

Fund for the Future and is actively involved in the Colonial Dames' Vision Committee, a national committee designed to help state societies emulate the success of Alabama's. From 1987 until 1996, she served as trustee for Washington and Lee University in Virginia, and has also served on the board of directors for Spring Hill College in Mobile.

With an obvious desire to help others, Vaughan has served in similar capacities as chairman of Mobile Infirmary Medical Center, president of the Junior League of Mobile, and as a vestry member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

While her family obviously comes first, Vaughan has a genuine love for Mobile where she currently serves as board chairman of both the Mobile Museum of Art and the Alabama School of Math and Science Foundation. She also serves on the board of directors for the Alabama Archives and History Foundation, American Village and Citizenship Trust, Alabama Department of Archives and History, and as trustee of the Carnival Museum in Mobile. She is also trustee for the Alabama Institute of the Deaf and Blind Foundation and director of the Alabama Arts Council.

Madam Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, Vaughan's involvement is not just at the local and state level, but at the national level as well.

For years she has represented the state of Alabama on the Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union, a prestigious group which bears the responsibility for maintaining and preserving President George Washington's home at Mount Vernon. Through their network of contacts throughout the country, as well as their considerable efforts, funds are raised privately so that Mount Vernon continues to be completely maintained without the help of taxpayer dollars. Vaughan served as regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union from 1994–1997.

She has also included a stint on the board of directors for AmSouth Bank.

Madam Speaker, Vaughan Morrisette has dedicated practically her entire life to the service of others in south Alabama, all-the-while being a devoted wife, mother to four children, and grandmother to 11 wonderful grandchildren.

When her husband, the late H. Taylor Morrisette, passed away in 1990, Vaughan picked up the mantle and has, more times than one can count, made her beautiful home available to entertain visiting dignitaries and others who were looking to make Mobile and south Alabama home. In many ways, she has been a one-person chamber of commerce, always promoting Mobile, always speaking positively about where our community is going. It is very safe to say that Vaughan is always looking forward with confidence that Mobile's best days are ahead.

Madam Speaker, as I said at the beginning of this tribute, some people in life are givers; others are takers. Make no mistake, Vaughan Inge Morrisette has spent practically her entire life giving, and I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking Vaughan for her commitment to so many wonderful philanthropic missions.

I know her family and her many friends join with me in praising her many accomplishments. On behalf of all who have benefited from her good heart and generous spirit, permit me to extend thanks for her many efforts

over the past four decades in making Mobile and south Alabama a better place to live and work.

HONORING CHERYL A. WUENSCH

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Cheryl A. Wuensch, in celebration of her ordination as a Methodist Minister in the Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church on May 26, 2007.

Nearly 20 years ago, she wrote on a scholarship application: "the first time my heart heard the Gospel was in her classroom." To some degree, that statement was true. While she was very active in high school youth group, she did not begin the process of owning a mature faith in Christ until she attended an undergraduate university. Cheryl double majored in political science and religion, with a vague interest in attending law school and a burning desire to immerse herself in the life, teachings, and world of Jesus. Ultimately, she felt the Spirit's call to pursue a vocation of teaching, seeking advanced degrees in the New Testament at Yale and Princeton. Cheryl taught various courses in the New Testament and related areas at Princeton Theological Seminary and at Lancaster Theological Seminary for several years.

Cheryl has spent the past 9 years at Timonium United Methodist Church, 2 years as program director and 7 years as Associate Pastor. Her primary areas of spiritual giftedness are in teaching and preaching, leading worship, shepherding, and outreach/evangelism. One of her fundamental philosophies is to equip others for ministry based upon their own giftedness.

