

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JOHN FREDRICK NORWOOD

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Reverend John Fredrick Norwood who died on December 7, 2007.

Reverend Norwood and I were friends for over 20 years. We were friends in the very best sense. We stuck with each other through thick and thin—through victories and defeats, good times and challenging times. He was a great source of support for me and my husband Bob.

Reverend Norwood (I rarely called him John) was my mentor. He advised me and helped me as I ran my campaigns, as I set up my offices and as I worked in my official capacities to serve our community.

Reverend Norwood was a role model for me. I saw him treat those with the least, with the greatest respect. He helped and befriended people regardless of race, gender, or station in life. No one had fallen too far for John Norwood to offer a helping hand, often with no public recognition for doing so. His generosity of spirit and of material things had no bounds.

Reverend Norwood was courageous. He would insert himself into controversies that others avoided when he knew the cause was just and his voice was needed, regardless of the consequences.

Reverend Norwood was a spiritual adviser to me, something that may sound odd from a Jewish woman and proud member of Beth Emet synagogue. Next to Beth Emet, however, Mt. Zion was my spiritual home. I will never, ever forget the day that he prayed for me as I knelt in front of the church while he and members placed their hands on me. I was deeply touched inside and out and filled with the commitment to always do my best to be worthy of their blessings.

Whether it was helping the children at that great organization Family Focus, serving as Senior Police Chaplain or on the District 65 school board, working for political candidates, or reaching into his own pocket to help, for example, to pay for funeral expenses for a family in need, Rev. Norwood was a kind and generous and loving man. His legacy will live on in the many people he helped, in the many improvements he made in our community, and in the many lives that he deeply touched, including mine.

I feel so fortunate that I was able to have a wonderful afternoon visit with Rev. Norwood at the North Shore just days before he died. He was clearly so happy to be back in Evanston, and I marveled at how well he looked. The very next day, I was in Washington, DC with BARACK OBAMA and I had him sign a photo for Rev. Norwood. I was planning to bring it to him for Christmas. BARACK remembered him fondly from his days campaigning for the U.S. Senate and wrote “To Rev. Norwood, God Bless.”

And God did bless Rev. Norwood with a good life filled with loving family and friends and an abundance of achievements great and small. He is home now and sorely missed here. I loved Rev. Norwood and I always will. On behalf of my husband and myself, I extend

our most sincere condolences to his family and closest friends and all who mourn the loss of our precious friend, Rev. John Fredrick Norwood.

TRIBUTE TO JEREMY OESTMANN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jeremy Oestmann of Fort Atkinson, Iowa on graduating from the Americorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) program.

On November 14, 2007, Jeremy graduated from the 10-month-long Americorps program, which is run by the Corporation for National and Community Service. This full-time, team-based residential program organizes teams of 10–12 members to respond to needs identified by community-based organizations in local communities across every state. One of Jeremy's notable assignments was to serve in the Gulf Region after Hurricane Katrina struck in order to support disaster relief and ongoing recovery efforts.

Jeremy served as the Team Leader for the Fire Seven team, a duty that required immense responsibility, steadfastness, and strong-willed character. Jeremy's leadership and willingness to serve is a wonderful example of the eagerness of Iowans to help one another and make sacrifices for the betterment of their communities and America.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commanding and congratulating Jeremy Oestmann for his service to, and graduation from the Americorps program. I consider it an honor to represent Jeremy in Congress, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO PHILIP FAWCETT

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Philip Fawcett, who has been serving as Legislative Fellow in my office since January and will be completing his tenure at the end of this month.

Phil Fawcett joined my staff last January through the 2007 Congressional Fellowship Program of the Brookings Institution. He exemplifies a truly remarkable and exceptionally dynamic professional and has contributed greatly to the work my office has done for the 17th District. His work on the issues of transportation, housing, and the environment has been well-organized and efficient, and I have greatly valued his advice on a wide variety of co-sponsorship and voting matters.

