

HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO ASSIST IN THE CLEANUP OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2007, OIL SPILL IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 853, authored by Speaker of the House NANCY PELOSI to honor those who volunteered to help clean up the thousands of gallons of oil spilled from the COSCO BUSAN after it collided with the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge on November 7, 2007.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, I chaired a special hearing of the Subcommittee in San Francisco to take a comprehensive look at the circumstances surrounding that terrible oil spill.

I know that San Francisco Bay is as near to the hearts of local residents as the Chesapeake Bay is to Maryland residents, and I know that it was a love for the Bay, its wildlife, and its sensitive environmental areas that motivated local residents to volunteer to join the effort to protect these resources from the 58,000 gallons of oil headed toward them.

Unfortunately, a number of the organizational difficulties that plagued the initial response to this spill appear to have also affected the deployment of volunteers in the area.

We await the results of a number of ongoing investigations of this oil spill—including studies being conducted by the Coast Guard itself, the National Transportation Safety Board and, at the request of the Speaker and myself, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security.

As results become available, we are committed to making whatever changes are needed to ensure that the lessons learned from this tragedy inform preparations for the next oil spill—which we know will come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of H. Res. 853 and I again commend Speaker PELOSI, Congresswoman TAUSCHER, and the entire Bay Area Delegation for their leadership on this issue.

I also commend the many organizations and individuals throughout the San Francisco Bay region who volunteered to respond to this spill.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO A GREAT AMERICAN, DAZIVEDO WATSON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 80 years Dazivedo Watson graced us with his winning charm, political acumen, pioneering spirit, and love. His contributions to the African and Caribbean American community are bountiful; his contributions to his country: limitless. He remains, foremost in my mind, a humble public servant, a dedicated family man, and my good, good buddy.

It is in this regard that I introduce the following laudatory letter, which best captures the litany of honors to his name and the essence of his brilliant character.

NOVEMBER 2, 2007.

MR. ERROL WATSON,
c/o *Crown of Life Love Ministry*, 222 West 145th Street, New York, NY.

DEAR ERROL AND FAMILY MEMBERS: I was deeply heartbroken to learn of the passing of your dear father, grandfather, uncle and my buddy, Dazivedo Watson. Just a few months ago, we celebrated Dazivedo's 80th Birthday, and now we are saying good-bye to a great friend, devoted family man, ally, and one of Harlem's most distinguished political strategist, novice, and loyal Democrat. Daz, as he was known to all of us, was on the forefront of every political battle, whether as a supporter or adversary, he dedicated his life to winning, and never losing. In every campaign, Daz gave his all.

Dazivedo will be remembered, not only as an institution, but also as Harlem's gift to the political process. As a political advisor, confidante, and staffer to the late great Harlem Councilman, Frederick E. Samuel, Daz helped to influence African and Caribbean Americans to empower themselves, their neighborhood, and their community. That empowerment led to the election of the first African American Mayor, David N. Dinkins, the first African American State Comptroller, H. Carl McCall, the first African American Lieutenant Governor, David A. Paterson, and the first African American Chairman of the powerful House Committee on Ways and Means, Charles B. Rangel. We are all in his debt.

Let me also extend my sympathies to the Frederick E. Samuel Community Democratic Club family, and its illustrious leadership, the Honorable C. Virginia Fields, the Honorable Keith L.T. Wright and the Honorable Wilma Brown. Let our work on behalf of the community reflect the legacy of our beloved Dazivedo Watson.

Your family and our community have endured a great loss with the passing of Dazivedo. My political family, and my office and I will support you during this time of mourning and grieving. Let us celebrate his life and keep his memory forever in our thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RUSSELL ARTHUR MATTHES

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, the residents of Bay City, Texas lost a true friend when Dr. Russell Arthur Matthes passed away on November 27. A native of Bay City, Russell Matthes volunteered for the Naval Air Corps in 1942. Dr. Matthes served as a turret gunner on a flying gunship, participating in the Saipan, Tinian, Okinawa, and Philippines campaigns. These were among the most decisive battles in the closing chapters of World War II.

