chair of one of the Committee's subcommittees.

The rapporteurs will present updated drafts of their reports during the next NPA meetings, which will occur in Reykjavik, Iceland, October 5–9, 2007.

The delegation also met with a member of the Afghan parliament who is an observer delegate to the NPA. We discussed NATO operations, the narcotics trade in Afghanistan, and governance issues with him.

The delegation next went to Lisbon on May 28–29 for meetings there and visits to 2 military bases. After a briefing by U.S. Ambassador Alfred Hoffman and his staff, the delegation visited the NATO Joint Command just outside Lisbon. Joint HQ Lisbon is an allied mobile command that becomes a sea-based command in the initial stages of operations ranging from peacekeeping to war fighting. It is a reflection of NATO's ongoing transformation into a lighter, more mobile military structure able to counter crises around the world. Joint HQ Lisbon currently provides the headquarters structure for the NATO mission in Darfur.