

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

Floor on Monday, June 11, 2007. My flight, which would have gotten me in town before votes, was delayed 3 hours. I did not get in until 9 pm.

Votes: H.R. 2356—the resolution acknowledging Father's Day; S. 676—Inter-American Foundation Board; H. Res. 418—recognizing and welcoming the delegation of Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Ministers from the Caribbean. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANUSA GAMES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Flint, Michigan and Hamilton, Ontario for 50 years collaborating on the CANUSA Games. The 50th anniversary will be celebrated at a gala community celebration on June 21st in my hometown of Flint.

The CANUSA Games were born in 1957 when Frank Manley and Charles Stewart Mott contacted the Amateur Athletic Union about further competitions for the Flint Olympian winners. The United States Amateur Athletic Union discussed the request with the Canadian Amateur Athletic Union and it was decided to organize a competition between the athletes of Flint and Hamilton, Ontario. That first year, 200 athletes participated in the Games. It was a great success and the tradition of the CANUSA Games began.

Since that beginning the CANUSA Games has grown into an annual event. This year about 1,000 athletes will compete. It is the model for similar athletic events between cities in the United States and Canada. The hallmark of the Games is a spirit of goodwill and friendly competition. The creed for the Games is:

"We swear that we will take part in the CANUSA Games in fair competition, respecting the regulations which govern them and with the desire to participate in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sports and for the honor of our country."

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating all the athletes, coaches, coordinators, and volunteers in Hamilton, Ontario and Flint, Michigan for 50 years of dedication to promoting friendship and harmony between our two nations through the spirit of athletic competition.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. ARLEE GRIFFIN, JR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr. Reverend Griffin is a native of Elizabeth City North Carolina. An honor graduate of North-eastern High School, Reverend Griffin earned

a bachelor of arts degree in Zoology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He later earned a master's of Divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Reverend Griffin has also studied at East Carolina University, New York University, the Postgraduate Center for Mental Health in New York City, and abroad at Oxford University in England. He graduated from Boston University with a doctorate of Ministry. In April, 1992, Shaw Divinity School awarded him an honorary doctorate of Divinity.

Reverend Griffin served as pastor of Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church in Greenville, North Carolina for nearly 10 years. During his tenure, the church experienced unprecedented growth and many new ministries were established, including the Cornerstone Christian Child Care Center. The church later relocated, and in 1996, a new \$1 million facility was built.

Reverend Griffin served in several positions of leadership in both community and religious organizations in North Carolina. Among them: president of the Pitt County Black Ministerial Alliance; moderator and vice-moderator of the Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association; parliamentarian of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; trustee of Pitt County Memorial Hospital; and campus minister at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Reverend Griffin became the senior pastor of Brooklyn's Berean Baptist Church in 1989. Under his leadership, the Community Service Center has been revitalized, now offering a full range of social services including emergency food distribution, meals to the homeless and needy, Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous groups, employment counseling, training programs and senior citizens' programs. In 1996, the church completed Berean Gardens, a \$7 million senior citizens' housing complex. More recently, the church broke ground on a community and family life center, a 4-story building which includes a primary healthcare center, a full scale gymnasium and a fitness and wellness center.

Reverend Griffin has done missionary work in Senegal, Gambia, West Africa and South Africa and was a delegate to the First African and African-American Summit at the Ivory Coast in 1991. He was selected to be an official international election observer in the first free South African election in April of 1994. Dr. Griffin has also been an associate professor of church administration at the New York Theological Seminary.

Reverend Griffin is married to Mrs. Angela Farr Griffin of Rocky Mount, North Carolina. They have two daughters: Angel Arlecia and Ariel Arlyce.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Reverend Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr. for his many works and his tremendous contribution to his congregants and the community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful man and his tireless commitment to others.

TRIBUTE TO MARY MCALENEY

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a woman from my home

State of Maine who truly embodies the spirit of public service. Mary McAleney is a friend, a trusted advisor, an accomplished professional, and a wonderful person who has devoted her career to serving the people of Maine. Today, I congratulate her on a distinguished career and her upcoming retirement.

A native of Maine, Mary grew up in Vanceboro and attended St. Joseph's Academy in Portland. She is a graduate of Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts. After teaching at Catherine McAuley High School in Portland, she worked in the Maine legislature and as a field organizer for the Maine State Employees Association.

Mary went on to serve for many years as Chief of Staff to Senator George Mitchell. While I was in the Maine Legislature, we had many opportunities to work together, and it was clear to me that she always had the best interests of Maine in mind. She was constantly looking for ways for the Federal Government to help Maine's people and businesses. But the way she went about it was important too—she always worked across the aisle to get things done for Maine. She set high standards for all who worked around her and served as a mentor to staffers, many of whom went on to serve Congressman John Baldacci or who now work on my staff. In this way, her legacy of professionalism, boundless energy, and commitment to public service continues to be felt in Congress.

Most recently, Mary served as Maine's Small Business Administration District Director. In that capacity, she strongly advocated for our State's entrepreneurs and always went the extra mile to support innovative small business development. Whether it was taking the lead on helping businesses affected by mill closures or simply providing first-rate customer service, Mary's devotion to serving our State's small business community was second to none. She cares about people and I could see that she enjoyed helping them realize their dreams.

Mary's commitment to making Maine a better place is an inspiration to all of us who continue to serve in public office. Her warmth and generous spirit are a joy to all who know her. I wish Mary the very best in her retirement: she represents the best of Maine.

HONORING REVEREND DR. SAMUEL SIMPSON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Reverend Dr. Samuel Simpson, pastor of the Bronx Baptist and Wake Eden community Baptist Churches in the Bronx was born in Jamaica W.I. He relocated to the United States in the early sixties. He and his wife Lola Campbell have three children and five grandchildren. He is well known in the Bronx and the West Indian communities throughout the State and beyond.

In addition to leading the Bronx and Wake Eden congregations, Reverend Simpson has been instrumental in starting the Honeywell Baptist Chapel, and a newer mission in the Spring Valley area. Grace Baptist Chapel in the northern section of the Bronx is an offshoot of Bronx Baptist Church. Reverend