Phil Fawcett attended the Georgia Institute of Technology and graduated with highest honors with a degree in aerospace engineering. Phil also gained his masters and doctorate degrees from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He went on to pursue a career with the Aerospace Corporation and has worked closely with the National Reconnaissance

Organization and numerous other programs within the Department of Defense. His extensive education, combined with his impressive 14 years of experience with technical and programmatic consulting, has played an integral role in his Legislative Fellowship. Having worked with various areas of the U.S. Government and numerous IC agencies, Phil has significantly contributed to my domestic agenda as well as international affairs related issues, such as my testimony to the U.S.-China Economic Security and Review Commission. He has also been a vital component in the areas of currency and trade, as he was responsible for helping to move legislation on international monetary policy and currency manipulation. His letter to the chairman and ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee that urged movement on the currency issue garnered the collection of over 90 member signatures.

Phil Fawcett has worked closely with my district office and maintained crucial relations with the Department of Commerce, U.S. Trade Representative, Ohio Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration, among many other essential divisions. He has also handled all issues related to my co-chairmanship of the House Manufacturing Caucus with skill and proficiency. Furthermore, his vigorous commitment to the organization, planning and implementation of the Tech Belt Forum last September generated a very successful event, which was a significant stepping stone in the future economic and industrial advancement of my district.

I would like to personally thank Phil Fawcett for his tremendous dedication and distinguished service and wish him all the best in his future endeavors. Phil, it's been a pleasure working with you and good luck!

TRIBUTE TO THE GETTELFINGER FAMILY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true great American family. The Gettelfinger family has been one of the leading families of Knoxville, TN, for many years. The senior generation of this great American family now consists of Andrew, Earl, and Herman Gettelfinger and their wives Frances, Marianne, and Nancy.

We have heard and read much about the Greatest Generation of Americans, deservedly referring to World War II and Korean veterans and those who have raised the so-called Baby Boom Generation.

The senior Gettelfinger family generation has put their children and grandchildren in a position to generate over \$500 million for our State and local economies. They and their families have been leaders in the petroleum industry, food and beverage industry, and commercial and residential development.

The Gettelfinger family, through all of its business and economic development, has created many lucrative jobs and has helped untold numbers lead more comfortable and convenient lives.

The Gettelfinger family has also taken a leading role, and has generously donated to

numerous charities, including the Helen Ross McNabb Center, Empty Stocking Fund, United Way, Catholic Charities, and many others.

The three Gettelfinger families whom I am honoring have raised 18 children, who are successful in their own right, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Andrew and Frances Gettelfinger, Earl and Marianne Gettelfinger, and Herman and Nancy Gettelfinger are being honored by their families and friends in Knoxville on December 16, 2007. I would like to join in paying tribute to those wonderful people. This Nation is a much better place today because of the Gettelfinger family and the senior generation that is being honored at this time.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to join me as I salute the Gettelfinger family of Knoxville, TN.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOAN TUNTLAND

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend, Joan Tuntland, who passed away on June 18, 2007, with the same strength, poise, and grace which defined her life.

Joan was born in 1937 in Stockton, California, and moved as a young child to Reno, Nevada, with her family. There she grew up attending Veteran's Memorial Elementary School and subsequently graduated from Reno High School in 1956. The friendships Joan forged during her time at Reno High School proved to be lifelong, culminating in her 50-year high school reunion last summer.

Joan worked various jobs and eventually met her husband, Larry, while they were both employed at the First National Bank of Nevada. Larry would later become president, thanks in part to the support offered by Joan. Joan and Larry were married in February of 1963, and soon welcomed two sons, Daniel and Ray, into their young family. Joan and her young family moved to Las Vegas in 1983, where Joan immediately became active in the community. These contacts forged friendships which she would hold dearly the rest of her life.

While in Las Vegas, Joan became active with Bishop Gorman High School, mirroring her involvement at Bishop Manogue High School in Reno. Her continuous support of Bishop Gorman High School was formally acknowledged as she and Larry were bestowed the honor of being inducted into the Royal Order of the Gael in March of 1992. In 1996, shortly before her husband's retirement they relocated back to Reno, Nevada.

