

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to take a hard look at where we are today in Iraq, and vote for legislation that will provide the funding our troops badly need and accountability for success and results in Iraq.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANK J. FERTITTA AND LORENZO J. FERTITTA

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friends Frank J. Fertitta, Chairman of the Board and C.E.O. of Station Casino and Lorenzo J. Fertitta, Vice Chairman of the Board and President of Station Casino as well as the entire Fertitta family.

Through the consistent efforts of Frank and Lorenzo Fertitta, Station Casino was recently recognized by Fortune magazine as one of the top 100 companies to work for nationwide. The management of Station Casino, which has received this recognition for 3 consecutive years, has enacted several policies aimed at bettering the quality of life for its team members. One such program, initiated by Frank and Lorenzo, provides team members with assistance becoming homeowners. Another program offers assistance to team members seeking to become U.S. Citizens; this program offers assistance such as citizenship application classes, study material for the citizenship examination, and payroll advances for citizenship application. As a result of this program, in 2006, 28 Station team members gained U.S. citizenship and currently 260 more team members are attending citizenship classes.

In addition to implementing programs to enhance certain aspects of their employees' lives, Frank and Lorenzo Fertitta have cultivated a working environment founded upon ideals of camaraderie, respect and fairness.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friends Frank Fertitta, Lorenzo Fertitta and the entire Fertitta family. Their dedication to their employees is commendable and I wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO JOYCE McDONALD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn resident Joyce McDonald. Joyce McDonald was born to parents Willie and Florence McDonald and raised in Brooklyn's Farragut Houses. Joyce is the third eldest of seven children. She was reared in a household where unconditional love was practiced and family values were instilled.

Joyce attended P.S. 287, Sands JHS 265 as well as Fashion Industry High School. Her love and compassion for people led her to become a volunteer at Cumberland Hospital as a Junior Nurse's Aide at 16-years-old for the terminally ill. Joyce's teenaged years were not always so hopeful.

During her teen years into adulthood, Joyce made many bad choices. Thirty years after-

ward, she changed direction. Joyce has survived various forms of mental and physical abuses which include rape, attempted suicide, depression and a 25-year heroin addiction. In 1995, Joyce tested positive for HIV and was later diagnosed with AIDS.

Despite her diagnosis, Joyce continued to share her life's story and artistic talents with the world.

Without any formal art training, Joyce McDonald is currently a world renowned artist. Her work has been exhibited in galleries, schools, universities, shelters, nursing homes and hospitals. Her testimony and art has been shared throughout the country via the media.

Joyce has received numerous awards, including: the 2002 Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Award, the 2003 Church of the Open Door Woman of the Year Award, the 2004 Isler's Award from the Women's Empowerment Movement, and the 2004 Governor's Citation from Maryland. In 2005, Joyce was one of nine Magnificent Women of Brooklyn honored by Senator Velmanette Montgomery and received a citation from the New York Assembly. She has also received the Dr. Martin Luther King Award from Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Joyce McDonald's talents include being an artist, sculptress, designer, writer, singer, poet and motivational speaker. These are talents she attributes to her family, including her Dad who is now deceased, her Mother, her two married daughters and their spouses and her six grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive achievements of this extraordinary individual, who through her own pain found it within herself to help others.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful person and her creative works.

GULF COAST HURRICANE HOUSING RECOVERY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1227) to assist in the provision of affordable housing to low-income families affected by Hurricane Katrina:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on the amendment offered by Mrs. BIGGERT. The region affected by Hurricane Katrina could use additional affordable housing units beyond those occupied at the time of the hurricane. However, this is a problem that exists for many communities across the country and should be addressed in a comprehensive manner by adequately funding the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In the 4th Congressional District of Minnesota, the average wait time for public housing is over 5 years, and most waiting lists are closed. There is a deficit of 12,635 affordable housing units for very low-income families. It is a serious problem when too many families do not have safe, stable housing.

The Administration's response to this problem was to flat fund the Section 8 program, ensuring that our communities cannot address

the waiting lists that currently exist, and to propose significant cuts to Community Development Block Grants.

We need a comprehensive solution to affordable housing needs—both in the Gulf Coast Region and across the country. I strongly support the Gulf Coast Hurricane Recovery Act, and will support efforts to increase access to safe affordable housing for all Americans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE INY FAMILY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Iny Family for their numerous contributions to the Jewish Community of Las Vegas and for their many contributions to provide the Las Vegas Valley with a new community center and synagogue.

