

financially to the scholarship program and the volunteers who also work tirelessly to ensure the success of this model scholarship awards program.

TRIBUTE TO AUTUMN NICOLE MITCHELL OF KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding young woman, Autumn Nicole Mitchell. Audi, as she is known to her friends and family, made a decision about 18 months ago to help support the Wigs 4 Kids cancer support network by growing her hair and then donating it to other children without hair of their own.

Wigs 4 Kids is a charitable organization that provides wigs and services to children who have lost their hair due to illness or disease. Wigs 4 Kids' main focus is on cancer patients, but also includes other young people who face similar challenges that cause hair loss, including: alopecia, trichotillomania, lupus, hydrocephalus, burns and other disorders. When donating their hair, young girls like Audi must go to special salons that know how the hair must be cut in order to be made into wigs for others.

Audi is a typical, healthy young girl who genuinely cares about her friends and neighbors. Hearing about the thousands of other children who lost their hair to cancer and other diseases, Audi decided on her own that she would grow out her hair so that she could donate it to Wigs 4 Kids. It takes an exceptional type of young person to recognize the needs of others, and then to take affirmative action to help them in their time of need.

Madam Speaker, I have seen the before and after photos of young Audi. Once her long, straight hair is made into a wig, I know that her beautiful hair will look great on another young child looking to regain some of their self-esteem following their hair loss. Audi is to be commended for her selfless act and for being an example to other children in her school and neighborhood. I know that her generosity will be appreciated by the Wigs 4 Kids program, and trust that this act of compassion will follow Audi throughout her life.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP ANGELO ROSARIO

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Bishop Angelo Rosario, of Bronx, NY. Bishop Rosario is being honored for his leadership and service to the community by the Committee for Effective Leadership and the New York State Democratic Committee. Bishop Angelo M. Rosario has been in pastoral ministry for the past 44 years and embarked on this path at the age of 18 while working with youth

at a storefront church in the South Bronx. His ministerial work was guided by the leadership of the late Rev. Clemente Repollet. Bishop Rosario was the youngest person to be ordained at the Assembly of Christian Churches and remained there for over 25 years. He studied and eventually taught at the A.I.C. Theological Institute and the Latin American Bible Institute.

Bishop Rosario and his wife, Rev. Nancy, founded and presently preside over Church of God's Children in the highly populated housing complex of Co-Op City in the Bronx. This institution presents a wide variety of year-round educational, spiritual and community-minded programs ranging from quality after-school care and pastoral counseling to job placement and health services. Bishop Rosario has organized many activities in the Co-Op City and Bronx Community, among them the Somalia Relief Fund, United Day of Prayer, Youth Day, and job and health fairs.

He is a co-chair of Community Board 10 in the Bronx and is the CEO of the Borough President's Bronx Clergy Task Force whose mission is to bring all faiths together to work for the betterment of the community through quality education health care and financial stability through the houses of worship and community organizations.

From the streets of South Bronx to the pulpit, Bishop Rosario has dedicated himself to helping the community. He is an advocate for community development according to biblical principles. He believes in one race—the human race.

Bishop Rosario and his wife share a family of 10 children and 22 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I join to wish Bishop Rosario best wishes and good fortune in his future projects.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 176, passage of H.R. 1284—Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2007, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

COMMENDING WEYERHAEUSER'S DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Weyerhaeuser Corporation and its wonderful community service in assisting in the relief efforts and the rebuilding of the gulf coast that was devastated by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. This outstanding company has gone well beyond the call of duty, truly exemplifying what community service is.

The Weyerhaeuser Company was incorporated in 1900, and is one the world's largest

integrated forest product companies, headquartered in Federal Way, Washington, employing over 49,000 people in 18 countries. In 2005, they recorded sales of \$22.6 billion, and the company manages more than 6.5 million acres of timberlands in nine States. I am pleased to note that 14 locations of the Weyerhaeuser Corporation are in Mississippi including several around the Second District.