Joan was blessed throughout her life with many amazing friendships; however, family remained her primary purpose and true love in her life. Her love, leadership, and spirituality made her the rock and foundation of her family.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of my friend Mrs. Joan Tuntland. Her dedication and love for her family and community should serve as an example to us all. I applaud all her efforts and accomplishments and I send my sympathies, as she will be missed by many.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING NORM GARY ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Mr. Gary has demonstrated values of hard work and service throughout his life, always maintaining a positive outlook; and

Whereas, Mr. Gary is recognized for 30 years of dedication to the Hocking County community; and

Whereas, Mr. Gary has impacted the lives of many while teaching residents skills that have helped them obtain employment; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I thank Norm Gary for his 30 years of service. We recognize the tremendous impact he has had in his community and in the lives of all those people he has touched.

CONGRATULATING LYNN HIDELL AND CAROL J. MEADE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lynn Hidell and Carol Meade, who were honored as Citizens of the Year in Little Elm, Texas.

Ms. Hidell and the late Ms. Meade volunteered as a team for 10 years at several Little Elm events, such as the July Jubilee, the Holidaze Celebration at Beard Park, the Little Elm Awards Foundation, and the Summer Rhythms Concert Series. The two ladies have been friends for years, and while working together for their community complemented each other through their compatibility. The decision was a plurality, as the selection committee received multiple nominations for both Hidell and Meade.

Ms. Hidell began volunteering in Little Elm over 10 years ago as a means to get to know people in her community. She also donates time at the Little Elm Area Food Bank, and hosts a jet-ski adventure fundraiser each year to benefit the food bank. She works as an office manager for Hidell and Associates, Inc.

Apart from her volunteering with Hidell, Ms. Meade also served on the Lake Vision Committee. Those who knew Ms. Meade recall her as a caring, giving, hard working, and kind-hearted individual.

These ladies exemplify hard work and a commitment to their community. I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Lynn Hidell and Ms. Carol Meade of Little Elm. It is an honor to represent them in the 26th district of Texas.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDGE CEDRIC A. KERNS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Cedric A. Kerns, who is being

honored as a Bench Trailblazer by the Bicolanos of Nevada and Filipino American California Expatriates Society of Las Vegas.

Judge Kerns first became active in the Las Vegas community while attending the University of Nevada Las Vegas. During his undergraduate years he was a member of UNLV's nationally ranked debate team. After receiving his juris doctor from the University of San Diego, Judge Kerns became partner and co-founder of the law office of Kerns and Lybarger, where he focused on criminal defense and domestic law. During his time in private practice, Judge Kerns was appointed as a member of the Nevada Supreme Court's Task Force for the "Study of Economic Bias" in the justice system.

The experience gained while Judge Kerns was in private practice helped him to succeed in being elected to the Las Vegas Municipal Court, Department 5, in 1997. During his 10 years as a judge in Las Vegas, Judge Kerns has greatly enriched the community, as is evident in his being awarded the 2006 Outstanding Judge of the Year Award by the Nevada Judges Association. One of the projects that Judge Kerns began and has maintained is the Habitual Offender Prevention and Education (HOPE) Court. Through his hard work he has helped habitual offenders to get sober and off the streets. Judge Kerns also spends time as the Las Vegas Municipal Court liaison for Domestic Violence Offenders; he serves as a member of the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada, an administrative arm of the Supreme Court, as well as being a member of the Court Funding Commission of the Supreme Court.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Judge Cedric A. Kerns. Throughout his years as a lawyer and judge, he has committed himself to helping others and the community. I congratulate him on being recognized as a Bench Trailblazer, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING HAROLD AND DIANE KEESEE ON RECEIVING THE ANGELS IN ADOPTION AWARD

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Harold and Diane Keesee are recognized for receiving the Angels in Adoption Award, and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. Keesee are an asset to our community and have been fostering children for seventeen years, and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. Keesee have made a difference in those lives that enter their home, and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. Keesee exemplify the spirit of selflessness and giving through their extraordinary work in child welfare; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Harold and Diane Keesee on their contributions and service to children in Tuscarawas and Guernsey Counties. Congratulations to Harold and Diane Keesee on receiving the Angels in Adoption Award.