

the Government of France, I urge my colleagues in this House to join me in extending our gratitude to Colonel Bill Gordon.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DERRICK BROOKS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Derrick Brooks of the National Football League's Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Derrick will be inducted to the City of Champions Wall of Fame exhibit at Pensacola Regional Airport. The Pensacola Sports Association will join Pensacola and Escambia County to honor the Pensacola native on Thursday evening at the Pensacola Civic Center.

At Booker T. Washington High School in Pensacola, Derrick excelled in both the classroom and on the field. By the end of his high school career he was named the USA Today High School Defensive Player of the Year, a Parade All-American, and was rated the best defensive player in the country by Super Prep magazine. Perhaps even more impressive for a football player of this stature, Derrick graduated with a 3.94 grade-point average.

Derrick was a 4-year letterman at Florida State University where he compiled 274 tackles, 5 interceptions, 8.5 sacks, 13 passes deflected, 4 forced fumbles, and 3 fumble recoveries. His senior honors included: First Team All-America by American Football Coaches, UPI and Walter Camp, GTE Academic All-America choice, First Team All-Atlantic Coast Conference, and Senior Bowl selection. Derrick was a finalist for the Vince Lombardi Award, symbolic of the Nation's top lineman/linebacker, for two straight years. As a junior, he was named First Team All-America by Football Writers' Association and Walter Camp, and he was a consensus First Team All-ACC choice and that conference's defensive player of the year. Derrick also earned Sophomore All-America honors from Football News and was a First Team All-ACC choice that year as well.

Derrick graduated from Florida State with a bachelor of arts degree in business communications and recently went back and earned his master's degree in the same subject.

Derrick is now the unquestioned leader of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and arguably the most respected player in the NFL. Long considered the NFL's best linebacker, he has been selected to a team-record nine total Pro Bowls. Derrick was honored as the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year in 2002 and the 2006 Pro Bowl's Most Valuable Player.

Following the 2002 season, Derrick was the instrumental team captain that led the Buccaneers to their first Super Bowl championship, and he is ranked as the franchise's most prolific tackler with 1,775 stops.

Derrick has always given back to his community and he is considered one of the most philanthropic players in the NFL. In 2000 he was the co-recipient of the Walter Payton/NFL Man of the Year Award, and in 2004, was the winner of the prestigious 38th annual Byron

"Whizzer" White Award for his dedication to serve his team, community, and country in the spirit of the late Supreme Court Justice. In March 2003 Derrick established his own foundation—Derrick Brooks Charities, Inc.—which focuses charitable endeavors on children and has done considerable work with March of Dimes, D.A.R.E., and the Belmont Heights, Ybor City, and Brandon Boys and Girls Clubs.

Derrick is constantly distinguishing himself with achievements that are unmatched by any other player in NFL history and the city of Pensacola is recognizing this great man by inducting him to the City of Champions Wall of Fame exhibit; an honor that is shared by only three other people: Don Sutton, Emmitt Smith, and Roy Jones Jr.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Derrick Brooks for his many outstanding accomplishments throughout his life, on and off the field, and wish him continued success throughout his career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Friday, June 22, 2007, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

1. Rollcall No. 543: "yes" on ordering the previous question.
2. Rollcall No. 544: "yes" on agreeing to H. Res. 502.
3. Rollcall No. 545: "no" on agreeing to the Flake amendment to H.R. 2771.
4. Rollcall No. 546: "no" on agreeing to the Jordan amendment to H.R. 2771;
5. Rollcall No. 547: "no" on motion to recommit H.R. 2771 with instructions.
6. Rollcall No. 548: "yes" on passage of H.R. 2771.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

The House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2643) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I rise today in strong support of the Conaway Amendment.

Supply and demand for energy is out of whack and our Nation needs more energy. Demand for natural gas is already building up across the economy, and proposals pushing cleaner energy will only accelerate this demand.

This amendment is a major opportunity for us to respond to today's energy crisis with a

national solution. I feel justified in supporting this amendment because I am from a coastal district. My constituents feel the same way as I do on this issue.

Chemical production and oil and gas exploration, processing, and refining are Texas's top coastal industries. My colleagues from Florida and California think only they have beaches, but coastal tourism is Texas's second largest coastal industry.

That fact alone shows the argument that oil and gas production and coastal tourism are mutually exclusive is just plain wrong. They are acting like Chicken Little, and cannot point to one beach in Texas that has been ruined by oil or natural gas production.

There will be less need for LNG facilities and LNG tankers when we tap our own offshore resources so we can use the safest mode of transportation in the world—pipelines.

