

death. She received an award for her poetry at the Multicultural Arts Show in Toledo in 1997. The books include *Prairie Winds* (1995) and *Spirit of Dakota* (1999), a collection of prose and poetry about Native American culture, spirituality, and life on an Indian reservation.

Joyce was held in high esteem by community and elected leaders, and throughout the years her efforts were recognized. In 1989, she received a proclamation from Governor Celeste declaring May 1–7, 1989 as American Indian Week. Additional recognition came for her establishment of the American Indian Intertribal Association; assisting in the preservation of the Indian burial mounds, the lands and the culture; the assistance in the erection of a historical marker at the site of Fallen Timbers National Park site in which she was also instrumental in the purchase of the battle sight; and her service to the Native American Advisory Council. She was honored by the City of Maumee when she led the presentation as a Native American representative in the “All American City” competition in Anaheim California in June 2006, which was 2 weeks before her death.

As a result of her work, Joyce has left a legacy for Ohio and the Midwest in the preservation of the Native Culture. The annual Pow Wow which will be celebrating its 20th year this year, has attracted several thousand Native American and non-Native Americans to teach and remind us of the importance of the Native American heritage. It’s 20th anniversary year with its theme “Honoring the Elders” seems a fitting time to memorialize its Founding Mother.

Joyce Snowfeather Mahaney— Activist, Teacher, Warrior, and Pioneer—will long be remembered for the contributions and legacy she left. Throughout her life, she walked the Red Road. Her own words echo in fitting tribute to this extraordinary woman.

WALK BESIDE ME

You are the warrior and the hunter and I am the humble power behind the spear who will always guide your shield to defend you. And you are the sister I met near the stream.

We sat on the rocks facing the morning sun and cleansed our garments together.

When you look into my soul, you will find the existence of a very quiet and gentle spirit.

Listen to my footsteps. If you hear the sound of refined pebbles falling softly on Mother Earth, it is I.

My spirit can always be found traveling north and south. I follow Grandfather and travel the red road.

The wind blows strong, but my steps never falter, as the sacred pipe protects me.

Come—Walk beside me. Together we have the power to change the world. For I am not your enemy, I am your strength.

HONORING TINA FIELDER-GIBSON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tina Fielder-Gibson. She is being honored by the Flint Schools Youth Projects for her contributions to the students

of the Flint community at a dinner on September 27th in Burton, Michigan.

After graduating from Flint Northwestern High School, Tina continued her education at the University of Michigan—Flint. She graduated from that institution in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She started working for the Genesee County Sheriff's office in 1986 as a Corrections Officer. She has worked on the Jails Transaction Team, was the first woman to work in the Jail's Commissary, she worked as a Classification Officer and was the first woman elected Union President.

Sheriff Robert Pickell created the position of Administrative Assistant when he became Genesee County Sheriff and Tina was tapped to fill the position in 1999. She acts as a community representative and works with various organizations to ensure the next generation is prepared to assume the leadership of our community. In this capacity she arranges tours for the Youth Projects Program and area churches, allowing students ages 12–16 to talk to inmates and hear their stories.

Tina is active with many organizations including the Fetal Infant Mortality Committee, the Hate Crimes Task Force, the Interagency Collaborative GISD, the Elder Abuse Task Force/until Disciplinary Team, YWCA Domestic Violence Committee, East Side and North Central Weed and Seed Programs, Strong Families Safe Children, and Safe Schools Healthy Students—Flint Schools. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta—Flint Alumnae Chapter and is a Big Sister with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

She has held the following positions: Chair Black Caucus 1985–1995, Vice-Chair Genesee County Democratic Party 1998–2000, Chair Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint 1998–Present, Chair National Council on Alcoholism and Addiction 2006–2007, Vice President Sisters United Incorporated 2001–Present, President AFSCME 2259 Genesee County Sheriff Union 1997–1999, Trustee AFL–CIO 1997–1999, Treasurer New Paths Incorporated 2000–Present, Treasurer Alternative for Children 1997–Present, President Sam Duncan Memorial Scholarship Committee 2004–Present, Youth Projects Advisory Board 2000–Present, Catholic Charities of Genesee/Shiawassee Counties 2006–Present, March of Dimes Flint/Saginaw Division 2000–Present, United Way Cabinet 2000–Present, and the Child Advocacy Center 2005–Present.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Tina Fielder-Gibson as her hard work and contributions to the young people of Genesee County are honored by the Flint Schools Youth Project.

EXPANDING AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1852) to modernize and update the National Housing Act and enable the Federal Housing Administration to use risk-based pricing to more effec-

tively reach underserved borrowers, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007 (H.R. 1852). This important piece of legislation will revitalize the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), which was established to provide a reliable source of affordable mortgage loans for first-time homebuyers. Through our efforts today, the FHA will be able to better assist America's working families by offering loans at affordable rates with fair terms, as we work to alleviate the problems caused by the continuing mortgage crisis.

