

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO MYRA L. CRUMPE

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 10, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and achievements of Myra L. Crumpe. Myra was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, and is a product of the New York City public schools. After her high school graduation from Erasmus Hall High, she enrolled in Kingsborough Community College, majoring in business administration.

Myra currently works in the Bedford-Stuyvesant community at JP Morgan Chase Bank as the assistant branch manager. For the past 13 years, she has worked in the banking industry, withstanding several mergers. Her professional dedication to the local businesses has been instrumental in making Chase the No. 1 bank in the community.

Myra has always exemplified a passion for her community. She constantly seeks opportunities to help her fellow neighbors whenever needed. For more than 15 years, Myra was an active member for the Mays Designer Club, working alongside her uncle, Dr. Gerald Deas. She served as president, treasurer, and youth director for that organization whose primary goal was to raise funds to benefit the Sickle Cell Victims' organization. The money raised was donated to various families and hospitals, including Kings County Hospital Center and University Hospital of Brooklyn for the care of African-American children afflicted with the disease.

Myra wanted to do more for her community, so she joined the Stuy Park Lions Club, which is associated with the Lions Club International and Bermuda Foundation, in 1995. She has held various positions with the Lions Club, including treasurer and financial secretary, and is currently the club's president. Myra was also the district governor cabinet treasurer of District 20-K1 and is presently the chairperson for the local Habitat for Humanity.

Myra has also served on several committees and received numerous awards. Myra was recognized by Councilwoman Annette Robinson in 1999 and received the Sheroes Award as a woman who has made a difference. The East Flatbush Friends of Education presented the Booker T. Washington Award to her in 2001. Myra has also received the Melvin Jones Fellow Award for dedicated humanitarian services, the Robert J. Uplinger Distinguished Service Award, Lion of the Year Award and various certificates of appreciation.

Myra has been the loving wife of William Crumpe, Jr. for 32 years. She is a devoted mother of two daughters, Keisha and Charlene, and two grandsons, Richard, Jr., and Gurshaan.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of a caring and giving woman.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Myra L. Crumpe.

HONORING MR. PAUL R. DE VAUL

### HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 10, 2007*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of stepping down as the American Legion's junior county commander of Suffolk County, NY, I rise to honor and recognize a good friend, Mr. Paul R. De Vul, for a lifetime dedicated to serving our Nation and the First Congressional District of New York.

For the past year and a half, Paul has worked alongside me in my Long Island office, serving my constituents capably and with steadfast dedication. In addition to his case-work responsibilities, Paul has served four 1-year terms as junior county commander. I commend him for achievements during his tenure and thank him for his contributions to improving the lives of Long Island's veterans.

As a member of my New York office staff, Paul's tireless efforts and dedication are invaluable to our constituent service operation. Paul is known for going the extra mile to help my constituents, particularly veterans.

Paul is a lifetime Long Island resident and currently lives in the town of Bay Shore, Long Island, with his wife, Terri, of 31 years. They have six children, many of whom have followed in his footsteps to serve in either the military or public service.

Paul served in the U.S. Army from 1961 to 1964 and was decorated with the Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the NYS Conspicuous Service Cross.

After working 32 years for Keyspan Energy Corporation, Paul retired in 1999. He joined the American Legion, Bay Shore Post 365 and served as the post's commander for 2 years before first being elected Suffolk County commander in 2002.

In May 2006, Paul brought his knowledge of and experience with veterans' advocacy to my staff. We have benefited from his dedication and work ethic ever since. He has earned our deepest respect and gratitude.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my entire staff and New York's First Congressional District, I thank Paul R. De Vul for his lifelong commitment to veterans and public service. I congratulate him for his many contributions and wish him and his family continued success, good health, and the best of luck.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICES OF  
SERGE S. DUARTE

### HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 10, 2007*

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 20 years of exemplary service that Serge S. Duarte has given to this great country.

Serge S. Duarte, a native of southern California, is the Deputy Special Agent in Charge in San Diego for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, Office of Investigations.