My point is not that we can drill our way to cheap oil or drill our way to energy independence. If we allow domestic production to die out, conservation and research will not save us, and we will have to pay a terrible economic price.

I urge my colleagues to support oil and gas production and support the Conaway Amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "ENHANCED FINANCIAL RECOVERY AND EQUITABLE RETIREMENT TREATMENT ACT OF 2007"

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, as a former assistant United States attorney, I am pleased to introduce the "Enhanced Financial Recovery and Equitable Retirement Treatment Act of 2007." This bill will enhance the Federal Government's capacity to collect unpaid judgments and restitutionary obligations owed to the United States and victims of crime, as well as strengthen the retirement benefits of assistant United States attorneys.

Madam Speaker, as you are aware, United States Attorney Offices are responsible for criminal and civil debt collection efforts that result annually in billions of dollars that are turned over to Federal agencies and crime victims. Unfortunately, however, there remain billions of dollars that go uncollected due to the competing demands on our law enforcement officers. "The Enhanced Financial Recovery and Equitable Treatment Act of 2007" will address this problem by improving the process by which the Department of Justice collects criminal and civil debts owed to the United States and the victims of crime.

But Madam Speaker, that is not all. The "Enhanced Financial Recovery and Equitable Treatment Act of 2007," in addition to improving debt collection, will also significantly aid our law enforcement efforts in another important way: it will ensure that assistant United States attorneys receive the same retirement benefits as all other Federal law enforcement officials, thereby increasing the retention of our career Federal prosecutors. Indeed, despite their vital role in prosecuting criminals, despite their vital role in defending the United States in litigation, despite their vital role in

keeping America safe, assistant United States attorneys are unfairly shortchanged in the retirement benefits they receive once their public service is complete. The retirement benefits of AUSAs are considerably lower than their law enforcement colleagues within the FBI, Secret Service, DEA, U.S. Marshals Service, and Bureau of Prisons. The "Enhanced Financial Recovery and Equitable Treatment Act of 2007" corrects this glaring inequality.

Madam Speaker, I think it is fair to say that our career Federal prosecutors have been under tremendous pressure these past several months and their morale has been tested like never before. But in spite of that, day after day, week after week, month after month, these men and women vigorously prosecute those that would seek to undermine our democracy and further weaken our rule of law. Our AUSAs deserve better, and we deserve better. Passing the "Enhanced Financial Recovery and Equitable Treatment Act of 2007" is the least we can do for those that work so hard to keep us safe.

U.S.S. BUNKER HILL RECIPIENT OF
THE 2006 SPOKANE NAVAL TROPHY

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the U.S.S. *Bunker Hill*, the winner of the 2006 Spokane Naval Trophy. The U.S.S. *Bunker Hill*, a guided-missile cruiser homeported in San Diego, CA, was recently awarded the trophy for being the most combat ready ship in the Pacific Fleet.

The U.S.S. *Bunker Hill* was commissioned on September 20, 1986, and holds the longest active streak of Battle "E" awards for a guided-missile cruiser. Also known as "The Sword of the Fleet," the *Bunker Hill* is capable of maintaining herself at sea for months at a time. The mission of the ship is to conduct prompt and sustained combat operations at sea in support of U.S. national policy. Manned by nearly 400 officers and crew, *Bunker Hill* is readily equipped for immediate deployment in support of our national interests. The ship and its crew also provided humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to the victims of the December 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia.

The trophy, which was commissioned by the citizens of Spokane in 1906 to embody the spirit of the Spokane community and their pride in the Navy, was originally presented to the first winning ship in 1907 by the city of Spokane and the Spokane Chamber of Commerce. At the time, the Spokane Naval Trophy was selected by the Secretary of the Navy to be awarded to the battleship or armored cruiser in the fleet that demonstrated the highest attributes in Naval gunnery marksmanship. Today, the Spokane Naval Trophy is stewarded by the Spokane Council of the Navy League of the United States. This year, as the Navy League celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Spokane Naval Trophy, they are proud of the excellence in combat systems readiness and warfare operations that the U.S.S. *Bunker Hill* has shown.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the U.S.S. *Bunker Hill* on receiving the Spokane Naval Trophy

and thanking the Spokane community for their support of the Navy.

HONORING GARLAND MAYOR
RONALD JONES

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor Mayor Ronald Jones of Garland, Texas, winner of the mayoral runoff election on Saturday, June 16.

Mr. Jones has served in public administration for 29 years. He has served as assistant city manager for more than 5 years and as city administrator before that, showing his devotion to the City of Garland.