When Japan surrendered, Dr. Matthes's squadron was transferred to the USS *Cumberland Sound* and sent to Japan. His plane's crew flew across Japan, taking aerial photographs for intelligence purposes and also looking for prison camps. A camp at Kobe was found and the crew dropped all the canned food from the plane's galley.

Following the war, Russell Matthes completed his education at Baylor University and Baylor Dental School, where he trained as an orthodontist. He then returned to Bay City to practice orthodontics. Dr. Matthes and his wife, Juniata LeTulle Matthes, raised two daughters and a son.

In addition to serving the people of his community with his medical practice, Dr. Matthes was active in numerous civic and community groups. In order to maintain his links with his fellow veterans, Dr. Matthes was a lifetime member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2438. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Eastern Star Jesters, the Shiners, and the Medical Benevolence Foundation.

Dr. Matthes was particularly interested in helping the youth of his community. Thus, in addition to all his other civic activities and his full-time medical practice, Dr. Matthes was very active with the Boy Scouts. Through his activities with the scouts, as well as his other civic work, he helped improve the lives of thousands of young Texans.

Residents of Bay City were not the only ones who benefited from Dr. Matthes commitment to service. As a member of the Episcopal Church, Dr. Matthes preformed church missionary work in around the world.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Matthes devotion to his community and his fellow human beings set an example we all should follow. I extend my deepest condolences to Dr. Matthes' family and friends.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATOR CYNTHIA LOCKLEAR

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of a dedicated public official representing the towns of Cheektowaga and West Seneca as a member of the Erie County Legislature. I rise to honor Cynthia Locklear, whose service as a member of that legislative body, will conclude on December 31, 2007.

In her one term as a county legislator, Cindy Locklear was a proponent of good government and a steadfast protector of local taxpayers. An attorney who exemplified the role of "citizen-legislator" in her time in public office, Cindy earned a reputation as a fighter for government reform.

While Cindy's service as a county legislator was brief, her impact upon county government as a whole and upon the legislature in particular has been considerable. County residents are better for her service, Madam Speaker, and I am grateful to you for allowing me an opportunity to honor her service to our community.

HONORING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF PHYLLIS FABER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with great pleasure to honor a visionary, writer,

scholar, and advocate for the environment on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Phyllis Faber's lifetime work to protect agricultural land has not only preserved the beauty of Marin County, but provided an inspiration to other communities to do the same.

More than 35 years ago, in the late 1970s, development plans threatened the beautiful countryside and historic agricultural nature of West Marin. Two women, Phyllis and dairy farmer Ellen Straus, were particularly concerned about preserving the county's farming. While out walking one day, they explored the question of how to protect the land so farmers and ranchers could afford to maintain their operations. The two women reasoned that if development potential were eliminated, the land could more easily retain its agricultural designation. In 1980, Phyllis and Ellen, with support from local officials and the Trust for Public Land, founded the Marin Agricultural Land Trust, MALT, the first land trust in the United States to focus solely on the preservation of farmland.

Since then, MALT has protected nearly 40,000 acres of land on 59 family farms and ranches. It has also served as a model for communities across the country, illustrating how to permanently protect agricultural land through the purchase of agricultural conservation easements.

Over the past 27 years, MALT's conservation easement program has protected about one-third of the agricultural farmland in West Marin, but Phyllis's wish is that in her lifetime MALT will have protected at least one-half of the available agricultural farmland and working farms—and not only protect them from development but ensure their continued operations.

"We are blessed that ranchers and farmers in this area want to stay in agriculture," she says. "Without their commitment to farming, our landscape in West Marin would be quite different."

Phyllis's passion for preserving farm and ranch land is matched by her passion for wildflowers. A teacher, editor, and writer as well as an environmentalist, Phyllis has edited *Fremontia*, the Journal of the California Native Plant Society, and has written eight books about wildflowers.

These have not been Phyllis's only accomplishments, however. She also helped found *Marin Discoveries* and the Environmental Forum of Marin. For the past 3 years, she has chaired the board of the Buck Institute for Age Research, and of course she continues to serve on the board of MALT.

