

"Amazing Grace," as she was nicknamed by former Tampa Congressman Sam Gibbons, was born in North Dakota in 1908. She attended the University of South Dakota and the University of Minnesota, where she graduated with degrees in English and Secondary Education. After graduation, Allen taught high school English and secondary education.

She met her husband, John Allen at the University of Minnesota, and they married in 1933. The couple moved to Gainesville, Florida in 1948, where her husband was appointed President of the University of Florida, and from 1954 to 1955, Grace served as the University of Florida's interim First Lady.

In 1957, John was named as the first president of a yet unnamed and newly established university in Tampa. Grace and her husband moved to Tampa, where they would remain for the rest of their lives. As classes weren't scheduled to start until 1960, the Allens themselves, shaped what would later be known as the University of South Florida.

The summer before the University opened its doors, "Amazing Grace" invited all of USF's wives and female staff members to her home. With this group of women, she established the USF Women's Club, which remains active on campus today as a social, cultural, and philanthropic organization. In 1994, the USF Women's Club endowed the Grace Allen Scholarship, and within the first ten years of being established, it awarded 119 full tuition scholarships for excellence in academics, leadership, and service.

Another endowed fund of the USF Women's Club was given to the University in Mrs. Allen's name to provide funds to the university's library.

The Allens were one of the first families to live in the Tampa neighborhood of Carrollwood, where Grace also made her mark. She started a tradition where residents set luminaries outside of their homes on Christmas Eve. Pilots have been known to divert their planes over the neighborhood to see the lights each year.

When John retired from the University in 1970, the Board of Regents named USF's administration building after John and Grace in recognition of their lasting contributions to the university community. In 1996, USF awarded Grace the honorary degree of Doctorate of Humane Letters.

Until her death on December 16, 2007 at the age of 99, Grace remained an active member of and advocate for the University of South Florida's community. She is remembered as a powerful spokesperson for academic excellence, and as a caring, spirited woman by the countless friends, staff members and students whose lives she touched.

The Tampa community honors the life of Grace Allen for her outstanding contributions to the University of South Florida and the Tampa Bay area. Her life serves as an inspiration and will continue to influence the lives of people in our community for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I

had been present, I would have voted as follows:

December 17, 2007: Rollcall vote 1163, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution—H. Res. 856, expressing heartfelt sympathy for the victims and families of the shootings in Omaha, Nebraska, on Wednesday, December 5, 2007—I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 1164, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution—H. Res. 851, honoring local and state first responders, and the citizens of the Pacific Northwest in facing the severe winter storm of December 2 and 3, 2007—I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 1165, on ordering the previous question—H. Res. 873, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 1166, on agreeing to the resolution—H. Res. 873, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 1167, on agreeing to the resolution—H. Con. Res. 271, providing for the sine die adjournment of the first session of the 110th Congress—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 1168, on ordering the previous question—H. Res. 878, providing for the consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 1169, on agreeing to the resolution—H. Res. 878, providing for the consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes—I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 1170, on motion to suspend the rules and pass—H.R. 4286, to award a congressional gold medal to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her courageous and unwavering commitment to peace, non-violence, human rights, and democracy in Burma—I would have voted "aye."

IN RECOGNITION OF JIMMY BRISTOW

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize James E. "Jimmy" Bristow of West Columbia, South Carolina for his many years of public service to the people of South Carolina and the country, and congratulate him on a successful year of leadership as President of Ruritan National.

Ruritan National is a national civic organization made up of 33,000 members with 1,178 clubs in 25 States. Since its founding in 1928, Ruritan has built a strong reputation as one of our Nation's leading community service organizations. Under the excellent leadership of Mr. Bristow, Ruritan has continued to grow

and make a substantial and positive impact in the community.

Mr. Bristow is a graduate of The Citadel with 31 years of experience working with community businesses. He now serves as vice president and resident construction lender for Security Federal Bank. In addition to his work with local businesses, Mr. Bristow is a life-long member of the Mount Hebron United Methodist Church where he has taught Sunday school for 22 years. Over the last decade, he has served as Scoutmaster for Troop 331 of the Indian Waters Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

For his years of public service, Mr. Bristow has received numerous honors and recognitions including the Order of the Silver Crescent from South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford—the State's highest honor given for volunteer and community service.

I am grateful for Mr. Bristow's service to his community. I want to recognize and thank his wife Fran and their three sons—Jeremy, Andrew, and Ryan—for their years of support, and wish them many more years of happiness.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1413

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1413, which would create a pilot program testing the effectiveness of physically screening 100 percent of airport workers with access to secure and sterile areas at seven airports across the country.

I want to thank Homeland Security Chairman BENNIE THOMPSON, Ranking Member PETER KING, Representative GINNY BROWN-WAITE and the other members of the Homeland Security Committee for their support of this legislation. I also want to thank Rosaline Cohen, Michael Stroud and Matt Washington from the majority staff of the committee, Coley O'Brien and Jennifer Arangio from the minority staff, and Justin Wein from my staff.

Meticulously screening passengers but giving workers open access is like installing an expensive home security system but leaving your back door wide open.

In 2001, Congress recognized that while we were investing significant resources in screening passengers and their baggage, we needed to close the backdoor of airports as well. That's why we passed the Aviation and Transportation Security Act which required the Transportation Security Agency to screen all airport workers.

Yet, nearly six years after September 11th and passage of legislation requiring the physical screening of all airport workers, astonishingly TSA has failed to implement this basic policy or set a deadline for doing so.

At Heathrow Airport, the busiest international airport in the world, 100% of workers are screened, yet TSA refuses to acknowledge the national security benefits of following the same procedures here at home.