Cheryl fervently believes that the Gospel can be embodied in new and lifechanging ways through outreach oriented mission activities. She led several trips to Appalachia with approximately 40 youth and adult volunteers. She participated in a trip to Costa Rica with a group from the Baltimore North District. Timonium United Methodist Church continues to be active in two soup kitchens in Baltimore City and sponsored a Habitat House for 11 consecutive years. Over the years, Cheryl focused a great deal on pastoral care and visitation, including ministering to the sick and dying, working with young couples, performing many weddings and baptisms. She has the ability to adapt to a variety of worship settings, enjoying both a traditional liturgy as well as preaching and leading worship in a contemporary setting.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Ms. Cheryl A. Wuensch. She is an outstanding and dedicated member of the Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church. Through her tireless efforts in over 9 years of service to the community of the Timonium Methodist Church, she has shown a unique and committed work ethic that few can emulate. It is with great pride that I congratulate her on her ordination as a Minister in the Methodist Church.

. . . AND HOW ARE THE CHILDREN?

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the record an article titled ". . . And How Are The Children?" published in *Witness for Justice* on April 9, 2007.

The article highlights a monumental gathering of over 50 organizations that came together to sponsor the annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days Conference in Washington, DC. The theme of the conference was ". . . And How Are The Children?" The answer, offered by executive minister M. Linda Jaramillo is "the children are not doing so well."

Included in the article are abominable facts that speak to the crisis facing our nation's children. For example, 9 million children are without health care. That is more than the total population of large states like Georgia, Minnesota, and Virginia. Almost 90 percent of these children live in working households, most in two-parent families; a fact which destroys the myth that only those from broken homes are without access to essential resources like health care.

We owe it to our children, to ourselves, and to our country to stop the senseless neglect experienced by far too many of our most precious resource—the future of our nation. The article endorses the call to conscience and action sponsored by the children's defense fund. I too am in support of their efforts and will do all I can to advance this critical issue.

[From *Witness for Justice* #315, Apr. 9, 2007]

". . . AND HOW ARE THE CHILDREN?"

(By M. Linda Jaramillo)

How are the children? This is an African proverb, but it is not an uncommon question for us in our culture. We often greet one another with hello, followed by asking the question, "How are you and how are the kids?" This question can be directed to a parent, a teacher, a grandparent, an aunt, an uncle, or anyone who spends time around children. It doesn't matter if we are actual birth parents because "the children" are really part of all our lives, so it seems that we should be asking that question to everyone we greet. However, I wonder if we listen long enough to find out how the children really are?

A few weeks ago, over 50 organizations jointly sponsored the annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days Conference in Washington, DC. This year's theme was ". . . And How Are the Children?" Over 800 persons attended, sharing information and stories about critical justice issues that have serious impact on children all around the world. As I went through the days of workshops and discussions asking the question, I have to answer that ". . . the children are not doing so well."

Distinguished theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer said it best when he wrote, "the test of the morality of a society is how it treats its children." I would have to confess that our nation, the richest nation in the world, has failed this moral test. We have failed by directing billions of dollars to engage in war rather than investing in the future of all children. We can make excuse after excuse about how we spend our public dollars, but we cannot excuse our disregard for children. We cannot respond and say that the children are doing fine.

For example, there is no excuse for 9 million children to be without health insurance in this country. Almost 90 percent of these children live in working households, most in two parent-families. Parents are working hard, sometimes taking on two jobs to provide shelter and food for their children. These parents often have to make the choice between feeding their families and taking them to the doctor or to the dentist. These 9 million children belong to all of us. How they are is everyone's responsibility.

Nine million children. That is more than the entire population of states like Georgia, Virginia, Indiana, Arizona, Minnesota, or New Jersey. That is more than the total population of almost any single city in this nation. These 9 million children come from rural, urban, and suburban communities. These 9 million children represent all races and are of every age under 18.

“. . . And How are the Children?” We can do something to help make them better by joining the Healthy Child Campaign to cover all children with health insurance this year. Get involved.

Sign the Call to Conscience and Action at <http://www.childrensdefense.org>.

HONORING GIL COLYER

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Gil Colyer, a resident of my district, who is retiring from the Hardin County Sheriffs Office this month after a remarkable 52-year career.