The Iny Family, principals of Great American Capital, a real estate development company found in Las Vegas, have been leaders in the development, acquisition, operation and management of high quality commercial and residential real estate projects in Nevada and Southern California. As a result of their civic generosity, the construction of the Beit Allon Chabad of Summerlin Community Center and Synagogue was completed and opened in April of 2006. This facility has emerged as one of the most magnificent synagogues in Las Vegas and includes the finest, up-to-date facilities for education, socializing, and catering affairs. For their humanitarian efforts and community service, the Iny Family is being recognized as inaugural recipients of the Chabad of Summerlin Founder's Award.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Iny Family. Their commitment to the Jewish Community is commendable and I congratulate them on their much deserved recognition. I thank them for their dedication and loyalty and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO EUGENIA "GENIE" SWINSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Eugenia Elizabeth Swinson. Eugenia Swinson, or "Genie," was born in Savannah, GA, to Eugene and Carrie Swinson. She was raised on Long Island's South Shore Bay in New York. Genie and her 9 siblings are products of the Bay Shore Public School District. After graduation, all of them attended college. Genie decided upon C.W. Post College with a major of vocal music.

During her studies at Post, she toured Europe her freshman year with the Chamber and Madrigal Ensembles. Upon returning from the tour, she decided to move to California to launch a professional singing career. This turned out to be a wise decision because once there she had an opportunity to work with

Quincy Jones on the Brothers Johnson debut album as well as tour with Boz Scaggs under the stage name of "Pepper Swinson." There would be many more bands that would come her way.

She returned to New York due to illness, however, after recuperating, she moved to Israel to sing. After working in the Givatiem and Tel Aviv, Israel, she once again returned to New York, this time with a new skill. She had mastered the Hebrew language. Almost immediately after arriving in the United States, Genie's health took a turn for the worse. She began a battle with end stage renal disease, due to Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. This would mean 7 years of dialysis before a successful kidney transplant at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.

While in New York, Genie decided to return to C.W. Post College to earn her undergraduate degree in modern languages with a minor in music. She studied Spanish, Hebrew and Arabic. After the transplant, Genie landed a job with the New York City Board of Education as a teacher of Spanish. She received her masters degree in multicultural education from the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Bronx, New York. She is currently a teacher at a Theatre Arts School in the Bronx and also gives private voice lessons in her home. Genie actively continues her studies in languages. Italian and Portuguese are her current passions. "It's my favorite pastime."

Not long after her transplant, she was approached by a representative from the New York Organ Donor Network and became a volunteer spokesperson for that organization. She appeared at several speaking and singing engagements on behalf of the Network. At several events she sang "Another Chance to Give" (La Vispera de Vida) in both English and Spanish in an effort to bring awareness to the need for organ and tissue donors.

It was her position as the official spokesperson for the Network that led her to an opportunity to sing the national anthem before games at both Yankee Stadium and Madison Square Garden for both professional teams. Today, Genie remains a strong advocate of organ and tissue transplantation.

Genie has modeled for Mode Magazine and continues to sing for Wilson Pickett's back up band, The Midnight Movers. Accompanied by jazz pianist Dr. Billy Taylor, she recently sang at a gala given by the Jazz Foundation of America which honored its co-founder Ann Ruckert.

"I am a collector of people," said Genie. "I have the same friends today that I had in the second grade. Naturally, I've added on to that distinctive group, but those friends are still an important part of my life. I like to spend time, reading, studying languages and spoiling my nieces, nephews and God's children. I'm honored to be a part of this distinctive group," added Genie.

Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Genie for sharing her beautiful talents with the rest of us. Through all of her adversity she continued to grace us with her gift of song.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Eugenia "Genie" Swinson.

TRIBUTE TO 2007 JOHNSON COUNTY MOVERS AND SHAKERS AWARD WINNERS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note an important event in the Third Congressional District of Kansas. On April 10, 2007, the Volunteer Center of Johnson County in Overland Park, KS, will honor outstanding youth volunteers. Eighty young people have been nominated by school personnel and nonprofit organizations for their dedication and service to the community. Youth volunteerism continues to grow and be a strong force in Johnson County. These 80 youth exemplify the true meaning of volunteerism and giving back to their community, and it is my honor to recognize each student volunteer and his/her school.

Alexander Abramovitz, Shawnee Mission North; Molly Allison-Gallimore, Homeschool; Sydney Ayers, Barstow; Ava Azad, Blue Valley; Lisa Barry, Olathe South; Lindsay Beardall, Shawnee Mission South; Alexandria Bieber, Mill Valley; Abby Blick, Shawnee Mission East; Ashley Boots, Olathe Northwest; Sarah Briggs, Trailridge Middle; Kristina Buchanan, Trailridge Middle School; Kim Burnell, Olathe North; Amy Byarlay, Olathe South; Sarah Campbell, Blue Valley North; Kelsey Charles, Blue Valley West; Jenna Christensen, Shawnee Mission North; Becca Doran, Shawnee Mission West; Katherine Ebling, Blue Valley; and Marissa Erickson, Olathe South.

