

life, Margaret Blackshere has been a true champion.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Margaret Blackshere for her years of dedicated service to the working men and women in Illinois and our nation and to wish her the very best in the future.

HONORING THE USA TAP DANCE TEAM ON THEIR SUCCESS AT THE WORLD TAP DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest pride that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations and very best wishes to the USA Tap Dance Team, based out of the Greater New Haven area, as they celebrate their tremendous success at the 2007 World Tap Dance Championships recently held in Reisa, Germany. In all, 51 dancers ranging in age from 10 to 20 years old made the trip and returned with a total of 11 medals! Our communities certainly have cause for celebration with the wonderful accomplishments of these young people.

Participating in three divisions, the USA Tap Dance Team has worked very hard over the last several months to be able to compete in this year's competitions. Coming together from across Connecticut and even New York, the dancers practiced for countless hours for solo, duo, small group, and formation events. The commitment these young people have demonstrated is truly inspiring. They have worked so hard to master the required high-level skills and the necessary symmetry of their movements.

I had the distinct honor of joining them for a very special evening as they prepared to leave for Germany and, as a former tap dancer myself, I was truly impressed with the level of dedication, passion, and talent of the team. It was this combination of drive and spirit that led to the team to come home with three gold medals, seven silver medals, one bronze medal, and several other finishing places—placing and medaling in each of three divisions—a remarkable showing!

I am also pleased to recognize the incomparable Gloria Jean Cuming for her outstanding leadership and instruction as well as the six choreographers who worked with the dancers and traveled to Germany with them. Their work with individuals and groups helped to secure this outstanding triumph. In addition, I would also extend a note of thanks and appreciation to the parents and volunteers whose support has enabled the dancers to practice and travel for their competitions. Without their efforts, the success of the USA Tap Dance Team would not be possible.

I am thrilled to stand today to join our local communities in extending my sincere congratulations to the USA Tap Dance Team on their great success at the 2007 World Tap Dance Championships. You have all made us proud!

A TRIBUTE TO MR. CARLOS LEZAMA—PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF THE WEST INDIAN AMERICAN DAY CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Carlos Lezama, West Indian community leader who left this world at the age of 83 years and to enter into the RECORD an article in the Daily News by Bill Hutchinson entitled "West Indian Carnival Founder Carlos Lezama Dies at 83."

Carlos Lezama was born in Trinidad and spent his formative years on the island. He played the Cello and was nicknamed "Celloman" a name and position he enjoyed while working on a passenger ship before migrating to the USA in the early fifties. He joined the New York Metropolitan Transit Authority, in the mid-sixties. At NYTA he moved up steadily for the next twenty years until he became a Machinist. In 1989, he retired from that Agency.

Lezama long ago recognized the cultural significance of Carnival, since he played Mas' in Trinidad. When he came to New York he naturally gravitated towards the Carnival which took place in Harlem. In the mid-nineteen sixties, he directed his efforts to firmly establish Carnival in Brooklyn with his friend Rufus Goring, who brought the celebration to Brooklyn.

Under the stewardship of Lezama, the Brooklyn Caribbean Carnival grew from a five-block affair to the status of the largest outdoor parade in the United States. It attracts in excess of three million people on Eastern Parkway every year on the first Monday in September. Over the years the West Indian American Day Carnival Association has grown to a full-fledged community service organization and provides scholarships and a host of annual calendar events of cultural and educational events.

Lezama has been officially recognized and honored by scores of organizations, four New York State Governors (Govs. Rockefeller, Carey, Cuomo, and Pataki), and numerous awards from Mayors John Lindsay, Abe Beame, Ed Koch, David Dinkins and Rudy Giuliani for his efforts in promoting the rich culture of Caribbean people and thus enriching the cultural life of New York City. In 2001, the Carnival route—Eastern Parkway was renamed Carlos Lezama Parkway.

Even though Carlos Lezama passed away on January 22, 2007, his contributions to the diversity of the United States of America will continue to resonate through the Annual Brooklyn Carnival held each Labor Day Monday.

[From the New York Daily News]

WEST INDIAN CARNIVAL FOUNDER CARLOS LEZAMA DIES AT 83

(By Bill Hutchinson)

Carlos Lezama, who transformed the West Indian American Day Carnival from a five-block affair into one of the city's biggest events, died yesterday. He was 83.

Lezama, a retired machinist for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, died at Kings County Hospital after a brief illness.

