

A TRIBUTE TO KEVIN C. BRYANT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Kevin C. Bryant, detective first grade of the New York City Police Department. Mr. Bryant was born and raised in Brooklyn and attended public school through 12th grade. In 1985, at Queens College, Mr. Bryant was sworn in as a probationary police officer for the NYPD.

Mr. Bryant successfully graduated from the police academy and was eventually assigned to his permanent command in the 81st precinct of Brooklyn's North neighborhood. Because of his honorable work on the police force, Mr. Bryant was offered invitations to join the Narcotics Division several times, an invitation he finally accepted in 1987.

Mr. Bryant was assigned to a special anti-crack unit in Queens where he was an instrumental component in hundreds of undercover buy-and-bust operations throughout the city. He made such a significant impact that he was promoted to detective third grade in 1989.

Mr. Bryant was selected to initiate a federally funded program aimed at disrupting drug gangs called the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force in 1991, after continuing to make positive contributions in his community. His HIDTA program was so effective that it became the rubric for developing HIDTA programs across the country.

Mr. Bryant continued to prove his dedication to crime-fighting during his work with the HIDTA, which resulted in his promotion to detective second grade.

Mr. Bryant accepted an invitation to join the Intelligence Division in 1998. There he performed tasks ranging from investigating organized street gangs, to post-9/11 terrorism investigations. He was promoted to detective first grade in 2007.

Mr. Bryant retired from the NYPD on his 44th birthday in April of 2007. He now spends more time with his family, his wife of 16 years Choddie Bryant and his three children, Porsha, Kai and Khail.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the accomplishments of Kevin C. Bryant, as his selfless and unwavering dedication to the betterment of New York City has forever benefited the lives of its residents.

Madam Speaker, Kevin C. Bryant's service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

WPET-AM CELEBRATES A HALF
CENTURY OF SERVICE

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, for more than 50 years, a radio station in the Sixth District of North Carolina has been providing our citizens with the best in local programming. Since WPET-AM 950 went on the air in June of 1954, listeners in the Piedmont Triad region of North Carolina have had their souls nourished,

their hearts enriched, and they have been entertained, enlightened, and educated by the programming provided by WPET.

The station has had a rich and colorful history. The first owner was Mr. Wayne Nelson. Between 1957 and 1959, WPET was owned by Mr. Bill Mitchell and Mr. Bob Montgomery. In 1959, Beattie Broadcasting Group owned and operated the radio station. From 1967 until 1984, Mido Communications owned WPET. Mr. Tom Armshaw was the co-owner, vice president, and general manager of WPET. It was Tom Armshaw who changed the station programming to an all-Southern Gospel format, which has endured for the last 40 years. In 1984, WPET-AM and its sister station WRQK-FM were purchased by A.H. Robins Company. From 1987 until 2002, WPET was owned by Bahakel Communications and from 2002 until the present, WPET has been owned by Entercom Communications.

Consistent quality has been a hallmark of WPET throughout its history. This year, the current program director, Mr. Dave Compton, entered his 30th year of service to the listeners of WPET. The on-air team at WPET feels like family to its many loyal and faithful listeners. In addition to Dave Compton, WPET's many fans enjoy listening to Jan Harkey (also known as Miss Dusty), Andy Johnson, Jimmy Fulmer, Larry Dunlap with morning sports, and Paul Heil, the host of Gospel Greats.

In addition to broadcasting the Gospel in both word and song, WPET presents local news and weather, provides community information and airs sports programming such as Greensboro Grasshoppers baseball, the men's and women's basketball teams at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Spartans, and the East Carolina University Pirates football team. An example of how WPET serves its listeners in many different ways will occur on June 23 when the radio station sponsors a free Health and Community Service Day in Greensboro. The event will provide free blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose screenings, along with food, games and entertainment for all who attend.

In the spirit of full disclosure, I must admit to some personal bias in our office when it comes to our affection for WPET. My Chief of Staff Ed McDonald is an alumnus of the radio station, having served as a news reporter for WPET from 1981 until 1984 when I hired him away from the station. In addition, many folks call me an "AM radio guy in an FM world," and I plead guilty to that charge. So personally and professionally, we can say that we are big fans of WPET.

Allow me to quote Dave Compton, the station's program director, who accurately captured the essence of what makes WPET special. "With a Southern Gospel format," Dave Compton stated, "WPET airs the Good News of our Lord, embracing Christian values with local churches and the church community of the Piedmont, and being that comforting voice with the Good News of the Gospel, offering hope and solace in a sometimes troubled world."

