

Demolition Unit. Ambassador Mansour holds a masters degree from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and is a Ph.D. candidate in Haifa University's Middle Eastern History department.

In addition to his position as a diplomat, Ambassador Mansour is an accomplished author. He has published three books of poetry, as well as a number of short stories and poems published in literary articles and poetry reviews. Ambassador Mansour has received the Ha'aretz Annual Short Story Award, as well as the Haifa University Miller Award.

I join Sewanee, The University of the South, in thanking Ambassador Mansour for taking part in this important lecture series intended to foster a greater understanding of the Middle East.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. RUTH
JOHNSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Dr. Ruth Johnson, president of the Clark County School District Board of School Trustees, and congratulate her on behalf of the Clark County School District for receiving the Distinguished Support of Music Education Award.

The VH1 Save the Music Foundation has selected the Clark County School District Board of School Trustees as this year's recipient of their Third Annual School Board Award for Distinguished Support of Music Education. Clark County is an exemplary school district to which others can look as model for music education. The Board of School Trustees, presided over by Ruth Johnson, is the only school board in the United States to receive this award by VH1 Save the Music Foundation. The Clark County School District Board of Trustees are dedicated to providing a certified, qualified music teacher for each school, as well as funding after school music programs, text books, and music supplies.

For the past 10 years, Ruth has served on the Clark County School District Board of Trustees, where her leadership has greatly contributed to the development of music education in the Clark County School District. Furthermore, Ruth Johnson has committed the efforts of the Board of School Trustees to go above and beyond to achieve excellence in music education.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend Dr. Johnson and the Clark County School District Board of Trustees. Her dedication in enriching the educational experience of the Clark County students is commendable and I congratulate her for being honored by VH1 Save the Music. I wish Dr. Johnson continued success as she serves as president of the Clark County School Board of Trustees.

HONORING THE TUSKEGEE
AIRMEN

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor the Tuskegee Airmen, the group of African-American pilots who flew with distinction during World War II as the 332d Fighter Group of the U.S. Army Air Corps. Additionally, I am compelled to honor an excellent servant to our Nation, Mr. Matthew W. Plummer, an original Tuskegee Airman who served as an instructor for U.S. Army cadets training at Tuskegee. His tireless work, like that of so many other Tuskegee Airmen, helped to make our country a more perfect union.

Prior to the Tuskegee Airmen, not a single U.S. military pilot had been African-American. However, due to the work of the African-American civil rights community, the United States Congress in 1941 forced the Army Air Corps to form an all-black combat unit. In June 1941, the Tuskegee program officially began with formation of the 99th Fighter Squadron at the Tuskegee Institute, a highly regarded university founded by Booker T. Washington in Tuskegee, Alabama. The Airmen were placed under the command of Capt. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., one of the few African-American West Point graduates.

During World War II the Tuskegee Airmen fought with amazing gallantry and uncompromising determination. They flew escort for heavy bombers, established an impressive combat record, and often entered combat against greater numbers of superior German aircraft, while emerging victorious. These brave fighters fought for their country at a time when their country would not fight for them. They were forced to suffer from the daily disease of racism even while in uniform. However, the Tuskegee Airmen chose to fight for their country as hard as they fought against racism, and they would eventually prove that they were the greatest of the "Greatest Generation".

By the end of the war, the Tuskegee Airmen were credited with shooting down 109 Luftwaffe aircraft and destroying numerous fuel dumps, trucks and trains. The squadrons of the 332nd Fighter Group flew more than 15,000 sorties on 1,500 missions. The unit was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation for a mission flown on March 24, 1945, escorting B-17s to bomb the Daimler-Benz tank factory at Berlin, Germany, an action in which its pilots destroyed three Me-262 jets in aerial combat.

The Tuskegee Airmen were awarded several Silver Stars, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 14 Bronze Stars, and 744 Air Medals. In all, 992 pilots were trained in Tuskegee from 1940 to 1946. Of the airmen 445 deployed overseas and 150 Airmen lost their lives in training or combat.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to honor the Tuskegee Airmen for their service to our country, their work to end segregation in the U.S. military, and their courage which has empowered millions of African-Americans and other minorities across our great country.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
CELEBRATING THE 500TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE FIRST USE OF
THE NAME "AMERICA"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Representatives ALCEE HASTINGS, JOE WILSON, and HOYER, to honor the upcoming 500th anniversary of the coining of the name "America." On April 25, 1507 cartographer Martin Waldseemüller of the research group Gymnasium Vosagense in Saint-Die', France changed the way Europeans perceived the world by first depicting the Western Hemisphere in his 1507 world map. Waldseemüller honored Amerigo Vespucci by labeling this land with the Italian navigator's Christian name. Although explorers like Christopher Columbus already discovered this land, Amerigo Vespucci was the first to realize that it was not India but an entirely new continent. I invite my fellow Americans to join me and the House of Representatives in celebrating the historic 500th anniversary of the coining of this great name. Lastly, I also want to welcome Representative HASTINGS as a new member of the Americans Abroad Caucus, which I along with Representative WILSON have co-founded.