But for those who live in West Marin, those who visit there, and those who enjoy the delicious products that come from there, Phyllis will always be remembered for her commitment to the preservation of agriculture—not just for this generation, but for those to come.

Madam Speaker, Phyllis Faber's advocacy for the agricultural nature of Marin County has left an enduring legacy on the history as well as the landscape of the county and of communities throughout the Nation. Because of this and because of her continued commitment to agriculture and the environment, I am proud to honor her on her 80th birthday.

HONORING THE HUNTS POINT
MULTI SERVICE CENTER

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hunts Point Multi Service Center as it celebrates its 40th anniversary of extraordinary work improving the quality of life in our South Bronx community.

The Hunts Point Multi Service Center, HPMSC, was founded in 1967 by local leaders and South Bronx community members to address the scarcity of quality healthcare facilities in the area. With an initial \$50,000 grant, a free health clinic was established to service the Hunts Point and Mott Haven sections of the South Bronx. This clinic quickly expanded its operations when the war on poverty was declared by the Johnson administration, and became what is today known as HPSMC.

For the past four decades, HPMSC has provided services in direct response to the changing needs of the residents of the South Bronx community. This organization has also remained faithful to its commendable mission: the empowerment of the individual and the community. Its many programs are reflective of the organization's commitment to holistic community-oriented human services. Although HPMSC's primary focus has been on providing health and social services, this organization has also become a prominent advocate on behalf of constituents from my district, playing an important role in the development and revitalization of the South Bronx.

During its long years of service, this organization has been acclaimed by the Federal Government and the South Bronx community. Today, HPMSC has expanded its services to the Soundview section of the Bronx and provides services addressing HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, and the Women, Infants and Children, WIC, Federal program.

Madam Speaker, the Hunts Point Multi Service Center is an effective and storied institution in my community, which has produced many great leaders for our borough and city. Its commitment and dedication to social justice in the South Bronx is commendable. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Hunts Point Multi Service Center on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

HONORING RETIRING LACKAWANNA CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT RONALD SPADONE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of a dedicated public official representing the great city of Lackawanna, NY. I rise to honor the service of retiring Council President Ron Spadone.

Ron Spadone is among Lackawanna's proudest citizens, and is among her best-known and best-liked. A former Ward 4 coun-

cilman, Ron ran citywide for the post of council president 4 years ago and was supported broadly throughout the city.

Ron's commitment to Lackawanna has been inspiring, but closest to Ron's heart is his family. Although Ron recently lost his son Ron—my friend and a longtime employee at the Erie County Board of Elections—Ron's retirement from active public service will afford him more free time to enjoy his family and his own recreational pursuits.

Madam Speaker, thank you for affording me this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Ron Spadone to his hometown, the great city of Lackawanna, NY. I know you and all of our colleagues join me in extending a heartfelt thanks to Ron for his service, and Godspeed in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING NORTH EDGEcombe HIGH SCHOOL—ONE OF THE BEST SCHOOLS IN AMERICA

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special high school in my congressional district: North Edgecombe High School. This school, which is located in Tarboro, NC, was ranked among the top high schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

This year, only 34 high schools in North Carolina were recognized with this great honor and I am so proud that the Mighty Warriors of North Edgecombe High School achieved this great feat. The dedication of the administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, and students to ensure the success of the young generation is to be commended.

Madam Speaker, North Edgecombe High School is seated in a rural area of my district. It educates over 350 students in grades 9–12. Its population is 90 percent minority and 70 percent are labeled as "disadvantaged students." As we from rural districts know, funding for public schools can be concentrated on the metropolitan areas of the state while the rural areas are seemingly forgotten. With limited resources they continue to prepare all students both academically and socially to successfully meet the challenges of an ever-changing society.

The largely affluent Research Triangle Park area which includes Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill had no schools that made the list. This is a true testament to the hard work, dedication and determination of our teachers and students at North Edgecombe High School.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the accomplishment of North Edgecombe High School. It is my most sincere hope that the teachers, students, and parents continue to work hard to ensure that they make the list again in the coming year. I hope other schools in my district will look to North Edgecombe High School as an example of excellence and a model to emulate.