In recognition of their outstanding community service and dedication to helping those who need it most, Weyerhaeuser Corporation has been recognized with the Ron Brown Award. This is the only Presidential award to honor companies "for their exemplary quality of their relationships with employees and communities." This award is presented to companies that have set forth strong initiatives to strengthen their employees and the community that surrounds them, as well as promote pioneering business initiatives. The Ron Brown Award was originally established by President Bill Clinton after the late Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown, who believed that "businesses do well by doing good." In my opinion, there is no better choice for this award than the Weyerhaeuser Company for its outstanding work and dedication to our country.

On November 29, 2006, chairman, president and CEO of Weyerhaeuser, Steve Rogel, accepted the Ron Brown Award from U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez at a ceremony at the White House. Mr. Rogel accepted the award and dedicated it to Weyerhaeuser's disaster relief coordinator, Katy Taylor, along with the partners and volunteers who attended the ceremony.

Also recognized in the White House ceremony was the North Carolina Baptist Builders, with whom Weyerhaeuser teamed up in the gulf coast relief efforts. The North Carolina Baptist Builders is a faith-based organization that set forth a large mission to rebuild 600 homes along the coast. To the credit of the Baptist Builders, the Weyerhaeuser Company recognized their "smoothly run rebuilding operation to keep projects moving." It is this kind of forward thinking and teamwork that makes the Weyerhaeuser Company so deserving of the Ron Brown Award.

I am honored to have such a wonderful and dedicated company that operates in Mississippi in places such as Magnolia, Philadelphia, and Richland. Weyerhaeuser Company has been operating in Mississippi since 1956 with approximately 1,700 employees and 776,000 acres of timberland.

The dedication of Weyerhaeuser to the community is astounding and sets a shining example to other businesses about the importance of community service and helping the less fortunate. To date, over 300 employees and retirees from across the United States and Canada have volunteered more than 42,000 hours of their time and helped rebuild 50 plus homes. Weyerhaeuser has a truly generous policy of allowing employees 2 to 4 weeks' paid leave to help volunteer in the rebuilding efforts of the gulf coast. Not only does it pay its employees while they are volunteering their time, but it also pays their way and their spouses' way for the rebuilding efforts. Now, over a year later, Weyerhaeuser employees are still participating in reconstruction efforts and have contributed a combined disaster relief to date totaling more than \$2.8 million. This is nothing short of extraordinary.

While I can only mention some of the accomplishments of Weyerhaeuser Company's contribution, it is the people of Weyerhaeuser have that truly made the difference to individuals, families and the community as a whole. As one family wrote in response to the help from Weyerhaeuser volunteers, "Because of all your efforts, we are home! Words cannot truly express the outpouring of love we have received. We are eternally grateful to our Weyerhaeuser family." This shows how the assistance of strangers can surely touch one's life and make their life better and give true meaning for caring in the community.

A sign of the high caliber of individuals Weyerhaeuser employs is some of the comments that went to the gulf coast to help. One man noted, "The days were long and hot, the work was intense, but the rewards were immeasurable. This has been an experience I won't soon forget." Another volunteer employee commented, "This experience was such a blessing. I got so much more from it than I felt I gave." Even Weyerhaeuser's retirees participated and one reflected of the occasion to assist those in need saying, "Having once more the opportunity to work side by side with other Weyerhaeuser employees and retirees made me realize anew why I enjoyed working for Weyerhaeuser so much. It's all about the people and the values the company ascribes to. Thanks again."

Testimonies such as these speak volumes of Weyerhaeuser Company and its dedication to its employees and others. It goes beyond helping those who are under its employment, but it extends a helping hand to strangers to make the world a better place to live.

I am pleased that Weyerhaeuser has had a long standing tradition in Mississippi and especially in the Second District. It is without question an admirable and outstanding company that lives up to the highest meaning of community service.

Weyerhaeuser's dedication to helping others is immeasurable and I cannot thank the company enough for the work they have done and continue to do. It is truly deserving of such a prestigious award, and I am delighted to see Weyerhaeuser's efforts have been recognized by the administration. The work of their employees and retirees shows that there is no one more deserving.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDEN AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Eden Area League of Women Voters celebrating their 50th Anniversary on April 13, 2007. The Eden Area League serves the communities of Castro Valley, Hayward, San Leandro and San Lorenzo, California.

The Hayward Area League joined with the San Leandro League in 1988 to become the Eden Area League of Women Voters.