From March 1987 to 2003, Mr. Duarte served in a variety of management, supervisory, and Federal investigative roles with the U.S. Customs Service. During his first 5 years with Customs, Mr. Duarte conducted extensive undercover investigations penetrating international narcotics trafficking organizations.

In March 2003, the U.S. Customs Service merged under the newly created Department of Homeland Security. Under this new organization, Mr. Duarte oversees a large Federal law enforcement workforce that conducts investigations into terrorism, protection of critical infrastructure, money laundering, commercial fraud, copyright protection, criminal gangs, immigration fraud, cyber crimes, and narcotics smuggling. He is responsible for enforcement operations that have identified and removed over 500 unauthorized aliens illegally working at airports, military installations, Government shipyards and other critical infrastructure facilities in San Diego. Additionally, over 100 persons in the San Diego area involved in sexual predation and child pornography have been arrested or deported. Finally, he oversees investigations into criminal organizations that are responsible for the illegal transfer of military aircraft hardware and restricted technology from the United States to Iran, China and other proscribed countries.

Mr. Duarte received a masters in public administration from National University in 2003. He is also a graduate of the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar and the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, VA, and is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He is the Chair of the Border Research Technology Center Advisory Council, and a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Area Maritime Security Council, the National Tactical Officers Association, the California Narcotic Officers Association, the Intelligence and National Security Alliance, and the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association.

On behalf of the people of the United States, whom Serge Duarte spent a career serving, I thank him for his service and commitment to the defense of our Nation.

A TRIBUTE TO WILMA BEST

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 10, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Wilma Best. Wilma McGlothlin was born in Excelsior, WV, to Sylvester McGlothlin and Inez Tarvant-McGlothlin.

Wilma, who was educated in the Excelsior School System, excelled in her studies and

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

was voted into the National Honor Society. All of her hard work paid off and she was offered a full scholarship to Bennett College. After graduating Bennett, she enrolled and graduated from City College of New York. There she maintained her scholastic achievements earning her a place on the Dean's List. Wilma became a registered nurse in 1973 and later went to work for New York Methodist Hospital where she has been employed for 34 years.

Wilma is an active member of New Canaan Baptist Church where she serves as the superintendent of vacation bible school and a Sunday school teacher. She is also a member of the C.E. Lewis Gospel Chorus, Floral Club and the Senior Usher Board. She also serves as president of the Red Circle Ministry, the building fund, and the renovation committee. Wilma has also been named an honorary member of the First Ladies Club and Gospel Chorus.

Wilma is the faithful and loving wife to the late Robert Best. Their union was blessed with one son, Robert, Jr. She is the grandmother of two: Antoine and Christian Best; and is also a great grandmother of three: Tionnah, Tion, and Tishaun Best.

Wilma loves gardening, arts and crafts, listening to music, and attending nursing seminars. She has received a Betty Crocker Award for her baking skills.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the achievements of Wilma Best and her work in caring for others.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Wilma Best who demonstrates a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

#### HONORING THE SMITHTOWN LIBRARY

#### HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 10, 2007*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a respected and important landmark in the First Congressional District, the Smithtown Library.

Since 1907, the Smithtown Library has been a dynamic center for continuous learning, with a multitude of resources and programs for the Long Island community. The library ranks as the seventh largest system in the State of New York. Its main building and three branch libraries serve over 115,000 residents in the town of Smithtown.

The Smithtown Library was first housed in the former chambers of Judge John Lawrence Smith, which still stands today east of the present main library building on Middle Country Road. In May 1952, the library was granted an absolute charter by the State of New York and became a town library under the direction of the town of Smithtown.

The library is home to "The Long Island History Collection and the Richard H. Handley Collection of Long Island Americana," a unique collection of priceless artifacts dating back to the 1600s that includes nearly 8,000 books, over 750 maps and 130 boxes of written documents. No other institution on Long Island has a collection this large available for public viewing and scholarly research.

In November 2001, Smithtown residents voted that the library become independent and

the name was changed to the "Smithtown Special Library District," but it is still affectionately known as the Smithtown Library by the community. On Friday, November 30, the library celebrated its 100th anniversary with a gala centennial celebration.

