

He grew up in Rocky Mount, graduated from what was then Rocky Mount Senior High in 1954 and moved on to Wake Forest University. He graduated from law school in 1961 and returned to Rocky Mount to work as an attorney. He then worked as assistant clerk of court for about 18 months before he opened his own law firm. In those days there were no district attorneys, so he ran successfully for prosecuting attorney for Nash County.

In 1971, he was elected to the City Council. At age 37, two years later, he was elected Rocky Mount's youngest mayor.

In December, Mayor Turnage turned over the gavel and the city had its first new mayor in 34 years. Mayor Turnage, and his wife, Norma, have been strong and steady leaders for their community, and they have succeeded in making their community a better place for everyone there.

Please join me in recognizing the great accomplishments of Rocky Mount's mayor, Fred Turnage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on December 18, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for rollcall No. 1174–1182, had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 1174, “yes”—Providing for the consideration of the Senate Amendment to the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 6. Energy Independence and Security Act.

Rollcall No. 1175, “yes”—Providing for the consideration of the Senate Amendment to the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 6. Energy Independence and Security Act.

Rollcall No. 1176, “yes”—Veterans Guaranteed Bonus Act.

Rollcall No. 1177, “yes”—Energy Independence and Security Act.

Rollcall No. 1178, “yes”—Terrorism Risk Insurance Revision and Extension Act.

Rollcall No. 1179, “yes”—Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act.

Rollcall No. 1180, “yes”—Expressing the unconditional support of the House of Representatives for the members of the National Guard.

Rollcall No. 1181, “yes”—Providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate Amendments to H.R. 3997, with an amendment.

Rollcall No. 1182, “yes”—U.S. Capitol Police and Library of Congress Police Merger Implementation Act of 2007.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
PANPAPHIAN ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA ON THE OCCASION OF
ITS ANNUAL DINNER-DANCE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the

PanPaphian Association of America for its tremendous contributions to our cultural and civic life. Founded two decades ago by Hellenic Cypriot Americans of Paphian ancestry, the Association has carried out its vital educational and humanitarian mission while helping promote peace and understanding on the occupied island of Cyprus.

The PanPaphian Association of American is holding its annual dinner-dance this month, at which its members will honor Mr. Nikos Tziatzas with the Evagoras Pallikarides Award. Born in Paphos, Mr. Tziatzas immigrated to the United States in 1979 after graduating from high school and serving more than two years in the Cypriot National Guard as an artillery officer. While in college, he became an active member of the Zenon Association; general secretary and a member of the soccer team at the Eleftheria Football Club; and an active member of the Cypriot Students Association. After graduating from St. Francis College with a degree in management and finance in 1986, Nikos Tziatzas started his first company, National Mortgage Finders, and simultaneously began coaching soccer at the Eleftheria Pancyprian Youth association. In 2006, he became president of its soccer club. Under his leadership, the club became one of the largest and most successful in the Cosmopolitan Junior Soccer League and in the community of persons of Hellenic descent. In 2005 he served as president of the Panpaphian Association. Currently Nikos Tziatzas is president of Lyons General Insurance Agency, and remains active in youth activities as president of the Eleftheria Pancyprian Youth Soccer Club. He is a devoted to his wife, Kalina, and his children, Kristothea and Nicholas.

The PanPaphian Association is bestowing its Distinguished Fellow Cyprian Award on Despina Axiotakis. She was born in Asgata, Limassol on Cyprus, where her father, Kyriacos Ioannou, was well known as the “Palikari” for exhibiting tremendous feats of strength. With her family, she immigrated here in 1956. After her education at the Traphagen School of Fashion, she entered the business world and today serves as president of Axiocom Productions, a firm specializing in public relations.

Despina Axiotakis became active in the political arena, serving the presidential campaigns of Governors Michael Dukakis and Bill Clinton. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Greek Children's Fund and the Church of the Assumption in Windham, New York. While serving as president of the Asgata Association Cyprus Woman's Division, she founded the Asgata Youth and Dance Division that included teaching the group Hellenic and Cypriot dances. In addition, she was the editor of the “Asgata Newsletter” for more than eight years. She serves as general secretary of the Cyprus Federation of America, a position she has held for more than 15 years. At the same time she has served as executive director of the Cyprus United States Chamber of Commerce. Despina is devoted to her husband, John, their 2 children, Lucas and Irene, and their 5 grandchildren.

