

Pearl Harbor where she made the ultimate sacrifice for her country. It has been 66 years and it is time we acted to fully honor the courageous women who are bestowed with the Purple Heart. Let us honor the memory of First Lieutenant Fox and the countless other women who have made unimaginable sacrifices for all of us by voting yes on H.R. 1119.

HONORING 2007 TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the three members of the Tuskegee Airmen from my home district: Morris Washington, Alvin LaRue, Julius Calloway. Sixty-five years ago, legally mandated bigotry permeated every aspect of civilian life. Opportunities for a Black man or woman were few, for the most superficial of reasons: the color of their skin. Still, when Congress demanded the formation of an all Black Army Air Corps unit in March of 1941, hundreds signed up for the 99th Pursuit Squadron to defend the country that oppressed them.

These brave men became the Tuskegee Airmen, and they did more than merely enlist. Ten months later, America found itself in the thralls of the Second World War. But despite showing remarkable aptitude—96 was the lowest score among all their flight tests—a deep sense of racism blinded their commanders to the proper and necessary action, and the Airmen were initially left out of combat. But as the conflict wore on, necessity sent these dedicated and capable men of valor into the skies where they deftly completed mission after mission, giving America a vital thrust in our efforts to defeat the Axis powers.

In their legendary P-51 Mustangs, the Tuskegee Airmen astonished their doubters by prevailing against the Nazis who frequently outnumbered them. Soon, the Airmen were known for the prowess rather than their race and inspired a legend that they had never lost a single man to enemy fire.

By the end of the war, they had flown more than 15,000 sorties on 1,500 missions and were awarded two Presidential Unit Citations, 744 Air Medals, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, several Bronze and Silver Stars, and most recently a Congressional Gold Medal.

Though officially recognized for their heroic accomplishments, the Airmen returned home to a nation still paralyzed by racial hatred and two more decades of legalized segregation.

Every citizen who enjoys the freedom that America offers owes a debt to these courageous men who, rather than seek revenge, chose to look past their own oppression and see the potential of their Nation's greatness. We are ashamed of the treatment they received and hope to follow their example, building a society where racial bigotry can be found only in the annals of our history books.

I am proud that three of these heroes, Morris Washington, Alvin LaRue, and Julius Calloway, still call my district of Louisville, KY, home. I am honored to represent them and hope that you will all join me in giving them the recognition they deserve.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARO

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize horse racing's most inspirational figure, Barbaro. In his short-lived life, Barbaro quickly became one of the sport's most respected and beloved champions. Foaled on April 29, 2003, this American thoroughbred racehorse warmed his way into the hearts of many Americans with his success on the track and his courage through injury.

Barbaro knew nothing but success in his racing career, winning his first six races and earning winnings of over \$2 million. Yet despite his undefeated record through his first five starts, his achievements went largely unnoticed until May 6, 2006. On that day, his victory at the Kentucky Derby earned him the respect of horse racing fans nationwide. Barbaro entered the race with odds of 6 to 1. After stumbling at the start, Barbaro moved easily to the front when the leading horses tired at the five-sixteenths pole and he glided through the stretch to win in a fast time of 2 minutes, 1.36 seconds. Barbaro's final quarter-mile run of 24 and one fifth seconds was the fastest since Secretariat's in 1973, and his victory margin of 6½ lengths was the longest since Triple Crown winner Assault won the Derby by eight in 1946. As the crowd celebrated and looked on the horse with amazement, jockey Edgar Prado rode Barbaro into the winner's circle, pumping his fists at 108,065 cheering fans, the second largest crowd in Derby history.

A new hero had been born as Barbaro became just the sixth undefeated winner in the Derby's 132 year history. His impressive performance under the Twin Spires at Churchill Downs inspired diehard racing fans and casual observers alike. Heading into The Preakness as the heavy favorite, Barbaro was thought by many to have the best chance of becoming the first Triple Crown winner since 1978.

As fate would have it, Barbaro was unable to finish the race due to what would become a fatal injury. Barbaro shocked spectators by breaking through the starting gate just before the race began. After being reloaded, he tore away from the gate, determined not to let his previous jumpstart stand in the way of victory. But just seconds into the race, Barbaro broke down in his right hind leg and was prudently pulled up by Prado. Barbaro fans would soon learn that he had fractured three bones in and around the ankle of his right hind leg, making it impossible for him to race ever again.

