

Our community and Nation honor Sergeant First Class Mosteiro's memory and we are grateful for his 18 years of faithful and distinguished service to America.

TRIBUTE TO NASA ASTRONAUT
STEVE HAWLEY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished, courageous Kansan, NASA astronaut Steve Hawley, who will be inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame on May 5th.

Steve Hawley, age 55, flew aboard the space shuttle *Discovery* during its maiden voyage in 1984 and is a veteran of four other shuttle missions. An accomplished astronomer, he helped deploy two of NASA's four Great Observatories, spacecraft that have shed unprecedented light on the origins and evolution of the universe. He flew aboard *Columbia* on a mission that landed just 10 days before the January 1986 *Challenger* accident. He helped deploy the Hubble Space Telescope during a 1990 *Discovery* mission and then serviced NASA's flagship observatory during a 1997 *Discovery* flight. His final shuttle mission was a 1999 *Columbia* flight during which the Chandra X-Ray Observatory was deployed. He now serves as director of NASA's Astromaterials Research and Exploration Science Directorate at the Johnson Space Center.

Born in Ottawa, Kansas, Dr. Hawley considers Salina, Kansas, to be his home town. He received a B.A. in physics and astronomy (with highest distinction) from the University of Kansas in 1973 and a Ph.D. in astronomy and astrophysics from the University of California in 1977. His research involved spectrophotometry of gaseous nebulae and emission-like galaxies with particular emphasis on chemical abundance determinations for these objects. He was selected as a NASA astronaut in 1978.

A veteran of five space flights, Dr. Hawley has logged a total of 32 days in space. Closer to home, he has visited with student groups and community organizations in the Third Congressional District of Kansas on six occasions: in 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006. I look forward to his return to my congressional district next month, on April 11th. On behalf of the people of Kansas' Third Congressional District, I commend Steve Hawley on his upcoming induction into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame, congratulate him on his five successful space shuttle missions, and thank him for the many hours he has spent making space exploration and space technology come alive for his audiences in my congressional district.

TRIBUTE TO ANNETTE KLANG
SMAIL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Annette Klang Smail

who passed away March 10, 2007, in Marin County, California, after a lifetime of activism. Annette Smail's feisty grassroots approach worked on both the local and national levels, as she advocated nonstop for causes she believed in.

Annette was born in Napa County in 1920 and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1943 with a degree in English. She moved to Chicago where she met famed community organizer Saul Alinsky. She was a council delegate in his "Back of the Yards" neighborhood social movement, worked as a reporter and editor for its journal, and traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for meat packers.

In 1949, Annette married Air Force serviceman Donald Smail, and moved to Novato, California, with him in 1966. Upon their divorce in 1971, she discovered that she was no longer eligible for military medical benefits. And thus began a national crusade to secure these rights for former spouses of military personnel.

She felt the regulations left many women vulnerable and, in 1977, persuaded then-Congressman John Burton to introduce a bill to grant medical benefits to ex-spouses who had been married at least 20 years. The bill passed in 1984. Many women have benefited from her effort, especially older women whom she felt were often dependent upon their husbands after years of marriage.

Annette founded the Older Women's Caucus of National Women's Political Caucus, was a delegate to a White House Conference on Aging, and, in Marin County, co-founded the Novato Human Needs Center. In 1991, she was inducted into the Marin Women's Hall of Fame. Her commitment to ordinary people and her boundless energy inspired admiring reactions from her friends and family, and Rep. Burton called her "the grande dame of the women's movement in Marin."

Madam Speaker, we will miss Annette Smail's grassroots activism and her tireless efforts for a good cause. Her example has motivated many others to fight for their rights and not give up. And she paved the way for women like me to become involved and seek leadership positions. I am pleased to honor her today for all she has meant to so many.

TRIBUTE TO DR. KARL CARSON

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Dr. Karl Carson of Fort Collins, Colorado. Dr. Carson was quoted in 2005 saying he lived by a simple pledge: "I hope, when I leave this place, I contributed to making it a better place." His legacy in Fort Collins was indeed a life of community service and devotion to family.

Karl was born on September 27, 1915, in Wichita, Kansas, to Daniel and Clara Helfrick Carson. He was raised on the family dairy farm and every day before he went to school he milked cows and bottled milk. In high school, he met his lifelong sweetheart Wilma Schull and they married August 23, 1936. To this union five children were born: Allen, James, Daniel, Thomas and LuAnn. The Car-

sons also have eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Karl Carson attended Fort Hays State University in Kansas a music scholarship. He paid his way through college by singing at weddings and parties. He served in the U.S. Navy Reserve during World War II. Mr. Carson was a communications officer on the U.S.S. *Strive*, a mine sweeper.