The Hayward Area League of Women Voters was founded in 1957 by a group of Hayward, California women interested in non-partisan study of local and broader issues, and non-partisan voter education. The Hayward

Area League is an expression of the National League of Women Voters founded in 1920. The League is dedicated to enfranchising all voters, educating its members and the public on local, state and national issues, providing non-partisan public forums for candidate interviews and ballot measure discussions.

Members of the Eden Area League have devoted thousands of hours to their communities to improve voter knowledge of local, state and national issues. The members encourage community members to become involved with a special focus on educating voters on state ballot propositions, local issues and understanding governance structures.

The League, at all levels, has a well-deserved reputation for educating themselves and the public about critical public policy issues and events that shape our democratic process.

Over its 50 years of existence, the Eden Area League of Women Voters can point to a number of successful projects with pride. They have become an integral part of the cities they serve and provide an invaluable public service to our communities.

I express my heartiest congratulations to the Eden Area League of Women Voters on reaching a milestone 50th Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING MRS. CAROL AYER OF SPRING HILL, FLORIDA ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Carol Ayer, the outgoing director of the Nature Coast Festival Singers in Spring Hill, Florida. Carol has served the Singers for nearly 6 years with honor and distinction. Soon, she is leaving Florida to retire with her family in Wisconsin.

Carol Ayer has dedicated her life to music. After earning her degree in Music Education, Music Performance, and English Literature from Beloit Fine Arts College in Beloit, Wisconsin, Carol taught English and music to students of various ages throughout her career. First moving to Hernando county in 1990, Mrs. Ayer joined the alto section of the Nature Coast Festival Singers in 1996. The Singers were originally founded to sing The Messiah at Christmas pageants, but have since expanded to perform Christian music throughout the year.

Carol's late husband Peter served as director and conductor from 1998 until his tragic death in an airplane crash in 2001. Following his death, Carol was named the Director and Conductor of the Nature Coast Festival Singers, and during her tenure, the number of members increased every year, with nearly one hundred members performing in this spring's concert. As Conductor the musical emphasis on The Messiah maintained the sacred or classical nature of the Nature Coast Festival Music's charter.

The Nature Coast Festival Singers also established a scholarship in memory of Peter in thanks to Carol for her years of dedication. The group adds to this scholarship fund

through the generous offerings made at concerts. The singers fund three types of scholarships, two in conjunction with the Chocochatti Magnet School and the Brooksville Music Club, and one related to the members of the Nature Coast Festival Singers. These scholarships provide funds for the study of music to elementary age children, and high school and college students.

Madam Speaker, Carol Ayer's dedication to music and the community has served as an inspiration to thousands throughout Hernando County. It is clear from the attendance at local performances that Carol's love of music has been shared by many others. Carol is to be commended for her years of service, her commitment to the Lord, and for giving back to the community and its musically inclined children. Carol Ayer is a shining example of the good that serving Jesus Christ can bring to our friends and families, and she will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO YETTA G. KURLAND

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Yetta G. Kurland, of Bronx, NY. Ms. Kurland is being honored for her leadership and service to the community by the Committee for Effective Leadership and the New York State Democratic Committee. She has been an active proponent of civil rights in the New York City area for over a decade and is a lawyer who has dedicated her life to righting wrongs and truly creating a society based on "equal justice for all." The founder of her own law firm, Ms. Kurland has won some landmark victories, including those that deal with family child protections as well as a settlement against a major airline company for HIV discrimination.

She currently serves as Vice President for Communications for the Stonewall Democrats of New York City and chaired their First Annual Women's Event in June 2006. She has worked with many other organizations including the Gay Men's Chorus, Live Out Loud, and Gay Officers Action League and also sits on the executive committee of the National Lawyers Guild.

Ms. Kurland is involved in many legal associations, including the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Law Association of New York (LeGaL), the American Bar Association (ABA), the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA), the New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA), and the City Bar of New York. Additionally, she is the founder of Hello World Language Center, an alternative language and culture resource center, and is an adjunct professor at New York University where she teaches at the Steinhardt School of Education.

Madam Speaker, I join to wish Ms. Kurland best wishes and good fortune in her future projects.