

achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING RAY BROOKS HIGH SCHOOL 2007 CLASS 1A STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Ray Brooks High School for winning the Mississippi Class 1A State Football Championship. The Ray Brooks Tigers completed the 2007 season amassing 13 victories and only 1 loss. This State Championship is their second in 3 years.

Benoit is a small town in the Mississippi Delta, as of the 2000 census there were 611 residents. As a matter of fact, Ray Brooks is one of the smallest high schools in the State of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, although Benoit may be small in population; it has no shortcomings in regards to its high school football team.

What makes this feat more impressive is the fact that Ray Brooks didn't have a football program for 15 years until 2002. The Tigers have been in the playoffs each of the last 6 years they have been back on the football field. During this 6-year period, the tigers have been phenomenal going 62–13 since restarting their football program.

Madam Speaker, not only have the Tigers enjoyed success this year but, they have done so dominantly averaging 35.4 points per game during the regular season while only allowing 9.9 points per game this season. Three wins came by the way of a shutout.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the student-athletes, student-body, faculty, staff, administration, and the community of West Bolivar for winning the 2007 Mississippi Class 1A State Championship. I am extremely proud to represent these young men and I look forward to the 2008 season.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS "TOMMY" MAKEM

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe the passing of a friend and a man for whom I held a tremendous amount of respect, Tommy Makem.

Tommy was an internationally celebrated folk musician, actor, artist, poet, songwriter, and storyteller from Ireland who took pride in sharing the Irish culture with those around the globe. He emigrated to the United States in 1955, with nothing more than a makeshift suitcase, a pair of bagpipes, and proof of his health, to pursue a career in acting. He settled in Dover, New Hampshire. After a brief period as an actor, Tommy Makem went on to join a band of Irish descent, The Clancy Brothers, where he rose to international fame.

Tommy broke out on his own following his time with The Clancy Brothers and educated

generations on the history, traditions, and customs of Ireland through his music, art, and poetry. He wrote hundreds of songs, including, "Four Green Fields," "Gentle Annie," and "The Rambles of Spring," which have been played in Carnegie Hall, Madison Square Garden, Royal Albert Hall and across the United States, Canada, and Australia.

Tommy Makem's illustrious career awarded him honorary doctorates from the University of New Hampshire in 1998, the University of Limerick in 2001, and the University of Ulster in 2007. He was regarded as an exceptional musician and achieved both gold and platinum albums, and a host of other awards, such as the Gold Medal of the Eire Society in Boston, the Genesis Award from Stonehill College in Massachusetts, an Emmy nomination for a New Hampshire public television series, as well as the first Lifetime Achievement Award in the Irish Voice/Aer Lingus Community Awards. Tommy, one of the greatest Irish-Americans of the 20th Century, was also listed as one of the top 100 Irish Americans in the Irish American Magazine 5 years in a row. The World Folk Music Association awarded him its Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999.

Tommy Makem passed away on Wednesday, August 1, 2007, in Dover, New Hampshire. He will be remembered not only for his incredible achievements, but as a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. His enduring memory and music will live on, as will the power and energy of his unyielding spirit. He remains a true inspiration to me and millions of others around the world.

TRIBUTE TO HUNTER EDISON STOLL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hunter Edison Stoll of Lee's Summit, Missouri. Hunter is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Unit 1255 and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Hunter has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Hunter has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Hunter Edison Stoll for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO COUNCILMAN WERNER SCHON

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Councilman Werner Schon and his service to the residents of Mountainside, New Jersey.

Councilman Schon is the longest serving councilman in Mountainside history, having served for 25 years, including 3 years as council president. He has also served as the town's fire commissioner, during which time he helped to acquire fire vehicles for his town. When the New Jersey Department of Transportation attempted to close a U-Turn on a local highway, Councilman Schon worked diligently to alert the Department about safety concerns connected with such a move, and he successfully prevented the closure.

Werner Schon is retiring from public service in Mountainside and will be honored at the town's reorganization meeting on January 2, 2008. I join the residents of Mountainside in wishing Councilman Schon many happy years of rest and relaxation with his family, and I am pleased to honor his service to Mountainside.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH K. JOHNSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph K. Johnson of Kearney, Missouri. Joseph is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Unit 1135, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph K. Johnson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS FOR LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF NON-EXCESS PROPERTY OF MILITARY DEPARTMENTS ACT"

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to take reasonable steps to prevent avoidable disasters related to seismic activity in connection with the lease and development of non-excess property of military departments, H.R. 4719.

In San Diego, California, the Department of the Navy is planning a mixed-use development along the downtown waterfront that will incorporate not only a new Navy headquarters, but also business, commercial, and housing elements. It has come to my attention that the land in question is within the Uniform Building Code, UBC, Seismic Zone 4.

My bill requires the lease for this development to be revoked unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that seismic activity would not have any significant impact on any

portion of the proposed development. My bill would also extend this requirement to other leases on which no substantial construction has already begun.

In my view, it is only reasonable to require a scientific review of this issue before construction begins. Please support H.R. 4719.

A TRIBUTE TO COLLEAGUE, PIONEER, AND DEAR FRIEND CONGRESSWOMAN JULIA CARSON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in reverence of the trailblazing life led by our colleague, Congresswoman JULIA CARSON, and to commemorate the myriad achievements attached to her name. She spent over 35 of her years—more than half of her life—as a spirited public servant, pushing her message of hope and equality in the Indiana legislature, and subsequently, the halls of Congress.