Nevertheless, Barbaro's terrifying breakdown on national television would not be his legacy. Instead, the story of this great horse became a tale of unyielding love and determination that captured the attention of millions across the country. The unprecedented level of care and advanced medical treatment offered by Barbaro's owners, Roy and Gretchen Jackson, and his medical team were displayed on network news shows and national magazines. Get-well cards and letters from around the world were sent to him throughout his struggle to recover.

Despite receiving the best possible care and an outpouring of public affection, Barbaro's eight month battle for life was characterized by

significant progress followed by substantial setbacks. On January 29, 2007, Roy and Gretchen Jackson came to the conclusion with Barbaro's veterinarian, Dr. Dean W. Richardson, that Barbaro was in too much pain and that it was no longer possible for Barbaro to make the miracle recovery everyone was hoping for.

Barbaro's fight for life demonstrated unique courage and remarkable spirit that captured the hearts of America. Millions of people embraced this amazing racehorse, followed his struggle, and waited for his miracle recovery. We all hoped and prayed for a happy ending to this fairy tale story but there would be no such ending.

Barbaro's story is one of great perseverance and great integrity that was shown day in and day out by him, his owners, and his caregivers. Barbaro proved that greatness is not only achieved on the racetrack but through a willingness and determination to overcome all obstacles life may present. This son of Dynaformer out of Carson City mare La Ville Rouge gave us a lifetime of memories to be proud of, and he will be remembered in the annals of horse racing for all of history.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF WAYNE PEACOCK

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the retirement of Wayne Peacock. Over the last three decades, Mr. Peacock dedicated his work to local government in my district in northwest Florida.

After growing up in Pensacola and graduating from Pensacola High School, Wayne joined the United States Marine Corps. This devotion to country and desire to serve and help others would be a resonating theme throughout the rest of his life. After 4 years in the corps, he went back to college and received a bachelor of science degree at the University of West Florida.

Mr. Peacock's first job out of college was a teacher, which helped fine tune his ability to guide and inspire other people. Over the next 3 years, he worked as a counselor with several different programs under the Community Action Program. These programs were set up to help people of different ages who were unemployed or disadvantaged to join the workforce and set employment goals.

Over the next several years, Wayne continued his dedicated service to the community. He moved up within the Community Action Program becoming responsible for its overall curriculum, as well as serving as liaison to local educational institutions, ensuring compliance with Federal regulations, and maintaining the program's success.

By 1977, Wayne Peacock had already made a tremendous impact on thousands of lives as he helped people get back on their feet and join the American workforce. With his energy still full as ever and as others recognized his knowledge of community-based programs, he became an interagency coordinator for all of Escambia County—a position which coordinated all social service programs involving local, State, and Federal agencies. Wayne

handled this increased responsibility with ease and soon he became the director of the Community Services Department. During his 3 years time in this position, he saw the department's budget increase by nearly 20 percent and successfully supervised eight divisions within the department, administering programs to not only help the unemployed but also veterans and families.

Wayne's vast contribution to Escambia County and his ability to administer so many programs at once eventually resulted in being hired as the Assistant County Administrator. His supervision of nearly 800 employees was instrumental in the continued growth of a number of county programs—programs ranging from transportation to agriculture and healthcare to industrial services. It was only natural for him to become the County Administrator for the next 3 years. In this capacity, he reported directly to the Board of County Commissioners and also served as the Director of Emergency Management. Escambia County was in good hands with Wayne in this position—he knew the county inside and out. Even after 1991, as he became the Trial Court Administrator for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, a position he holds to this day, Wayne's work for this area has not stopped.

There is no question that Wayne was a civic leader for northwest Florida who set the bar high for those who followed. His leadership and knowledge has left Escambia County a better place, and his service to those in his community will be missed. I remain confident that Wayne's input will still play a great role for local leaders.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great admiration that I recognize the retirement of Mr. Wayne Peacock. May his years ahead be filled with joy, and may they shine with good health and happiness.

HONORING THE BUCKS COUNTY WOMEN'S FUND

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise before you today in recognition of the Bucks County Women's Fund.

For sixteen years the Bucks County Women's Fund has provided more than \$200,000 to 36 local organizations to support programming in the critical areas of domestic violence prevention, economic self-sufficiency, vocational education, finance, leadership, mentorship and literacy. The Fund has opened countless doors to the women and girls of Bucks County, recognizing their potential for success and presenting them with opportunities to achieve their dreams.