Madam Speaker, I'd like to quote John Quincy Adams, this great country's sixth President, who said, "To furnish the means of acquiring knowledge is the greatest benefit that can be conferred upon mankind." Indeed, the Smithtown Library is a welcoming place for knowledge, dedicated to excellence and to enhancing the quality of life in Suffolk County, New York. I am proud to honor its 100th anniversary.

#### INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO ALL OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE (ITS) ON GRANTING OPEN ACCESS TO VAST HOLOCAUST AND OTHER WORLD WAR II RELATED ARCHIVES LOCATED IN BAD AROlsen, GERMANY

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 10, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my good friends and original cosponsors of this important resolution, Representatives ROBERT WEXLER, chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, the ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and MARK KIRK to introduce a resolution expressing gratitude to all of the member states of the International Commission of the International Tracing Service (ITS) on ratifying the May 2006 Agreement to grant open access to vast Holocaust and other World War II-related archives located in Bad Arolsen, Germany.

I am thankful for their bipartisan leadership, not only on this issue to open the Bad Arolsen archives, but on wider issues of anti-Semitism in general.

This legislation is the culmination of long-standing efforts I have made with Representatives WEXLER, ROS-LEHTINEN, KIRK, and others to release these crucial Holocaust records.

Madam Speaker, November 28, 2007, was a historic moment in time when for the first time in 62 years, Holocaust survivors, their descendants, researchers, and the public were allowed open access to the International Tracing Service (ITS) archives in Bad Arolsen, Germany, the largest closed Holocaust-era archives in the world.

These significant archives contain 50 million records on the fates of some 17.5 million individual victims of Nazi brutality. Everything from lists of the names of Holocaust concentration camp victims murdered on Hitler's birthday to death camp prisoners' personal affect cards are included in these records, and each holds an important place in the memory of a victim.

Until earlier this year, when Holocaust survivors requested information from the ITS, they were shamefully often provided with letters written entirely in German with incomplete or misinformation about the horrors they had

experienced. Often survivors passed away prior to ever being provided the truth about their experiences under Nazi persecution. Until only 2 weeks ago, these historic materials were held secret from researchers and research institutions and the general public.

In today's world, filled with growing international intolerance including anti-Semitism, hate, racial bigotry, xenophobia, and religious discrimination, it could not be more urgent and critical to allow for unfettered access to these archives.

The ultimate release of these documents serves to further delegitimize international leaders who insist on spewing Holocaust denial and other anti-Semitic rhetoric.

Allowing for open access to these historical records also contributes to the world's collective memory of the Holocaust atrocities and ensures that these historic documents will be preserved and shared with future generations when survivors are no longer among us.

I am thankful for the efforts made by the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the State Department, survivor groups, and this body of Congress to pressure the member states of the International Tracing Service to ratify the 1955 Bonn Accords and throw open the doors of these archives.

The new leadership of the International Committee of the Red Cross at the ITS should also be commended for their efforts to provide more expeditious and comprehensive responses to survivors and their descendants. A year ago, the ITS faced a 140,000 backlog of survivor and others' inquiries. Today, the ITS has reduced the requests to less than half of that amount and is committed to processing incoming requests within 8 weeks.

Our collaborative bipartisan efforts have truly paid off. I am most appreciative that the remaining European ITS member states ultimately recognized the justifiable and moral importance of combating modern day anti-Semitism with the release of these archives.

This resolution serves to commend all parties who assisted in opening the archives and increasing their accessibility to all. Finally, remaining survivors and researchers alike will be able to view these tremendously important documents and hopefully find closure on one of the darkest moments in history. Our efforts send a robust message to the world that the atrocities and murders of the Holocaust victims shall forever remain at the forefront of our collective and individual memories.

May we never forget the horrors of the Holocaust and view this historic moment as a constant reminder of what happens when humanity is silenced and evil permitted to wage war on the innocent.

I ask for my colleagues' support and urge the swift passage of this resolution.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ALBERT J. SIMMONS, JR.

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 10, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Albert J. Simmons, Jr., and the hard work that he has dedicated to the better development of New York City youth.

Born in Savannah, GA, and reared in New York City, Mr. Simmons is a graduate of