

HONORING HANAN Y. "BEAN"
SIBEL

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before you today to honor the outstanding lifetime achievements of Hanan Y. "Bean" Sibel, one of Maryland's most successful business leaders and strongest community advocates. Hanan Y. "Bean" Sibel is an active and respected business and civic leader in all walks of life in greater Baltimore.

He is the founding chairman of the Maryland/Israel Development Center, a nonprofit partnership of the state of Maryland, Government of Israel and The ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, an organization that promotes trade and investment between Maryland and Israeli businesses. Under his leadership, the MIDC became one of the most respected US-Israel trade promotion organizations in the country. The MIDC was awarded an unprecedented five grants exceeding \$3.5 million from the bi-governmental US-Israel Science and Technology Foundation.

He also serves on the board of The ASSOCIATED. He chaired The ASSOCIATED annual campaign in 1987 and has served on numerous strategic committees and task forces. He was also President of Israel Bonds for the state of Maryland and Vice President of the Jewish National Fund.

Hanan has been an outstanding leader beyond the Jewish Community as well. He is Chairman of the Baltimore County Revenue Authority. A graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law, Bean also serves on that school's Board of Visitors. He also served as President of the Signal 13 Foundation and the Governor's Mansion Foundation. Widely recognized as an important business leader in the state, Bean was a leader in Maryland's food brokerage industry for 45 years. He was elected to the Food Hall of Fame of Maryland in 2005 and has also served as a Board Member of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Maryland and First Mariner Bank.

Bean and his wife Carole, a community leader in her own right and past chairman of the board of The ASSOCIATED, have three married children, Todd and Amy Sibel, Steve and Joyce Sibel and Cara and Jay Cohen, as well as seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today in honoring Hanan Y. "Bean" Sibel, a man whose deep commitment to the business community, civic groups and philanthropic organizations has improved the quality of life for thousands of residents of the State of Maryland and the State of Israel.

IN MEMORY OF GENERAL WAYNE
A. DOWNING

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of General Wayne A. Downing.

General Downing was born May 10, 1940, in Peoria, Illinois, son of Francis Wayne "Bud" and Eileen Downing. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1962 with a Bachelor of Science degree. In 1971 he received a Master's degree in Business Administration from Tulane University.

General Downing served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade as an infantry officer in Vietnam. Later, he served a second combat tour in Vietnam with the 25th Infantry Division.

During the 1989 operation JUST CAUSE in Panama, General Downing commanded the special operations of all services as a general officer. Additionally, during Operation DESERT STORM he commanded a joint special operations task force behind the Iraqi lines.

General Downing spent time at Fort Bragg, N.C., serving as Commanding General, United States Army Special Operations Command.

In May of 1993, General Downing received his appointment as Commander in Chief of the United States Special Operations Command, headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. In this position, he was responsible for the readiness of all special operations of the Army, Navy and Air Force. In 1996, after 34 years in service, he retired from the military.

General Downing was appointed by the President soon after his military retirement to assess the 1996 attack on the U.S. base at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia. He served on the National Commission on Terrorism from 1999–2000. As Deputy National Security Advisor for combating terrorism, he served the White House in 2001. Two years later, General Downing was appointed as the Chairman of the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point.

General Downing's awards and decorations include two Distinguished Service Medals, two Silver Stars, four Legions of Merit and the Purple Heart.

Madam Speaker, General Downing was an incredible leader who served our country with outstanding dedication. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife, Kathryn Bickerman Downing; two daughters, Elizabeth Revell, and Laura Downing; six stepchildren; his mother, Eileen Downing; a sister; and four grandchildren.

HONORING JOHN ALLEN OF THE
TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Allen. Mr. Allen served with distinction and honor as one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. He was unable to make it to Washington this past April to receive his Congressional Gold Medal and instead will be receiving it this coming Saturday in his home State of New Mexico.