We know there is criminal activity taking place at some of our airports. Just this year alone, there have been frightening security breaches at Orlando International Airport, the arrest of a former airport worker as part of a

terrorist plot involving John F. Kennedy Airport in New York, a gaping lapse in security in Phoenix, and the arrest of illegal immigrants working at Chicago's O'Hare Airport with expired and false security badges.

And if there is criminal activity, certainly we should be considering the possibility of terrorist activity taking place. We cannot wait for the next security breach to occur for us to take action.

H.R. 1413 attempts to deal with the very real and serious threats that face commercial aviation today. By passing this legislation and appropriating funds to implement it—which are included in the FY08 Homeland Security Appropriations bill—we are acting on the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission to prevent and protect against any possible insider threats.

I know some in labor and industry favor the use of alternative methods and technologies, such as biometrics to increase security at our airports. I am not opposed to biometric technology; however, those technologies do not exist for full implementation today in the aviation sector, and as we have seen with the TWIC card, the delays could last years in rolling out this measure across aviation.

This legislation is not aimed at any specific group of workers, the vast majority of whom are hard-working, law-abiding citizens. Instead it is a bipartisan approach to measure the feasibility and effectiveness of closing this loophole in our airport security.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1413, and I yield back the balance of my time.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY IURILLI

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Anthony Iurilli, who passed away on Sunday, November 25, 2007 at age 38 after a long battle with multiple sclerosis.

Mr. Iurilli, known as Tony, exemplified the ideals that many of us aspire to: commitment to education, a love of community service, and devotion to his family and friends.

Tony was blessed with extraordinary athletic talent. He was a 1986 graduate of St. Raymond High School for Boys in the Bronx, where he lettered in both baseball and basketball. In his senior year, he was named to the All-City Baseball Team by three New York metropolitan newspapers—Newsday, the NY Daily News and the NY Post, and he was awarded a New York Yankees Scholarship to Pace University. There, he was the starting shortstop on the baseball team for four years, graduating in 1990 with a solid B average.

Tony's priorities were faith, family, school, and community. After college, he worked as Director of Recreation for HIV/AIDS patients at Bronx Lebanon Hospital, and he taught American history, health, and physical education at St. Helena's elementary school in the Bronx. He then returned to his alma mater, St. Ray's, to teach American history and health education, and to foster the athletic abilities of students who followed in his path. He coached the school's varsity and junior varsity bowling teams, and he served as the head junior var-

sity baseball coach and the assistant varsity baseball coach. As JV basketball coach, he led the St. Raymond's Ravens to Catholic High School All-City championships in 2003 and 2005.

While at St. Raymond, Tony was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a disease that may have crippled his body, but never his mind or spirit. Last summer, he served as best man at his beloved brother Frank's wedding in New York before moving to Florida for medical treatment. He returned to St. Ray's to be honored by faculty, alumni, and friends at a benefit dinner in mid-October.

Madam Speaker, this is a difficult time for all those who knew and loved Tony Iurilli. It is my hope that they will be strengthened by the memory of his selflessness, his bright smile, and his wonderful spirit.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tony's all too brief, but wonderful life of commitment and community service.

RECOGNIZING TYLER EVAN ARTHUR FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Evan Arthur, 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, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Tyler 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 Tyler Arthur for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE WALTON COUNTY 2007 OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend congratulations to the Kenneth Pridgen family for being selected the Walton County 2007 Outstanding Farm Family of the Year. More than one generation of involvement in agriculture has led this farm family to serve as a model of stewardship to society through a vitally important industry.

The Pridgen family is more than deserving of this year's award. Kenneth's father was himself raised working in agriculture, and he passed on the significance of their industry to his son, who in turn has involved his family in this work. Kenneth and his family recognize

the contribution that agriculture makes to all of society, including putting food on the tables of families throughout the entire country.

Every year, the North Florida Fair Association honors farm families in counties throughout North Florida that display leadership through farming techniques and agricultural production. The Farm Family of the Year award conveys the importance of farm families' contributions to some of society's largest needs including food, clothing, and building supplies. Recognition of their work, as conveyed by this award, encourages others in the community to become involved and support local agriculture as well.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere commendation to a family that is a role model for all of us. A deep sense of civic contribution and values has been instilled in all of the Kenneth Pridgen family. It is my hope that this family tradition continues for many future generations.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN MEDICARE MARKETING ACT OF 2007

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I am proud today to introduce the Accountability and Transparency in Medicare Marketing Act of 2007. This legislation will serve as a companion bill to S. 1883, introduced in the Senate by Mr. HERB KOHL.

With recent reports from the Government Accountability Office addressing the failure of CMS to audit Medicare Advantage providers along with recent reports of marketing abuses and fraudulent practices aimed at seniors, this legislation is timely and imperative.

We have heard reports that many Medicare providers seek to mislead seniors for private financial gain. In fact, seniors are frequently confronted with such practices as cold calling, misleading sales pitches to purchase unnecessary products, or being pushed to enroll in private Medicare Advantage programs that are not within their best interests.

WellCare Health Plans, which is headquartered in my hometown of Tampa, was raided by the FBI in October for suspected fraudulent practices. WellCare is among the largest national providers of Medicare and Medicaid managed care plans with 2.3 million members nationwide.

Three quarters of states have reported complaints about inappropriate or confusing marketing practices which lead Medicare beneficiaries to enroll in private plans without adequately understanding the consequences of their decision or that Medicare Advantage is optional.

Some seniors have lost access to their regular doctors after signing up for a private plan that their doctor does not accept. However, when sold the plan, the private company assured that this would not occur.

Frighteningly, some providers have been accused of selling to seniors with dementia and using scare tactics to force beneficiaries to enroll. Others have been offered cash incentives for enrolling.