Her 1996 election from the Indianapolis district marked a litany of historic firsts: the first woman, the first African American from that area to serve in the House, and up until her passing, the only one in that delegation to fit that profile. Hers was a unique—strong, proud—voice, and the people of her district—the people of America—were all the better for it.

Known to all as “Miss Julia,” Congresswoman CARSON was raised in modest conditions and retained that modesty throughout. She was born to a single mother, a housekeeper, who instilled in her the core values that impelled her to always agitate for justice. Her convictions drove her to be a vehement critic of the Iraq invasion of 2003, and her respect for history led her to push for the conferring of a congressional gold medal to civil rights heroine Rosa Parks.

Representative CARSON, herself, was a heroine, and although her presence is infinitely missed, her aspirations for this great Nation will never leave us.

IN MEMORY OF CONGRESSWOMAN JULIA CARSON

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to mourn the loss of a friend, and celebrate the life of a dedicated public servant and exemplary American.

Congresswoman JULIA CARSON was a trailblazer and an inspiration to her colleagues here in the House of Representatives.

Before beginning her political career, Congresswoman CARSON raised two children as a single, working mother.

She first ventured into politics in the 1960's, when she went to work for then-Congressman Andrew Jacobs.

From then on she served as a State Representative, State Senator, City Trustee, and U.S. Representative.

Throughout her distinguished career, Congresswoman CARSON never forgot who she was or where she came from.

She served as a constant advocate for those in her community who had no voice.

Since first coming to Congress in 1999, I have had the extreme privilege of working with Congresswoman CARSON on a number of issues.

In particular, we worked together to champion the cause of minority and socially disadvantaged farmers—who have traditionally faced many discriminatory obstacles.

In all our work together, I was amazed by her passion and her simple dedication to doing the right thing.

Madam Speaker, Congresswoman CARSON will be deeply missed by her family, friends, constituents, and colleagues here in Congress.

But her actions have left a bold legacy of action that will continue in the lives of those she has touched.

TRIBUTE TO LATE CONGRESSWOMAN JULIA CARSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I recognize the life and passing of colleague Congresswoman JULIA CARSON of Indiana's 7th District. I have known this extraordinary person for a long time. She was a woman of principle who unabashedly championed the issues in which she believed. Her constituents and the Nation have lost a great legislator and an outstanding leader.

Congresswoman CARSON made history in 1996 by becoming the first woman and the first African-American Indianapolis has ever sent to Congress. And she came to Congress with one mission—to improve the lives of the people of her community. Even as she rose to a position of prominence in this body, she never forgot the people she was sent here to serve. She truly dedicated her career to them—and for that, earned the respect and gratitude of all Americans.

Since her days in the Indiana State Senate, Congresswoman CARSON has been committed to helping seniors live with independence and dignity as they age. Throughout her career, she has provided exceptional leadership and devoted service to America's senior citizens.

Congresswoman CARSON was also a strong proponent of civil rights movement, scaling the barriers imposed by poverty and sexism. She was a leader in advocating for voting rights, and worked diligently for the health and income needs of people experiencing homelessness and families at risk of homelessness. As a member of the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure, Congresswoman CARSON worked to address the most pressing needs of her constituents and this Nation.

In the 108th Congress, Congresswoman CARSON was the sponsor of the largest Amtrak reauthorization bill, the National Defense Rail Act, which provided the rail passenger system with over \$40 billion in funds to develop high-speed rail corridors and aid in the develop-

ment of short distance corridors between large urban centers.

Madam Speaker, Indiana has lost a powerful legislator. The Nation has lost a great leader. The Congress will mourn JULIA CARSON for her enormous intellectual ability and her huge heart. I will miss an irreplaceable colleague and friend.

And yet, I know that while her loss will be deeply felt, the memory of her kindness and the recollection of her good deeds will transcend into future generations.

HONORING JANET MYERS

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Janet Myers on her retirement after decades of dedicated service to her community.

Twenty four years ago, Janet Myers was elected to the Pennel Borough Council in Bucks County Pennsylvania. While on the council, Mrs. Myers served her community on the police, finance, building and maintenance and streets committees. Her leadership and activism after more than two dozen years will be missed.

Fourteen years ago, Mrs. Myers was one of the founders of the Pennel Activities Committee, which organizes a number of community events each year. Some of the community events include annual festivals, such as the Holiday Tree Lighting Program on the first Saturday in December, the Pennel Holiday Decorating Contest, the Easter egg hunt, a senior's birthday dinner and the Halloween parade. Mrs. Myers shaped the Pennel community with wonderful festivities every year and continued to make an impact even after she left the Activities Committee.

Madam Speaker, we are proud to have Mrs. Myers as a leader in our community and with her retirement, she leaves behind legacy that many will try to follow. Her devotion, selflessness, and commitment to the residents of Pennel Borough in Bucks County, Pennsylvania is unwavering. I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Mrs. Myers for improving the lives of so many and as we, in Bucks County, wish her well for the future.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL BRINTON G. MARSDEN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Colonel Brinton G. Marsden. Colonel Brinton was born in Desoto, Missouri to Cornelius “Roy” Marsden and Hazel K. Marsden in July 1928. His father was a WWI veteran, Sergeant First Class, USMC, who fought in France. In 1939, Colonel Marsden's family moved to Los Angeles, CA and settled in Westwood.

He attended the University of Southern California (USC). During his studies there, he enrolled in the Air Force ROTC program, and