The PanPaphian Association is honoring as its “Member of the Year” Mr. Michael Ioannou Michaels. Born in Kalavassos, Cyprus, he immigrated to the United States at the age of 21 and began working on ships as a welder. Mr. Michaels eventually started his own construction company. Although he adopted the United

States as his new home, he never lost the connection with his native country, and became involved in several organizations such as the Cyprus Federation of America, the PanPaphian Association, and Kalavassos Fraternity, which he serves as acting president, and also participates in the Pancyprian soccer team and the Cyprian dance group. One of his most noteworthy contributions to civic life is his generous and selfless devotion to the Rachel Cooper Foundation, which enables children with congenital heart disease from Cyprus and other countries to be flown to the U.S. for urgent medical care. Although he recently lost his beloved wife Olympia, Mr. Michaels remains devoted to her memory and to his daughter, Martha, and her husband, Andy.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise to join me in paying tribute to the PanPaphian Association of America and all its good works.

HONORING THE WEST GENESEE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the West Genesee High School Football Team, 2007 Class AA New York State Football Champions. The West Genesee Wildcats defeated Monroe-Woodbury Crusader by a score of 42–21, earning West Genesee High School's first state football championship title.

On behalf of the people of New York's 25th Congressional District, I congratulate these young men on their outstanding athletic achievement and praise head coach Steve Bush, and Assistant Coaches Joe Corley, John Lawrence, Tim Lane, Corey Brooks, and Dana Eells on their team's success. I look forward to another exciting year when the Wildcats take the field to defend their title in 2008.

Joe Kesler, Dave Hildman, Matt McCabe, Joe Fazio, Ryan McConnell, George Eunice, Jim Marks, James Grecco, Nick Aiken, Tim Moran, Jeremy Jones, Kyle Nojaim, Nick Collins, Pat Shanley, Mike Carter, Jeremy Connors, Tim Town, Mike Simiele, Yaw Awuah, Mike Mercer, Ben Waldron, Sirron Wright, Mike Delaney, Marcus Armstrong, Josh Cruz, Tom Flynn, Will Furdyn, AJ Reese, Scott Erikson, Nate Wells, Rich Longo, Mark Ferguson, Nick Pedrotti, Christos Dimkos, Mike Gagnon, Nick Cammuso, Nick Rinaldi, Kevin Heron, Stefan Cavedine, Mike Severance, John Gacek, Vinny Lananna, Ossamia Mere, Craig Simmons, Ben Wysokowski, Stephen Pooler, Tony Pedrotti, Doug Ayer, Jake Fietkiewicz, Dan Kolinski, Jeff Mancuso, Kevin Petrick, Luke Cometti

THE NATIONAL DIABETES COORDINATOR ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, yesterday I introduced The National Diabetes Coordinator

Act, H.R. 4836. As some of my colleagues who have worked on issues relating to diabetes may be aware, the Federal Government spends over \$80 billion per year treating diabetes and its complications.

Since 1980, the number of Americans suffering from diabetes has doubled to more than 20 million, and that number is projected to double again by 2025.

The serious complications stemming from diabetes—including heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, blindness, amputation and renal disease—are well documented and even more importantly, they are largely preventable with proper management and treatment.

To that end, H.R. 4836 would establish a National Diabetes Coordinator to coordinate research and prevention activities throughout the federal government, including agencies such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

We need this kind of comprehensive approach to get our hands around what is rapidly becoming an all-encompassing epidemic. A recent study found that one out of every eight Federal health care dollars is spent treating people with diabetes. The total amount of money spent on diabetes is nearly equal to the entire budget for the U.S. Department of Education, roughly \$80 billion.

While we expend vast resources on this effort, of that \$80 billion, less than 1 percent is spent on direct diabetes prevention. When you also consider that 18 of 21 Federal agencies spend money on diabetes, there is a clear need for a National Coordinator to establish a strategy to prevent and reduce diabetes and its complications.

We have seen evidence that this approach can work. A recent Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, AHRQ, study demonstrated that Medicare and Medicaid could save \$2.5 billion a year by presenting diabetes and its complications with appropriate primary care. The city of Asheville, North Carolina saved \$2,000 per employee with an innovative diabetes management program. The NIH-sponsored Diabetes Prevention Project proved that we can prevent and delay diabetes and its complications by 58 percent.

A National Diabetes Coordinator will provide the Federal leadership necessary to maximize the funds the Federal Government is currently spending to save money and lives. Further, a National Diabetes Coordinator with specific responsibilities to work across agencies to prevent and reduce diabetes and its complications will be a model for how the U.S. can deal with other chronic diseases such as heart disease.