The Tuskegee Airmen participated in more than 15,000 sorties on 1,500 missions. A thousand black pilots were trained at Tuskegee, and throughout World War II they shot down 111 German planes and disabled 150 German aircraft on the ground. In this same time, 150 Airmen were lost in battle or training, 66 were killed, and 33 were shot down and held as

prisoners of war. And in one of the most significant demonstrations of commitment to mission, the Tuskegee Airmen did not allow a single bomber it protected to be shot down. These men showed a prejudiced Nation that courage has no color.

In his eagerness to serve, Mr. Allen exaggerated his age and was allowed to enlist in the Army. Even though he was younger than his fellow recruits, the Army noticed his remarkable intelligence and recommended he join the Air Corps where he was assigned to the 332nd Fighter Group. Mr. Allen never saw combat, but he did see hate. Despite their service, Tuskegee Airmen experienced bigotry and discrimination. Once, after eating at a whites-only officer's club, 103 Airmen were arrested and in spite of their clear commitment and patriotism, similar episodes marked the daily lives of black soldiers.

Even the timing of this commemoration reminds us of the difficult situation the Tuskegee Airmen faced. This honor should have been given 50 years ago. The failure of this country to properly honor these great men in a timely fashion speaks volumes about the legacy of injustice that made their sacrifice all the more remarkable. They fought for a country that wouldn't let them eat with white officers. They fought for a country that denied their sacrifice and dishonored their service. By honoring these men with the Congressional Gold Medal, we cannot undo the injustice that they have endured, but we can serve notice that we will not tolerate further injustice.

Mr. Allen retired from the Weapons Safety Division at Kirtland Air Force Base in 2000. He spent his entire career serving his country. I wish him a happy retirement and hope that his example will continue to inspire each of us to serve our Nation and to use our lives to make our Nation better.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER J.
ROBERTS

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Christopher J. Roberts, a resident of my congressional district in Upstate New York. Christopher is the incoming State Master Councilor of New York DeMolay.

DeMolay is a youth organization that develops leadership skills, civic awareness and personal responsibility among young men. With more than 1,000 chapters worldwide, DeMolay combines its serious mission with a fun approach. The organization was founded in 1919, and counts among its alumni Bill Clinton, John Wayne, Walter Cronkite and Walt Disney.

It is estimated that the members of New York DeMolay contribute over 10,000 hours of community service per year. During his tenure as State Master Councilor, Christopher will be organizing activities, planning social events and traveling to other States to talk about the work of New York DeMolay. Christopher is the first man from Utica to assume the office of State Master Councilor in over 20 years. He is also only the fourth person in New York to be a recipient of the Past Master Councilor's Meritorious Service Award.

Christopher is a sophomore at the State University of New York (SUNY) Institute of Technology, where he is majoring in Health Services Management. He also serves as a Senator for SUNY Student Government.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize this young man serving my district. As the father of two teenagers, I recognize the importance of organizations like DeMolay that encourage young people to get involved in their communities. I thank Christopher for his commitment, and would once again like to congratulate him on his election to the position of State Master Councilor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, due to the tragic death of my grandmother, Sarah "Big Mamma" Morris, I was unable to vote during the week of July 16–July 20.

Had I been present I would have voted in favor of the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. The new Democratic-led Congress is determined to reverse the Republican pattern of disinvestment. Democrats have produced a bill that makes college more affordable, helps raise the achievement levels of America's students, expands access to health care for the uninsured and invests in the skills of America's workers and in community services.

In addition, I would have voted against the Kline amendment to the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. This amendment is another Republican farse designed to hurt those who need help most. The Kline amendment would increase funds to the Office of Labor Management Standards, an office that has enjoyed 33 percent increase in resources over the past four years and sacrifice funding to the International Labor Affairs Bureau. This bureau oversees child labor standards abroad to make sure that other countries are not using children to undercut American manufacturing. The sponsor claims that it will help rank and file workers from so-called union abuses, but in reality, those who support this amendment are the same opponents of a minimum wage increase. This amendment does not protect the American worker and I would have voted "no".