The Bucks County Women's Fund is a real source of inspiration to the citizens and organizations back home, and clearly demonstrates how much we all benefit from the advancement of women. The Fund leads by example: women manage the Fund, run its programs and promote policies for women's rights. It is also active in a global network of funds with common goals, working to ensure rights and opportunities for girls and women

all over the world. What started as a humble organization has now established an endowment, ensuring that it will continue as a pillar of our community for years to come.

Madam Speaker, the mission of the Fund has a special significance for me personally. My daughter Maggie was born three months ago, and I want to thank the Bucks County Women's Fund for building a better future for my little girl and all of the girls and women in our county. I offer my hearty congratulations as they prepare for "Creating Change, Transforming Lives," their 16th annual dinner celebration on March 8, 2007. Madam Speaker, on Maggie's behalf, I commend the Fund as it continues its good work for our wives, mothers, sisters, daughters and friends.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. THOMAS STEPHEN GLEASON, SR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of a good man, a proud American, and a fine member of the south Alabama community, Mr. Thomas Stephen Gleason, Sr., who passed away last month.

An excellent businessman and a true community leader, Mr. Gleason was loved by his family and friends and respected by his peers. South Alabama is truly a better place because of the life of Tommy.

A resident of Mobile since childhood, Mr. Gleason made many important contributions, professionally as well as personally, to the advancement of south Alabama. After graduating from McGill Institute and Spring Hill College, Mr. Gleason began what was an almost 50 year real estate career. At one time, he was even the youngest licensed realtor in the State of Alabama. In 1975, Tommy founded Gleason and Associates, which has been instrumental in transforming commercial real estate development in south Alabama. Gleason and Associates has been responsible for bringing many companies to south Alabama, including several of the district's leading employers.

Along with his significant professional success, Tommy led a highly involved civic life as well. Mr. Gleason was a member of the Jaycees, the Board of the Museum of Mobile, as well as St. Ignatius Parish. He was loved by many, and he loved life, particularly time spent golfing at the Country Club of Mobile, and fishing with the Mobile Big Game Fishing Club, where he served as board member.

Madam Speaker, Thomas Stephen Gleason, Sr., is survived by his wife of 45 years, Frances; a son, Thomas Stephen Gleason, Jr.; a daughter, Mary Gleason Geil; and 3 grandchildren. May his family know that they are in the thoughts and prayers of so many in South Alabama.

HONORING STEPHANIE DUNTON

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Stephanie Dunton from Winterport, a small town in central Maine.

Stephanie, a student at Samuel L. Wagner Middle School, was recently named one of the top two youth volunteers in Maine for the 12th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. This program is America's largest youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteerism.

Stephanie is a tireless young woman who has given her time and energy to help the less fortunate. Inspired by her sister's satisfaction from volunteering, Stephanie searched for her own community service project. Initially, she wanted to volunteer at her local food pantry, but was unable to do so since she attended classes during the pantry's hours of operations.

Stephanie instead went above and beyond, creating and conducting her own monthly food drive called the "Food Shuttle," which has collected more than one thousand pounds of donated food for a local pantry. Her dedication is truly extraordinary and deserves our sincere admiration and respect.

While numerous studies have shown that Americans today are less involved in their communities than before, it is essential that we support the kind of selfless contributions that people like Stephanie have made. She is an inspiring example to all of us, serving as one of our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

I join with her family, friends and community in congratulating Stephanie for this fine honor. The citizens of the State of Maine are extremely fortunate to have such a fine, young public servant.

TRIBUTE TO THE "FIGHTING LONGRACKS"

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to praise the courage, dedication, and selflessness of the following 116th Air Control Squadron volunteers.

The "Fighting Longracks" from Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon answered the call of service and stood up, so their active duty counterparts could temporarily stand down for the holidays.

From September 2006 through January 2007 the Oregon Air National Guard in association with citizen-aidmen from Air National Guard units from Hawaii, Ohio, Puerto Rico, and Wisconsin provided tactical command and control for all combat assets within Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, too often we stand here in this chamber to publicly acknowledge the contribution of our military and their families after a tragedy—we honor our fallen—and often forget the living, our veterans.

Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Olson, Lieutenant Colonel Jim Gregory, Major Paul Evans,