2007 EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR
EMPLOYEES OF THE CHIEF AD-
MINISTRATIVE OFFICER

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to announce the recipients of the 2007 Achieving Excellence Awards (ACE) for the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

This year's award winners are Darrell Norman, Liz McBride-Chambers, Scott Hood, Wanda Jackson, Cari Knowles, Traci Beaubian, Patricia Nuzzo, Jim Caskey, Dave Woodburn and Christine Stewart. Their ACE Awards acknowledge the exceptional efforts made by these employees to provide quality service to the Members, Committees and offices of the House of Representatives.

The recipients of the 2007 CAO ACE Awards represent many areas of the CAO organization, perform a variety of jobs, and provide a wide range of services to the House community. Whether working directly with Members or staff, supporting CAO internal operations, or ensuring the technical infrastructure is operational, each serves as an exemplary role model for the entire CAO community. Collectively and individually they deliver solutions that fulfill our goal of providing a quality customer experience.

Employees nominated for an award must be in a full-time status and have a current excellent performance rating. Nominations for the awards are submitted by managers or supervisors within the organization. The nominations are then reviewed by a committee comprised of the CAO's leadership team with final award recommendations submitted to the Chief Administrative Officer for approval.

Darrell Norman, a CAO employee who died this past January, is being honored posthumously as one of the recipients of the "CAO Excellence" award. As a long-time employee of the CAO Technical Support team, Darrell exemplified the customer service standards of the CAO organization, the consultative approach to working with Members and staff to identify practical solutions, and a great attitude that resonated with all whom he worked with and served.

Starting this year, the CAO Excellence award will be formally re-named the "Darrell Norman Excellence Award" as an ongoing tribute to Darrell's many years of exemplary service to the House, in recognition of the tremendous role model he was for his CAO colleagues, and to acknowledge his "can-do" attitude and his infectious spirit.

Liz McBride-Chambers and Edward (Scott) Hood were selected as additional recipients of the "Darrell Norman Excellence Award." In her role as a member of the Office of Employee Assistance and the Human Capital Solutions team, Liz is a critical member of the CAO team. She embodies the mission, vision and values of the organization and provides her exceptional consultative skills and excellent customer service to the entire House community. She brings passion, integrity and an unwavering commitment to the "people" of the CAO organization and the House in everything that she does, whether providing employee assistance services to an individual House employee, consulting with a Member's Chief of Staff to identify a team development solution, or conducting a training program for a specific work group.

Scott Hood, as a supervisor in the Joint Capitol Service Center, inspires and motivates his staff and others to deliver quality services and solutions to many problems for the offices located in the Capitol. Scott has also been a key contributor to our efforts to enhance customer satisfaction and to work across the organization and with a variety of service partners to deliver solutions that exceed the expectations and needs of their customers. He has been particularly effective in bringing his change management and leadership skills to bear in developing an effective partnership with the Architect of the Capitol to deliver seamless solutions to House Leadership Offices.

Wanda Jackson is the 2007 recipient of the "Simplify the Day" award. As a Telephone Systems Consultant, Wanda is committed to going the extra mile for her customers and her colleagues. This past year, she stepped in to fill the void left by the departure of a senior telecommunications administrator in the midst of the Congressional transition, and she took on the support of sixty Member offices throughout the transition, including the coordination of the installation of voice and data services in the District offices of several freshman Members. Wanda worked tirelessly on behalf of one particular District office to troubleshoot their problem with the local telephone company and to manage the set-up process to the point of resolution and the complete satisfaction of the office.

Cari Knowles is being recognized with the "Personalized Solutions" award. In her role of providing graphics-related support services to Members, Committees, and House support offices, Cari has contributed significantly to raising customer expectations for the Graphics of-

fice through the excellence of her work, her ability to build relationships of trust with her customers, and her commitment to personalize a variety of graphics solutions for each customer. By carefully listening to her customers, she brings them a particular value through her ability to take ownership for their project by helping them define their requirements and identify the most appropriate solution to their unique graphics production needs.