I would have also been a part of the 310 votes for the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. The bipartisan Energy and Water bill invests \$3 billion—\$1 billion more than the President's request—to research global warming and work on new technologies and renewable energy. I hope that it's sister bill, the Water Resources Development Act Reauthorization, will soon become law so that we can continue to improve the water infrastructure in this nation.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES;
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3043) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services; and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chairwomen, I rise in support of the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill (H.R. 3043). This legislation makes important investments in education, health care and vital scientific research.

"Last November, voters around the country called for a change in direction and this bill epitomizes the differences in priorities between the old Republican-led Congress and the new Congress. In the past five years, even as the cost of attending college skyrocketed, the previous Congress raised the maximum Pell Grant by only \$300. We said we could do better, and today we are increasing the Pell Grant by \$390, more in one year than the Republican-led Congress did in five years. President Bush submitted a budget this year to freeze funding for child care and cut funding to Head Start by \$100 million. We said we could do better, and today we are increasing both Child Care Block Grants and Head Start by \$75 million each.

"Since the inception of No Child Left Behind, it has been underfunded by more than \$55 billion, and this year the President's budget proposal fell \$14.7 billion short of full funding. We said we could do better, and today we are reversing that trend and increasing the appropriation for No Child Left Behind by \$2 billion, including a \$1.5 billion increase for Title I. As we work to reauthorize that bill this year, I hope that we will continue this positive trend and commit to mandatory funding of primary and secondary education.

"I am also pleased that today, for the first time since fiscal year 2005, we are increasing funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. In 1975, Congress passed IDEA to ensure that all students with disabilities receive a free, appropriate public education. At that time, Congress made a pledge to states—the federal government would pay 40% of the costs to educate special needs students. We have never met that commitment, and in the past several years, the Congress has actually failed to increase funding for IDEA at all. This year, the President proposed a cut in these funds. Today, we are increasing IDEA funding by \$509 million. While this is an excellent start, we must continue to work towards keeping our promise to states and fully funding IDEA. With that in mind, I urge my colleagues to join me to pass the EDUCATE Act, which creates a mandatory, fiscally responsible path to fully fund IDEA by 2015. Students and states have waited more than 30 years for Congress to fulfill its pledge, and we have a responsibility to do so.

"I am also pleased that in this bill today, we are increasing funding for many important education programs, including school counseling, afterschool programs, Even Start, Teacher training, education technology, and advanced placement. By strengthening these priorities, and putting the focus back on education at all levels, we are opening doors to students and increasing our ability as a nation to harness the energy, intelligence and ambition of our young people and keep our country in the forefront of discovery and innovation.

"The bill also addresses the fact that, in recent years, the nation's health scientists have faced shrinking laboratory budgets and dwindling research grants. Important investments need to be made today to reverse those trends. The House focuses an additional \$1 billion to fund the National Institutes of Health to accelerate research discoveries that can treat and cure many diseases.

"In spite of the all of the positives that this bill will accomplish, I am concerned about what some might consider superficially attractive but ultimately counterproductive cuts to administrative accounts at the Department of Education and elsewhere. Federal employees work hard to deliver valuable services to our nation everyday and simply can't do their jobs without the minimum amount of resources necessary. This legislation includes roughly \$175 million in funding cuts to federal employee salaries and resources. I'll be working in conference to ensure that our dedicated civil servants have the resources they need to continue providing their valuable services.

Madam Chairwoman, I am pleased to support this legislation which makes the critical investments needed to address the health, education and economic challenges we face."

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. FRANK
BATTLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to Mr. Frank Battle. Mr. Battle served the Federal Government for 35 years prior to his retirement on April 3, 2007.

Frank's distinguished career began in 1973 as a Management Intern at the Department of Defense. His natural ability to navigate the complexities of government management and years of experience propelled him to senior management positions at the Department of Justice, the Voice of America, the Food and Drug Administration, and the National Labor Relations Board.

I would like to thank Mr. Battle for his decades of service to the United States, and wish him the best of luck in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, July 19, 2007 my vote