

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

Brooklyn College. He resides in Forest Hills, Queens, with his wife Cheryl and daughter Alexis.

At an early age in his adult life, Mr. Simmons sensed his calling as a voice and servant to the youth, and the underprivileged of the New York City community. As a former kindergarten teacher, Mr. Simmons found immeasurable pleasure in aiding our young in developing a firm foundation for education and self-esteem. As a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Mr. Simmons was able to continue his desire to serve as a mentor and role model. As a participant in the fraternity's Adopt-a-School project, sixth-grade boys at P.S. 144 in Harlem were exposed to positive male role models, participation in commencement programs at various colleges and universities as well as tutorial programs. Mr. Simmons has also served and participated in the Melvin C. Patrick Career Day Programs.

For more than two decades, Mr. Simmons has worked in the managed care industry, affording him the opportunity to continue to work with youth organizations, various community-based organizations and being an advocate for the underserved families and individuals of New York. As regional marketing manager for Fidelis Care New York, the largest and a leading state-wide non-profit managed care organization; Mr. Simmons has used his position to work with politicians, faith-based organizations and other associations to serve as a conduit for the provision of health insurance benefits and other human services to many families and individuals in New York. Mr. Simmons has been honored and recognized for his selfless contributions to the New York City community.

Madam Speaker, I would like to once again recognize Mr. Albert J. Simmons, Jr., for his tireless work with the citizens in need of New York City.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful man of substance and the great things for which he stands.

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#### TRIBUTE TO SAM LICKLIDER

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#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this moment to recognize the career of Sam Licklider. Sam Licklider has served as the senior vice president of governmental affairs for the Missouri Association of Realtors for 40 years.

Mr. Licklider joined the Missouri Association of Realtors in 1968 after graduating from Westminster College in Fulton, MO. As the organization's head of legislative affairs, Mr. Licklider spends his time fighting for realtor issues at the Missouri capitol. He is widely regarded as being one of the Missouri Association of Realtors' biggest assets.

Sam Licklider and his wife, Jane, currently reside in Jefferson City. They have two children and four grandchildren. I trust that Members of the House will join me in wishing Sam Licklider and his family the best of luck in the days ahead.

#### A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE TOOMER

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#### 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 Christine Toomer for her contributions to the nursing profession and to the Brooklyn, NY, healthcare community.

Christine Toomer was born September 11, in Kingston, Jamaica. In 1972 she moved with her family to Brooklyn, NY. Christine knew at an early age she wanted to help people, so she enrolled in the Clara Barton High School for Nursing. After high school, Christine attended Borough of Manhattan Community College and later, Long Island University. While attending LIU, Christine found employment as a nurse extern. Eventually, Christine graduated from LIU and passed her nursing board certification exams.

Christine is a dedicated nurse and has spent several years at Interfaith Medical Center always putting her patients first. In the mid-90s, her hard work and dedication was recognized and Christine was promoted to assistant head nurse of the Tuberculosis Unit. Christine continued to demonstrate her dedication to nursing and in 2006 she was honored as Nurse of the Year. In April 2007, she was named Employee of the Month. She also became an active member of the American Nurses Association and the New York State Nurses Association.

Christine is not only a wonderful nurse, but also a committed mother of two sons. She is a devoted daughter and granddaughter who oversees the care of her disabled mother and ailing grandmother.

Christine believes that nursing and teaching others the proper way to monitor their health is her purpose in life. The many contributions she has made to the Brooklyn healthcare community are evident. Her love for nursing continues to make her an asset to the profession.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to once again recognize the impressive achievements that Christine Toomer has made in the healthcare field and the Brooklyn community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful woman of substance and the great things she stands for.

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#### ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

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SPEECH OF

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, we know what is possible for our Nation if we choose to move seriously and quickly down the path to energy independence. We know what this choice means.

Energy independence means demanding more efficiency and smarter technology for our cars, homes, businesses and industry. Energy independence means investing in our communities and creating the resources and workforce necessary for expanding markets. It

means developing new technologies that create new jobs through America's economic backbone: our innovation industries.

If we want to make opportunity real for more Americans—if we want to keep our Nation strong even as our new economy continues to change—there is no better way to do it than by investing in a new energy future.

The Energy Independence and Security Act meets our obligations as a nation at every point along the spectrum: promoting renewable energy, growing our economy, creating new jobs, lowering energy prices, and beginning to address global warming.

We are taking on an initiative more ambitious than ever, to be sure, but nothing less will secure our Nation's energy future.

Of course, our energy challenges have never been more urgent—threatening our environment, our economy, and our national security—but we have been dealing with many of these issues for quite a while: As far back as 1925, Henry Ford touted ethanol as the fuel of the future.

Well, more than eight decades later we still have some work to do when it comes to potential solutions like biofuels, especially in my region of the country. There are still no E85 fueling stations in Connecticut, and the first public biodiesel station in the State opened just last week.

We must understand that despite some of the current drawbacks of corn-derived ethanol, biofuels are a critical first step—not so much a panacea or a solution, but a transition into a more sustainable process toward cellulosic ethanol.

But the real question is: How do we respond? How do we in New England respond when access remains limited? And how do we as a Congress respond right now, as families and businesses across America struggle with skyrocketing gas prices and escalating home heating costs. Do we bury our head in the sand or do we aspire to achieve something great. If we give consumers and businesses the opportunity to be a part of a real transformation, our entire Nation will reap the benefits.

It is already happening: Last year, I was very proud to help unveil the first large-scale biodiesel plant in my State, in the town of Bethlehem. Today, the BioPur Company is producing over 400,000 gallons of pure biodiesel annually and plans to double production within a year to meet the growing demand.

Spurring that kind of change is why I came to the Congress, and I believe it is at the core of our mission on the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee which I chair.

With this year's House Agriculture Appropriations spending bill we made significant new investment—\$1.2 billion; a 215 percent increase over the president's request—to promote renewable energy, strengthening research and education to make biofuels a priority and moving us further down the path to energy independence.

And we can do that again today by passing the Energy Independence and Security Act, providing a historic commitment to the home-grown biofuels that will fuel our cars and trucks: diversifying our energy crops from coast to coast with a robust increase in the renewable fuels standard; requiring 9 billion gallons of renewable fuels in 2008 and progressively increasing to a 36 billion gallon requirement by 2022; incentives to boost their production and increase the number of flex fuel and hybrid vehicles.