"Throughout our lives, my siblings, as well as my mother, have been privileged to share

my father with the millions who are part of the carnival family," said Lezama's daughter, Yolanda Lezama-Clark.

"I am grateful that he has left an impressive legacy of which we all as Caribbean people can be proud," added Lezama-Clark, president of the West Indian American Day Carnival Association.

Born in Trinidad, Lezama grew up playing the steel pan and the cello, garnering the nickname "Celloman" while working on a cruise ship.

When he immigrated to America, he gravitated to the annual carnival event in Harlem. In the mid-1960s, he and a friend, Rufus Goring, brought the celebration to Brooklyn, and in 1967 he was elected the first president of the carnival association.

"He was a major force with respect to the West Indian Day parade, which now has millions of people," former Mayor Ed Koch said of Lezama yesterday. "It's really not a parade. It's a mass of people, having a great time together."

Former Mayor David Dinkins said it was Lezama's "vision and foresight" that turned the parade into a city cultural icon.

"I thought he was terrific," Dinkins said. "He had a drive, he was determined that the parade was going to go off and he didn't particularly care about the politics of it. I thought he did a great job."

Besides his daughter, Lezama is survived by his son, Kenwyn; four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

WATER QUALITY FINANCING ACT OF 2007

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, in 1972, the passage of the Clean Water Act secured the nation's commitment to rescuing our waters and expelling the pollutants that were killing our water supply and the wildlife that depended on it. Today, Mr. YOUNG, former Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Congresswoman ELLEN TAUSCHER, and I introduce bipartisan legislation that definitively renews our commitment to these waters and authorizes increased funding for wastewater infrastructure through a reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund program.

The Water Quality Financing Act of 2007 authorizes \$20 billion in Federal grants over five years to capitalize Clean Water State Revolving Funds. These funds provide low interest loans to communities for wastewater infrastructure. This bill also provides additional subsidies, including principal forgiveness and negative interest loans for communities that meet a state's affordability criteria, for individual ratepayers that will experience significant hardship from potential rate increases, and for the construction and implementation of innovative or alternative processes, materials, or technologies to meet the nation's wastewater treatment needs. It encourages long-term asset management planning and financing that will ensure sustainable systems and the potential to reduce overall capital and operation and maintenance costs and it promotes communities to consider alternative and innovative processes, materials, and technologies (including "green infrastructure") that

provide greater environmental benefits, or the same benefits using less energy or at a reduced cost. Water quality benefits are the primary criterion for determining which projects receive funding, and encourages watershed approaches to solving water quality problems, as well as traditional infrastructure.

Since 1972, the federal government has provided more than \$82 billion for wastewater infrastructure and other assistance. Overall investment in the nation's infrastructure—including that from federal, state, and local sources—has been over \$250 billion.

Today, twice as many waters are considered fishable and swimmable as they were before the Clean Water Act was passed into law. Our infrastructure systems include 16,000 publicly owned wastewater treatment plants, 100,000 major pumping stations, 600,000 miles of sanitary sewers, and 200,000 miles of storm sewers. Toxic chemicals and other pollutants have been greatly reduced. Wildlife has returned in abundance to waters that were once declared "dead". One in ten tourists is destined for the beach—providing our travel and vacation industries with customers and business.

Many of these success stories have occurred, in part, because of a strong commitment to fund necessary projects to improve water quality. Title VI of the Clean Water Act provides for the establishment and capitalization of Clean Water State Revolving Loan Funds ("Clean Water SRFs") to aid in funding the construction of wastewater treatment works and other wastewater infrastructure around the country. Since 1987, individual states and territories have maintained Clean Water SRFs to help provide for low-cost financing for approved water quality infrastructure projects.

These advances aside, one-third of our nation's waters are still in deplorable condition. Although federal funding of Clean Water SRFs had been steady at a level of \$1.35 billion annually, in recent years, funding for the program has been cut dramatically. From just fiscal year 2006 to fiscal year 2007, the administration's budget request for Clean Water SRFs decreased \$199.2 million, dropping from \$886.7 million to \$687.5 million.

These declines come at a time when funding is vital for progress. Our population is booming, putting more pressure on already over-burdened systems. In addition, much of the wastewater infrastructure in this country is rapidly approaching or has already exceeded its projected useful life. These antiquated systems need maintenance and rebuilding to protect our physical, economic, and natural environments.