Traci Beaubian and Patricia Nuzzo have been selected to share the 2007 "Dedicated" award. Traci Beaubian's persistence in getting the new payroll system stabilized after a challenging conversion process is reflective of her dedication to the House, to her colleagues, and to the House workforce. She looks beyond the surface to identify existing and potential challenges, works with her team to develop practical and innovative solutions, and accepts responsibility for the work of her team in carrying the solution forward. This past year she developed a successful audit technique to identify unusual variances in salary amounts which produced measurable results that were recorded on the CAO's financial statements. Patricia (Trish) Nuzzo, as a senior member of the CAO Advanced Business Solutions team, has responsibility for support of the payroll system covering day-to-day operations, audit management and long-term project support. Her ability to balance short-term and long-term objectives, her positive attitude, and her collaborative approach to resolving problems helps diffuse difficult situations. Trish has been particularly effective as a facilitator in bringing diverse teams together to develop and arrive at workable solutions by matching the right people to the situation, issue or challenge. Her dedication to her work and her ability to recognize and harness the talents of multiple team members has earned her the respect of her colleagues and her customers.

James (Jim) Caskey and Charles (Dave) Woodburn are each being recognized with the "Knowledge" award. In his role as a Senior Procurement Specialist, Jim Caskey's knowledge and skills in negotiation have saved the House tens of thousands of dollars annually through the effective procurement of professional services and software licenses and maintenance agreements. Jim consistently provides the House community, his procurement colleagues, and the program offices he supports with his expert advice, his extensive experience and his service-minded attitude. His knowledge is particularly evident in the mentoring relationships he has with other procurement personnel and in his creativity in finding innovative and effective solutions to procurement and purchasing issues.

Dave Woodburn's knowledge and contribution to the CAO organization and the House far exceeds his immediate responsibilities in the Central Receiving and Warehousing Department, and makes him a "go-to" resource for his co-workers, vendors and contractors alike. In addition to having a firm understanding of the needs of the Members, Committees and staffs that he serves, Dave has brought added value to the organization by applying his knowledge of services and processes to meet challenges enthusiastically, while using his excellent people skills to build solid relationships with House offices and vendors and to resolve issues with staff and internal customers in an amenable fashion.

Christine Stewart is the 2007 recipient of the "One Team" award. Her dedication, profes-

sionalism, outstanding customer service skills, and knowledge of procurement management and the House environment have made Christine a valuable team member to the CAO Procurement team and the offices she supports throughout the procurement and purchasing processes. There is never a task that she is not willing to take on, regardless of the level of effort required or the urgency of the procurement need. This was particularly evident this past year during the Congressional transition when, in response to an urgent procurement requirement, she secured inventory services within 6 days while saving the House over \$70,000.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to the family and colleagues of Darrell Norman, and to Liz McBride-Chambers, Scott Hood, Wanda Jackson, Cari Knowles, Traci Beaubian, Trish Nuzzo, Jim Caskey, Dave Woodburn, and Christine Stewart for their tireless efforts and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. I extend my condolences to Darrell's family, and I wish his CAO colleagues and this year's CAO ACE Award recipients continued success in their endeavors and contributions to the House community.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL
EMERGENCY CENTERS ESTABLISHMENT ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the National Emergency Centers Establishment Act, a bill I first introduced in the 109th Congress.

Many of us share the belief that the Federal Government's response to Hurricane Katrina was disorganized and inadequate; the Federal Emergency Management Agency—FEMA—was far too slow to arrive and evacuees were left stranded in massive shelters with egregious standard of living violations.

Sixteen months following the devastation wreaked by Hurricane Katrina, more than 13,000 residents who were displaced by the storm were still living in trailers provided by FEMA. Eighteen months after Katrina, half the homes in New Orleans still did not have electricity. FEMA had informed Congress that 60,000 families in Louisiana still live in 240-square-foot trailers—usually at least 3 to a trailer.

Even President Bush realizes the shortcomings of our Federal Government to respond to the immediate and long-term needs of these disaster victims.

As recently as March 1, 2007, President Bush acknowledged that many gulf coast residents remained frustrated with the slowness of rebuilding after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and pledged to continue to help hurricane victims and their communities rebuild.

The sluggish and derisory reaction of our Federal Government to disaster victims affects me personally. In 2004, four hurricanes ravaged my home State of Florida, all of which literally destroyed parts of the counties in my district. In the immediate and long-term aftermath, our communities saw FEMA's shortcomings. Eighteen months after Hurricane