Following his military service, Mr. Carson attended the University of Nebraska and received his doctor of dental surgery degree in 1951. The Carson family moved to Fort Collins where Dr. Carson started his dental practice in 1954. His practice thrived and continued until his retirement in 1994. For 30 of those 43 years he practiced dentistry with his son, Tom. In 1991, the Colorado Dental Association gave him its Distinguished Service award.

Dr. Carson was a member of the Fort Collins City Council from 1965 to 1973. He held the city's top post, mayor, for five terms from 1968 to 1973 at a time when City Council elected the mayor. He considered his support of adding fluoride to Fort Collins water supply among his greatest achievements. During his tenure, he started a program called Designing Tomorrow Today, which led to the construction of the Lincoln Center, city hall, and the downtown library.

Dr. Carson's community service is legendary. He was the director of downtown Fort Collins development, president of Colorado Municipal League, and the Colorado League of Cities. He was also a member of Kiwanis since 1938. Continuing his love of music and youth, he lent his expertise to participants in the Kiwanis annual Stars of Tomorrow Talent Show.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Karl Carson indeed fulfilled his legacy of leaving this world a better place. The citizens of Fort Collins, Colorado will never forget him. He was a man of love and commitment to his family and community. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Karl Carson.

PRIORITIZING COLONY COLLAPSE
DISORDER RESEARCH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Pollinator Protection Act." This legislation reflects my deep concern for the future of agriculture in this country by authorizing funding to confront the drastic decline of North American pollinators.

Madam Speaker, an alarming number of honey bee colonies have experienced irregular die offs throughout the United States in recent years. This phenomenon has been recently termed "Colony Collapse Disorder" because of its lack of recognizable underlying cause. This legislation that I introduce today will prioritize addressing Colony Collapse Disorder to protect the viability of American farmers.

This legislation is crucial because the security of food production is in jeopardy when there is a threat to the lives of honey bees. These little pollinators are a keystone species in their responsibility for the pollination of one-third of the crops that we consume. More specifically, pollination by honey bees promotes

healthy growth and adds over \$15 billion annually to the value of U.S. crops.

Madam Speaker, the number of honey bee colonies throughout North America has gradually declined in recent decades due to parasites, pathogens, toxins and a host of other environmental factors. However, this rate of decline has increased significantly with the emergence of Colony Collapse Disorder. If the current rate of decline continues, the United States will be forced to rely more heavily on imported foods. This destabilization of American food security would have adverse effects on the availability, price, and quality of the many fruits, vegetables, and other products that depend on animal pollination.

I am proud of the vibrant variety of produce and citrus my district contributes to our Nation's food supply. However, this is an issue that not only impacts Floridians, but all citizens throughout this Nation. This is why I am honored that the Florida Department of Agriculture has contributed significantly to addressing Colony Collapse Disorder through the work of Jerry Hayes, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Plant and Apiary Inspection. Mr. Hayes has contributed significantly to the Colony Collapse Disorder Working Group and I commend his effort along with those of his colleagues at the Pennsylvania State University, the United States Department of Agriculture—Agricultural Research Service, Bee Alert Technology, Inc., North Carolina State University, and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Madam Speaker, it is necessary to provide funding to sustain the vital research of the Colony Collapse Disorder Working Group and the United States Department of Agriculture. As a former member of the Committee on Science and a graduate of Fisk University with an undergraduate degree in Zoology, I understand the value of their critical research. More specifically, this legislation will authorize immediate funding for laboratories conducting agricultural research at United States Department of Agriculture facilities as well as a reserve of \$10,000,000 for cooperative state research, education, and extension service grants to conduct relevant research to protect American agriculture. This legislation also authorizes \$5,250,000 over five years to conduct research specifically on Colony Collapse Disorder in the many affected States.

Madam Speaker, it is vital that this Congress takes on the task of supporting the work of the Colony Collapse Disorder Working Group. I would like to commend my colleague Chairman CARDOZA of the Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture for taking up this charge by calling for a hearing on "Honey Bee Decline" this upcoming Thursday, March 29, 2007. I hope that the Pollinator Protection Act that I introduce today will aid in this cause and urge this Congress to prioritize this effort. I look forward to working with Chairman CARDOZA on this issue and offer my utmost support for restoring stability to honey bee pollinated agriculture in this great Nation.

HONORING THE TUSKEGEE
AIRMEN

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the

Tuskegee Airmen on receiving the Congressional Gold Medal. "Tuskegee Airmen" refers to all who were involved in the so-called "Tuskegee Experiment," the Army Air Corps program to train African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft. The Tuskegee Airmen included pilots, navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff, instructors, and all the personnel who kept the planes in the air and bravely served our Nation during World War II.