I could not have said it any better, Madam Speaker. I will simply add that, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we thank, the owners and staff of WPET-AM 950 for providing the Piedmont with quality Southern Gospel radio.

AMERICAN COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS CLIMATE COMMITMENT

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight some encouraging and important activity at America's colleges and universities. This morning I attended a kick-off event celebrating the decision by 284 universities and colleges from across the Nation to sign the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment.

Let me say that I am pleased to see that this group is led by President Michael Crow of Arizona State University, which is in my hometown of Tempe. ASU and the other 283 colleges and universities have made a commitment to move their respective campuses toward meeting a long-term goal of climate neutrality.

I applaud their commitment to lead the country by example. Sustainable energy is an issue that affects our environment, our economy and our national security, and we cannot leave this problem for future generations of Americans to solve.

These universities and colleges are taking proactive steps to solve the problem of global warming. They are implementing solutions on campus, educating students and future generations, and generating the research for how we can solve the growing climate change crisis.

By making this climate commitment, these colleges and universities have made a bold declaration that America's higher education institutions are ready and able to take on the challenge of global warming and are committed to concrete action.

I am particularly proud of the steps ASU has taken to address climate change. ASU has already established the Global Institute of Sustainability and the School of Sustainability. This is a significant accomplishment of which the entire State of Arizona is proud.

I congratulate these universities for their leadership and vision and wish them success in this endeavor.

TRIBUTE TO JOSIAH HOLLOPETER

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, on a day when the House of Representatives has passed legislation providing for the health and well-being of our veterans, it is with a heavy heart I honor a brave man who will not be returning home. Specialist Josiah Hollopeter, of Valentine, NE, was shot and killed by small arms fire while on dismounted patrol in Normandy, Iraq, on June 14.

My thoughts and prayers are with Josiah's family—his parents and his wife—today. Josiah represented the best of what it means to be a Nebraskan. His service and sacrifice for our country will long be remembered.

Again, I ask my colleagues to remember the Hollopeter family during this time of grieving.

And to remember Josiah's comrades in arms who are still in harm's way.

A TRIBUTE TO HARLON BRANDON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Harlon Brandon. Harlon is an award winning footwear designer with a penchant for giving back to his community. He is a native New Yorker, who attended New York's School of Visual Arts earning a Fine Arts degree. Upon graduation in the early 80s, he decided to pursue a career in advertising.

Harlon Brandon began his career as an Art Director with Foote, Cone & Belding, focusing on fashion and beauty accounts. He continued his advertising career at Lockhart & Pettus, as an Executive Director and Art Director. While at Lockhart & Pettus he received the CEBA award for "Advertising and Communications to the African-American Community."

Harlon Brandon later took a shoe design course. He was encouraged by his professor to enter a footwear design competition where he took home the top prize for Women's Shoe Design. Following that, he spent years designing shoes throughout the world for well-known designers Tommy Hilfiger, Christian Dior and Puma. After many years of designing for others he stepped out on his own and launched his footwear line, Harlon Brandon Footwear.

Harlon Brandon received the "Innovator Award" by the Black Retailers Action Group in 2004. He was featured on CBS News in a segment about small business success stories and more recently, he was nominated for the Black Enterprise "Emerging Company of the Year Award".

Harlon Brandon is not only recognized for his achievements in design, but for his enumerable contributions to the youth in his community. He was featured on WPIX-TV for his tireless community work and his unwavering commitment to mentoring urban high school students.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Harlon Brandon is a shining example of where hard work and perseverance can lead.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a man who encourages our youth in putting their best foot forward.

DEPORTATION CASE OF MR.
SAMEH KHOUZAM

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I am deeply concerned about the upcoming possible deportation of Mr. Sameh Khouzam, an Egyptian man who is currently detained in York, Pennsylvania. The Second Circuit Court granted a stay of deportation to Egypt based on a finding that it was "more likely than not" that he would be tortured upon return. Reportedly, the U.S. Government received assurances from the Egyptian Government that Mr. Khouzam

would not be tortured were he to be returned to Egypt. I am deeply disturbed that the U.S. Government appears to have taken this assurance at face value in light of the extensive evidence of torture against Egyptian citizens, particularly against religious minorities.