Mayor Jones has served in Christian ministry and pastoral administration for over 40 years. He was an adjunct professor in the Dallas County Community College District, teaching business management courses, and is a published author. Working in the private sector, Mayor Jones directed several entrepreneurial endeavors. He is a certified mediator and a negotiator—a skill that will no doubt serve him well at City Hall.

Most importantly, however, Mayor Jones has been married to Peggy for forty years, and they are the proud parents of Ronald E. Jones, II, a practicing attorney, and Reverend Daryl L. Jones. They also have six grandchildren.

Mayor Jones recently described his own approach to public service: "We are just stewards. . . We are here for a particular time, and then we are gone. All I want to do is to leave things better than I found them. That's what it means to me. And I think it means a lot for the Garland community."

Madam Speaker, as a Representative of the City of Garland, it is my pleasure to congratulate Mayor Jones on his election victory.

DR. MURIEL PETIONI HONORED BY
BARNARD COLLEGE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues here in the House, wonderful news about one of my constituents—one of Harlem's most beloved living legends—Dr. Muriel Petioni.

In addition to her many accomplishments and awards, Dr. Petioni—noted physician, community activist and educator—recently received Barnard College's highest honor when she received the Barnard College Medal of Distinction at the College's 115th Commencement Ceremony. Located in my 15th Congressional District in New York, Barnard College is an independent liberal arts college for women affiliated with Columbia University.

Dr. Petioni was recognized for her commitment and tireless service to the Harlem community where she has worked for almost six decades to ensure that the residents receive the best quality healthcare possible. This remarkable woman is a true public servant, an

advocate for all people, and a woman whom I am proud and honored to call my friend.

Dr. Petioni—congratulations.

[From the New York Beacon]

DR. MURIEL PETIONI RECEIVES BARNARD
COLLEGE'S HIGHEST HONOR

Dr. Muriel Petioni, physician, educator, community activist, and Harlem living legend, received the Barnard Medal of Distinction—Barnard College's highest honor—at the College's 115th Commencement ceremony May 15. The ceremony took place on Barnard's historic Lehman Lawn in upper Manhattan.

Dr. Petioni was honored for her almost six decades of service to the Harlem community, where she has worked diligently to ensure that the underprivileged and underserved, especially women and children, receive proper medical attention and equal access to health care.

Accompanying Dr. Petioni to Barnard's commencement were the Honorable David N. Dinkins, 106th Mayor of the City of New York; the Honorable Percy Sutton, former Manhattan Borough President; Dr. James E. Gunther, pastor emeritus of the Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Harlem; Dr. Conrad Graves, founder and president of Central Harlem Inter-Agency Programs; her son Charles (Mal) Woolfolk; Hanif Shabazz, executive producer of Light Action Production; and Nicola Barlow Licorish.

"It is hard to believe that Dr. Petioni celebrated her 93rd birthday this past January. She has managed to do so much and touch so many in such a short time," Mayor Dinkins said. "If asked, she will tell you that her secret lies in her ability to (as she says) 'go with the flow and ride with the tide.'"

In addition to honoring Dr. Petioni, Barnard College celebrated the achievements of distinguished actor and playwright Anna Deavere Smith; acclaimed writer Joan Didion; Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nicholas Kristof; and vice president of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and former president of Bryn Mawr College Mary Patterson McPherson. All five honorees were awarded the Barnard Medal of Distinction, and Smith delivered a rousing keynote address on the importance of art and activities.

This year couldn't be more appropriate for Barnard, the historic liberal arts college for women, to honor Dr. Petioni. 2007 marks the 70th anniversary of her graduation from Howard University Medical School, where she was the only woman in the College of Medicine's Class of 1937. This trailblazing accomplishment became only the first of many in an illustrious career dedicated to community health care and the advancement of women in medicine that has spanned eight decades.

"Dr. Petioni's career is simply remarkable—not solely for her extraordinary accomplishments and the many barriers she's broken through, but for all that she has given back, to Harlem, to medicine, and to generations of women who've followed her," said Judith R. Shapiro, president of Barnard College. "We at Barnard are honored and humbled to present Dr. Petioni with the Medal of Distinction."

The Barnard Medal is just one of many honors that have recognized Dr. Petioni's achievements.

The Dr. Muriel Petioni Hospital in Yele, Sierra Leone, West Africa was established and named after her in May 2006, and in April 2007, plans were announced for the creation of the Dr. Muriel Petioni Charter School for health, scholarship and community leadership in New York City, for students from first grade to high school.

Born in Trinidad and raised in Harlem, Dr. Petioni knew from an early age that she