Without increased investment in wastewater infrastructure, in less than a generation, the U.S. could lose much of the gains it made thus far in improving water quality as a result of the 1972 Clean Water Act.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill, to continue funding our infrastructure, to make repairs where maintenance is needed, and to renew our commitment to our nation's waters.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF OFFICER DAN BESSANT OF THE OCEANSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and service of Oceanside Police Officer Dan Bessant, who was killed in the line of duty on December 20, 2006.

A 3-year police department veteran, Officer Bessant was fatally shot while responding to a fellow officer's call for assistance on a routine traffic stop in Oceanside, California. It is intolerable that such a fine young man should be taken from those he loved in the prime of his life to a senseless act of youth violence.

Just as he did on that fateful day, Officer Bessant spent his life of 25 years committed to serving the public—first as police cadet, then as a Police Community Safety Assistant, and finally as an Oceanside Police Officer. Each day of Officer Bessant's service made Oceanside a safer place.

Officer Bessant will be remembered as a dedicated officer, passionate for his work and eager to improve the community where he was born and raised. His family and friends will remember him as a proud, new father and devoted husband. By all, he will be recalled for his unwavering honor and courage.

On this day, Congress should remember Officer Bessant's passion for law enforcement and his endless devotion to Oceanside. May God bring peace to his wife Katelyn, 2 month-old son Wyatt, and his family, friends and colleagues.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EMMA FAUST TILLMAN

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay great honor to Mrs. Emma Faust Tillman, who passed away on January 28, 2007. Mrs. Tillman, a longtime resident of the Hartford area, was the oldest known living person prior to her death at 114 years of age. Though her reign lasted only 4 days, the legacy of her life can provide inspiration to us all.

Born November 22, 1892 in Gibsonville, North Carolina, Mrs. Tillman was one of 23 siblings. Her parents, former slaves, moved Mrs. Tillman and her family to Glastonbury, Connecticut in 1900. After graduating high school in 1909 as the only black student in her class, Mrs. Tillman went on to work as a cook, maid, and party caterer, eventually owning her own catering service and baking for many of Hartford's notable residents, including Hartford Hospital's Dr. Thomas Hepburn, father of legendary actress Katharine Hepburn. She wed Arthur Tillman in 1914 and they had 2 daughters before his death in 1939.

Deeply religious from a young age, Mrs. Tillman became involved with her church memberships. After being christened at age 13, she began singing in her church choir, an ac-

tivity in which she was engaged in for over 80 years. A longtime member of the A.M.E. Zion Church in Hartford, she was considered the "mother of the church" by Rev. Terry L. Jones, not only for her ripe age, but also for her fervent faith. When commenting on the longevity of her life, Mrs. Tillman would always credit "God's will."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Emma Faust Tillman. In her 114 years, she deeply touched and inspired those who knew her, and those who have heard her tremendous story. My thoughts and prayers are with her friends and family, in particular, her surviving daughter Marjorie. The Hartford community is thankful for the honor of knowing Emma Faust Tillman.

LANE EVANS POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 521 as a tribute to Congressman Lane Evans, my friend and former colleague. Congressman Evans faithfully and dutifully represented the people of the 17th District of Illinois. Today, we honor former Congressman Evans by naming the Post Office located at 2633 11th Street in Rock Island, Illinois, after him. I thank my fellow Illinoisan and Mr. Evans' successor, Congressman PHIL HARE, for introducing this legislation to honor our friend and former member of this body.

Lane Evans grew up in Rock Island, Illinois. The son of a firefighter, he joined the Marine Corps right out of high school and served our country in Vietnam from 1969 to 1971. After his tour of duty, Congressman Evans went to college and then to Georgetown University Law Center to earn his J.D.

Lane Evans was first elected to Congress in 1982 and served for eleven terms. Throughout his tenure in Congress, Evans was a tireless champion for veterans across the nation. He served on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee from 1983 through till his final term and was the ranking member of that committee for the last 10 years.

During his time in Washington, Lane Evans worked tirelessly to secure many benefits for America's servicemen and women. He campaigned to increase assistance to homeless veterans, to fund research on complex combat-related injuries, to expand VA home loans, to increase G.I. worker training benefits, and was a staunch advocate of increasing veterans' health benefits. Specifically, he led efforts to help combat veterans cope with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Although Lane Evans worked diligently for our men and women in uniform, he was also a leading advocate for many other causes. Mr. Evans fought hard to ban landmines, which kill and maim thousands every year, to protect American workers from cheaper foreign competition, to have fair trade policies with other nations, to protect America's farmers and our environment.

Mr. Speaker, last year, Congressman Evans chose not to run for reelection to the 110th