As we consider how to move forward in the fight against diabetes, I encourage my colleagues to think of these statistics: one in three kids born today will get diabetes, and that figure rises to one in two in minorities. Further, 32 percent of the Medicare program is spent on the 18 percent of beneficiaries with diabetes. We need Federal leadership provided in H.R. 4836 to help reverse these trends and make a difference for future generations.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF CONGRESSWOMAN JULIA MAY CARSON

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to mourn the passing of Congresswoman JULIA MAY CARSON, a committed and valued voice for justice, who passed away on December 15, 2007. Congresswoman CARSON was born on July 8, 1938 in Louisville, Kentucky. She grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana where she would lead a remarkable life committed to justice for all. Congresswoman CARSON was loved by many for her effervescent personality and fighting spirit. She served her constituents of the 7th Congressional District of Indiana for 6 terms in the United States House of Representatives. She was the first African-American and woman elected to serve Indianapolis in Congress.

In her youth, Ms. CARSON overcame obstacles created by race, gender and poverty as the child of a single teenage mother. She attended and graduated from Crispus Attucks High School in 1955, a deeply segregated school in Indianapolis. However, her battles with injustice motivated her to pursue degrees in higher education at Martin University and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Her career in public service began in 1965, when she was hired as a staff assistant and aide to Congressman Andrew Jacobs, Jr., her mentor and predecessor in the 7th District of Indiana. She worked diligently on casework and other important legislative matters until 1972, when she ran and won a seat in the Indiana State House of Representatives. She served in the Indiana State House from 1972–1976 and in the Indiana State Senate from 1976–1990. In 1990, she was elected as a trustee for Center Township in downtown Indianapolis. As trustee, she was a just leader and a voice for reform. Her thoroughness and fiscal responsibility helped her manage the welfare rolls by providing assistance to those that needed it and removing those that did not. As a result, she transformed the office's \$20 million debt into a \$6 million surplus. She served as trustee for 6 years prior to her election to Congress.

In 1996, after a competitive campaign, Congresswoman CARSON replaced her mentor and predecessor Andrew Jacobs, Jr., as the representative for Indiana's 7th District. On January 3, 1997, she missed her congressional inauguration due to health problems. Her congressional tenure was replete with obstacles from failing health to closely competitive campaigns, but her tenacity and love for her district would not let anything impede her sincere dedication to her constituents. She never stopped caring for her district and she never lost a race. One of her most notable achievements in the House was passing a measure awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Rosa Parks. Another milestone accomplishment was a bill she cosponsored with Senator RICHARD LUGAR to remove blocks on child health insurance created by government agencies. She always sponsored legislation that helped the poor and homeless, veterans, and faithful American taxpayers. She served on

the House Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Her 10 years in the House were a testament of perseverance, devotion and inexhaustible compassion.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to commend the life and mourn the passing of Congresswoman JULIA CARSON.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND LEARY E. BONNETT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Leary E. Bonnett. Reverend Bonnett, a native of Guyana, completed the General Certificate of Education and high school examinations through the University of London before migrating to the United States.

Reverend Bonnett earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics from Queens College of the City University of New York. He went on to pursue a Master of Arts Degree in Human Resources Development from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri as well as a Master of Divinity Degree from New York Theological Seminary. Reverend Bonnett is currently completing work towards a Doctor of Ministry Degree at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, specializing in spirituality and leadership for the 21st century.

Reverend Bonnett enlisted in the U.S. Army after college in order to fulfill a deferred draft commitment granted to full-time students during the Vietnam War. He attended Officers Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. After 13 years of distinguished military service, he separated from active duty with rank of Major. His military decorations include the U.S. Army Good Conduct Medal; the U.S. Army Achievement Medal; and the U.S. Army Commendation Medal.

Reverend Bonnett is the former Executive Director of a parochial day school in the Rockaway section of Queens. While there he streamlined the curriculum to meet New York State standards. In addition, Reverend Bonnett served with the Salvation Army providing therapeutic crisis intervention to at-risk youths. After the attacks of September 11, 2001, he joined a team of family support specialists with the American Red Cross to providing benefits and support to family members who lost loved ones or were injured in the terrorist attack.

Reverend Bonnett is currently the Director of Christian Education at the Berean Missionary Baptist Church in Brooklyn. He is the Founder and Executive Director of Silence The Guns, an educational organization dedicated to eliminating handgun usage among America's children. He is also the author of two books; *Failure is Not the Problem*; and *Joy Cometh in the Morning*.

Reverend Bonnett resides in Brooklyn with his wife, Dr. Terry Jan Blackett-Bonnet. He has three children, Kimbia, Amilcar and Haron.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Reverend Bonnett's selfless contributions and his works as a mentor to the children of Brooklyn.