Evan Gage, Blue Valley Northwest; Jennifer Garren, Shawnee Mission West; Kathryn Garrett, Shawnee Mission West; Kevin Garrett, Shawnee Mission West; Michael Garrett, Westridge Middle; Lindsey Gerber, Olathe North; Jean Gianakon, Shawnee Mission North; Allison Golub, Blue Valley West; Kaley Hagemann, Olathe East; Jessica Hebenstreit, Pembroke Hill; Tess Hedrick, Shawnee Mission East; Logan Heley, Antioch Middle School; Lauren Hiatt, Olathe North; Spencer Hill, Shawnee Mission Northwest; Jing Jian, Olathe North; Janelle Johnston, Shawnee Mission West; Michele Kerns, Blue Valley West; Rachel Knapp, Westridge Middle; and Jessica Kruger, Olathe North.

Hailey Lapin, Blue Valley Northwest; K. Clemence Lawson, Olathe Northwest; Jake Ludemann, Shawnee Mission North; Sarah Martin, Shawnee Mission West; Magdalena May, Olathe North; Kaela McWherter, Blue Valley North; Courtney Miller, Blue Valley West; Rebecca Miller, Olathe North; Jovana Mirabile, St. Thomas Aquinas; Peri Montgomery, Shawnee Mission West; Megan Moomau, Olathe North; Alyssa Morrison, Mill Valley High School; Stephanie Nemec, Spring Hill High School; Evan Neuman, Trailridge Middle; Alexandra Olsen, Prairie Trail Junior High; Sam Parkinson; Sweta Patel, Olathe North; Meredith Pavicic, St. Teresa's Academy; and Lauren Peterson, Shawnee Mission Northwest.

Angela Podoll, Westridge Middle; Courtney Rathke, Olathe North; Kaytlin Renfro, Shawnee Mission East; Bryce Reynolds, Olathe Northwest; Kyle Reynolds, Olathe Northwest; Cassie Rhodes, Spring Hill High School; Kaitlyn Rittgers, Olathe Northwest; Alex Rorie, Mission Valley; Beth Russell, Olathe Northwest; Michael Shoykhet, Olathe North; Devin Smith, Olathe North; Elaina Smith, Prairie Trail Junior High; Haylee Solum, Trailridge Middle School; Peter Spitsnogle, Shawnee Mission East; Jessica

Stack, Olathe Northwest; Alexandria Szalawiga, Olathe South High School; Nicole Tepper, Mill Valley High School; Irene Wang, Olathe North; Danielle Weathers, Mill Valley; Marin Willis, Spring Hill Middle; Jessica Wilson, Spring Hill High School; Alexis Young, Chisholm Trail Junior High; and Jenny Zhong, Blue Valley Northwest.

A TRIBUTE TO DEBORAH BATTLE POINTER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn resident Deborah Battle Pointer. Deborah Battle Pointer is a true child of the Diaspora with Carolinian, Jamaican and Black Foot Indian roots. She was born and raised in Connecticut and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from SUNY Cortland and a Master's Degree in Education from Cambridge College. The issues of access and equality for all have been important cornerstones in her academic career. For the past 30 years, she has worked in higher education, and served her community as a volunteer while maintaining her involvement in the creative arts.

Deborah was the first Associate Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid at Cornell University, the first black woman to hold the position of Director of Admissions at Columbia University's School of Engineering and former Director of Financial Aid at both Columbia College and SUNY Downstate Medical Center. While residing in Ithaca, New York, she was elected to the Ithaca School Board where she served two terms.

Ms. Pointer is a co-founder and Co-Executive Producer of "Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry," a television series shown on the Home Box Office cable network. She was also an Executive Consultant to the Broadway hit show, Def Poetry. The television series aired for the first time in December of 2001 and continues to be a hit on HBO today. Deborah and other Executive Producers of Def Poetry were recognized with a Peabody Award for Excellence in Television for the HBO program and received a Tony Award for the Broadway production in 2003.

In October of 2001, under the company name Bone Bristle Entertainment LLC, Deborah and her business partners created a poetry anthology published by Random House, "Bum Rush the Page." The anthology features works of 200 poets and has sold more than 15,000 copies. She has recently published a children's picture book, "I Am Hip-Hop" through her non-profit organization Healium Inc. founded by Deborah Pointer and Ronald Grant. Healium Inc. is dedicated to the efforts of ending child abuse.

Deborah is currently a consultant to the Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital at Downstate where she is involved in development and community outreach. She is also one of a few African-American Christmas and Kwanzaa ornament designers and was featured as an Editor's Choice in "Decorative Gifts and Accessories" magazine.

Ms. Pointer has authored several magazine articles on financing and college education