The lack of affordable housing has long plagued many communities throughout America, and the problem is particularly acute in high cost areas like Rhode Island. In Rhode Island, the average two-bedroom apartment costs \$1172 per month—at that rate, many people would need to work two or even three jobs just to pay the rent. And the situation can be even worse for those struggling to buy their own homes, particularly in today's uncertain climate. Unscrupulous lending practices have taken their toll on hard-working families, who are increasingly unable to keep pace with their ballooning mortgage payments.

The Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007 will provide much-needed relief for families on the brink of foreclosure. In particular, this targeted legislation will allow the FHA to raise loan limits in high cost areas and to offer zero and lower down payment loan options for borrowers that can afford mortgage payments, but lack the resources required for a down payment. H.R. 1852 will also require that an additional \$300 million per year be placed in the affordable housing trust fund, which will help to provide affordable housing for years to come.

Finally, I am pleased that the bill will double current funding levels for housing counseling services. These critical services will provide additional guidance to homebuyers in the subprime market and others who have difficulty making their monthly mortgage payments.

In passing the Expanding American Homeownership Act today, we have made a commitment to the American people that we will continue to ensure affordable housing is available to all Americans. Strengthening the security of American families strengthens our economy, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

IN HONOR OF MARVIN L.
VANGILDER

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marvin L. VanGilder of Carthage, Missouri on receiving the Outstanding Missouri Citizen Award.

Marvin was born on September 24, 1926 in Lamar, Missouri—in Barton County. He attended Drury College in Springfield where he was involved with the area's first campus radio station. During college, Marvin was a student pastor of two rural churches and became a licensed minister in 1946. After teaching

English, history, and music for numerous years in Southwest Missouri, Marvin was hired as a disc jockey and sportscaster for radio station KDMO in Carthage. Marvin advanced to news director at KDMO and then took a job with The Carthage Press where he worked as the assistant managing editor and co-publisher.

Marvin served his community as a member, and then President, of the Carthage Board of Education. He was also on the boards of the Sunshine Children's Home, the Carthage Crisis Center, the Eastern Jasper County Red Cross, the Carthage United Way, the Carthage Lions Club and the Eastern Jasper County Mental Health Association.

Marvin has authored books on everything from poetry to the history of Barton County, Missouri. On those subjects and many more, he served as a guest lecturer at numerous schools and museums. He received the George Washington Medal of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge Award in 1971, the Drury College Distinguished Alumni award and was the first citizen of Carthage to receive the Carthage Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year award. Marvin was married on October 15, 1950 to E. Irene Smith VanGilder and they have four daughters Paula, Linda, Leesa and Carla, one son Chris, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

I am proud to congratulate Marvin VanGilder on his years of service as a leader in our community, and across our State.

IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Representative JONES and my other colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, in calling for a comprehensive reevaluation of our strategies in Iraq. I consider the situation in Iraq to be one of Congress' highest priorities and there is an urgent need to establish a comprehensive and realistic exit strategy. We need to offer hope to the families anxiously waiting for news of their loved ones and the men and women who risk their lives everyday.

Next month will be the 40th anniversary of one of the largest protests against the Vietnam War. Over a hundred thousand people marched on Washington that day, and it worries me that the current Administration seems to have learned little from history. A similar discontent can be seen on the streets of America today, as more and more polls demonstrate dwindling public support for this war.

I have always maintained the stance that an adequate case for war was never made and that military intervention should only have been used if all other routes failed. From the beginning, I offered an alternative resolution to war. Although we can never know what the outcome of alternatives may have been, we have the chance now to change strategy and

make decisive steps to developing a lasting solution.

Mr. Speaker, an increase in troop numbers is not the answer. This war, commenced in haste and founded on deception, will never provide the solutions Iraq needs to establish a strong and lasting democracy. We can't secure victory through a war of attrition, and neither can we protect our sons and daughters who stand in harm's way in a war that was never necessary.

It is true that we cannot abandon the Iraqi people. But more productive ways to help them can be found. In the current international climate, we cannot engage in meaningful dialogue on the Iraqi situation while the occupation continues. I believe we must allow the U.N. to play a greater role in the reconstruction of Iraq, advancing human rights and justice within the framework of international law. In my work in this great body, I consistently seek to protect the United States and its people above all else. However, currently there is no absolute proof of an imminent threat. In fact our vulnerability to international terrorism only rises every day our troops stay in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I am dedicated to providing funding to protect our troops, but I refuse to support the failed foreign policies of the Bush administration, nor any legislation that will lead to more unnecessary deaths. The greatest thing we can do for our brave men and women in the Armed Forces is to take them out of harm's way by developing a clear, decisive exit strategy.