Mr. Khouzam fled Egypt in 1998, due to pressure from the Egyptian government to forcibly change his religion. Reports suggest that he, and other family members, were detained and imprisoned by the government during these reported attempts at forcible conversion. Mr. Khouzam then fled the country fearing for his life. During the flight to the United States, Egyptian officials notified U.S. officials that Mr. Khouzam was wanted for murder. When he landed in the U.S., authorities noticed that he was injured (due to Egyptian security officials' actions) and placed him in the hospital. After his release from the hospital, he was imprisoned in the U.S. due to Egyptian government requests, despite the absence of credible evidence and the lack of autopsy reports substantiating the "murder" charges. Mr. Khouzam was imprisoned in the U.S. for 8 years, until he was granted parole based on a Second Circuit Court decision that were he to be deported he would most certainly face torture at the hands of the Egyptian Government.

By all accounts, Mr. Khouzam is an upstanding, contributing member of the communities in which he works, lives, and worships in Pennsylvania. It came as a great surprise to everyone when Mr. Khouzam, following instructions, voluntarily reported to immigration authorities to check in with them on Tuesday, May 29, 2007, but was then detained, imprisoned, and informed that the Egyptian Government provided "assurances" that he would not be tortured, therefore, he would be deported on Friday, June 1, 2007. Mr. Khouzam's lawyers requested an extension of the stay of deportation; the request was granted for an extension until Thursday, June 7, 2007 and extended again until Monday, June 18, 2007.

It is deeply disturbing that the U.S. Department of State and Department of Homeland Security would, in the face of all evidence to the contrary, accept at face value a promise from the Egyptian Government. Over the years, a number of Members of Congress have personally worked on numerous cases in Egypt in which the government has used torture against its own citizens. The most recent Country Reports on Human Rights Practices issued by the U.S. Department of State detail that there were "numerous, credible reports that security forces tortured and mistreated prisoners and detainees," that security forces "employ torture to extract information or force confessions," and that "human rights monitors believe the use of torture by police [is] widespread." Further, the Country Reports describe the torture methods used by Egyptian security officials, "Principal methods of torture reportedly employed by the police and the SSIs included stripping and blindfolding victims; suspending victims from a ceiling or doorframe with feet just touching the floor; beating victims with fists, whips, metal rods, or other objects; using electrical shocks; and dousing victims with cold water. Victims frequently reported being subjected to threats and forced to sign blank papers for use against themselves or their families should they in the future lodge complaints about the torture. Some victims, including male and female detainees and children, reported sexual

assaults or threats of rape against themselves or family members." Even further, the Report states that "Security forces continued to mistreat and torture prisoners, arbitrarily arrest and detain persons, hold detainees in prolonged pretrial detention, and engage in mass arrests."

Further, the State Department, as have numerous human rights organizations, has documented persecution by the government of Egypt against Coptic Christians. All this evidence and the clear patterns of the use of torture as well as persecution against religious minorities indicate that the "assurances" of the Egyptian Government on these matters are not reliable.

Madam Speaker, in two recent news programs on an Australian television station, former Central Intelligence official Bob Baer made it clear that the U.S. Government knows of the widespread torture in Egypt, and, in fact, considers that knowledge in decisions to send individuals to Egypt. When asked if there was any doubt someone would be tortured if he were returned to Egypt, Mr. Baer answered, "Oh absolutely no doubt at all . . . [if you] send them to Egypt it might as well, it's tantamount to condemning them to death." In another part of the program, Mr. Baer stated, regarding sending people overseas, "If you never want to hear from them again, send them to Egypt. That's pretty much the rule." When again asked, "When someone's rendered to Egypt, is there any doubt that they're going to be tortured?" Mr. Baer said, "Oh absolutely no doubt at all."

Yet, the U.S. Government is willing to accept the "diplomatic assurances" of the Egyptian Government that Mr. Sameh Khouzam, who has already been tortured by the Egyptians, will not be tortured if he were to be deported. Our country was founded upon due process, not sending individuals to countries where the likelihood of their being tortured is extremely high, diplomatic assurances to the contrary.

On June 1, 2007, in the Government's Response to the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus and Opposition to Petitioner's Motion for Stay of Removal, the U.S. Government told the Court that "substantial embarrassment could result in the diplomatic community" if the Court were to find that Mr. Khouzam would likely be tortured despite assurances from high level Egyptian officials. Since when have we based our foreign and domestic policy on concerns about being embarrassed?

We know the Egyptian government tortures people. What does the U.S. Government want from Egypt in exchange for deporting a Coptic Christian who is reportedly innocent of any charges against him?

Madam Speaker, if Mr. Khouzam is sent back to Egypt, this Administration will bear ultimate responsibility for anything that happens to him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 448, 449, and 450 I would like to express my regret for missing votes on the House