In July 1941, 13 men started the first aviation cadet class at Tuskegee Army Field in Tuskegee, Alabama. After 9 months of vigorous flight training, 5 men successfully completed the program and graduated from the Tuskegee Flying School. These 5 airmen included CPT Lemuel R. Custis of my home State of Connecticut, who went on to become one of the first members of the 99th Fighter Squadron. The United States sent the 99th Fighter Squadron to North Africa and later Europe, where the Tuskegee Airmen proved to be valuable to the Allied Forces. In total, the Tuskegee Airmen of the 99th, 100th, 301st, and 302nd Fighter Squadrons distinguished themselves with 1,578 missions. Also, the 332nd earned a Presidential Unit Citation for "outstanding courage, aggressiveness, and combat technique" while escorting heavy bombers over Germany. The next generation of these outstanding individuals featured another constituent of mine, Flight Officer Connie Nappier, Jr., of Hartford, Connecticut. Nappier strived to excel at his work and passed every navigation exercise. Despite his accomplishments, he and others were constantly accused of cheating or denied credit for their outstanding achievements, which went directly to the white instructors. Connie Nappier and 100 other men were even thrown in prison for attempting to use the segregated Officer's Club at Freeman Field in Indiana, only to be released at the order of President Truman. The brave efforts of men like Connie Nappier, Jr., paved the way for African American aviators in the military.

Finally, these outstanding individuals will officially receive the award and credit that they have long deserved. Unfortunately, my constituent, Lemuel Custis passed away in February of 2005 at the age of 89, and will not have the opportunity to receive the honor he long deserved for his brave service to our Nation. Custis himself recognized in his own words that the Tuskegee Airmen "were fighting a war on two fronts. They were fighting the enemy in Europe and Africa and they fought a Jim Crow society at home." Lemuel Custis was a hero and a true patriot, but is widely remembered to be a "humble man who loved his country." Lemuel Custis, Connie Nappier, Jr., and the rest of the Tuskegee Airmen bravely rose above the obstacles set by the rampant discrimination of the period, and courageously defended a democracy that had not yet embraced them as true citizens.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the Tuskegee Airmen for their outstanding service to our Nation. I feel privileged to assist in honoring heroes like Lemuel Custis and Connie Nappier, Jr. who stood up to defend our Nation in the midst of World War II, and helped to break down the racial barriers of the United States military. We all owe them our appreciation and respect for their valiant contribution to this county.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF ENSIGN JESSE L. BROWN, USN

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the life and service of ENS Jesse LeRoy Brown, United States Navy. Ensign Brown was born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on 13 October 1926. He enlisted in the Naval Reserve in 1946 and was appointed a Midshipman, USN, the following year. After attending Navy pre-flight school and flight training, he was designated a Naval Aviator in October 1948, the first African-American to achieve this status. Midshipman Brown was then assigned to Fighter Squadron 32. He received his commission as an Ensign in April 1949.

During the Korean War, he operated from USS *Leyte*, flying F4U-4 Corsair fighter aircraft in support of United Nations forces. On December 4, 1950, while on a close air support mission near the Chosin Reservoir, Ensign Brown's plane was hit by enemy fire and crashed. Despite heroic efforts by other aviators, he could not be rescued and died in his aircraft. ENS Jesse L. Brown was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his Korean War combat service.

In honor of his service, the Secretary of the Navy named the 38th ship in the Knox-class of frigates the USS *Jesse L. Brown*.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring Jesse's memory, and celebrating the addition of a plaque in his memory to the Naval Aviation Monument Park in Virginia Beach, to be presented May 5, 2007. Ensign Brown was both a pioneer and a model of service to country, who gave his life that we might enjoy our freedom.

DR. RABBI PAUL B. SILTON

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, this morning I had the honor of introducing our guest chaplain for today, my very dear friend and teacher, Dr. Rabbi Paul Sifton of Temple Israel in Albany, New York.

In order for House Members to have a greater understanding of Rabbi Sifton's extraordinary accomplishments, I submit a more detailed description of his impressive background:

Dr. Rabbi Paul Sifton, Rabbi of Temple Israel, the largest conservative synagogue in northeast New York, received his B.A. in Philosophy from Boston University, an M.A. in Hebrew Literature and Rabbinical Ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1970, and a Doctor of Divinity in 1996. At his graduation from the Jewish Theological Seminary, he was awarded the top prize in Pastoral Counseling. While at the Seminary, he studied at the Meir Yeshiva in Brooklyn and taught at religious schools in Fort Lee, New Jersey; Hartford, Connecticut; and Rumson, New Jersey. He also served as Gabbai of the Seminary Synagogue under the