Gil Colyer first joined law enforcement in 1953, serving as a military policeman during his service in the Army. In 1955, he was assigned to the Louisville Police Department, where he would spend the next 21 years. Upon retirement from the Louisville PD in 1976, Gil moved back to Elizabethtown, his home town, and took a job as an officer in the Elizabethtown Police Department, where he remained for an additional 20 years before taking his current position as bailiff for the Hardin County Sheriff's Department.

Gil's dedication to the Hardin County community over the years has been a true inspiration to all who know him. Attorneys, police, and even prisoners maintain an abiding respect for Mr. Colyer. His vast knowledge, work ethic, and attention to detail exemplify true professionalism, a standard appreciated by his fellow officers and members of the public.

I would also like to congratulate Gil and his wife, Alma, as they are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary next week. I join countless other neighbors in Hardin County in wishing them a very happy and healthy retirement.

It is my great privilege to recognize Gil Colyer today, before the entire House of Representatives, for his lifetime of service to Hardin County. He is an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

APPRECIATION OF FAIR HOUSING/ FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, April is both National Fair Housing Month and National Financial Literacy Month, and I rise today to acknowledge both of these important goals and to highlight a serious issue that both of these areas address—home foreclosure.

Many of us have seen the recent reports of a skyrocketing increase in the number of foreclosures and of people losing their homes. Across the country thousands of families have had the American dream of homeownership snatched away.

In the 1st Congressional District of Illinois, which I am privileged to represent, many of my constituents have fallen victim to increases in adjustable rate mortgages, high-cost home equity lines of credit, and predatory loans which have made their dreams of home ownership turn into nightmares.

Homes in Chicago have entered into foreclosure at an alarming rate: currently, Chicago homeowners are in foreclosure at more than twice the national average. One in every 471 homeowners is in foreclosure: that compares with 1 in 1,030 for the Nation.

In 2006, Cook County, Illinois had 19,522 foreclosures, up 35 percent from 14,506 in 2005 and above its peak of 18,612 in 2002.

These are staggering statistics and they have a devastating effect on our neighborhoods. As foreclosures rise our communities diminish, local property values drop, people move out and vacant homes become magnets for crime.

Madam Speaker, we must find solutions to the problem of home foreclosures that are in the best interests of lenders and financial institutions, local and state governments, and most critically, our families and communities.

Homeownership is one of the principal tools by which families build generational wealth. If done wisely, a person may use their home to leverage financial dreams of entrepreneurship, property acquisition, and paying for higher education. But, in order to achieve these goals, consumers must have the tools of financial literacy.

In conclusion Madam Speaker, Congress must put the tools of financial literacy into the hands of all people and create fair housing policies, that protect consumers from the pitfalls of financial ruin and foreclosure.

I encourage my colleagues to use Financial Literacy and Fair Housing Month as a catalyst for immediate passage of federal predatory lending measures that put people before profit.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. PATSY SPIER

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents,

Ms. Patsy Spier of Centennial, Colorado. Ms. Spier, a former Peace Corps volunteer, was recognized by both the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Office for Victim Assistance with the "Strength of the Human Spirit Award," as well as by the U.S. Department of Justice with the "Special Courage Award."

Ms. Spier was among a group of schoolteachers who were attacked while based in Indonesia in 2002. Patsy and several others were severely wounded in the attack, while three were killed, including her husband Rick. When investigators concluded that there was a strong possibility that the Indonesian military had been involved, Ms. Spier began to lobby Members of Congress and the Departments of State and Defense to gain attention to her fight for justice. Working with several legislators, including myself, she was twice able to successfully block U.S. funding toward a military training program for the Indonesian military. Having gained the support of the Indonesian president, she was also successful in her pursuit of a life sentence for the leader of the attack.

Patsy should be commended for her bravery, determination and commitment to justice. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GRACE AND NICK VITORI

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, thank, and recognize my constituents Grace and Nick Vitori. Nick and Grace are a testament to the innate goodness of human nature, the overwhelming positive effect individuals may have on the community and the can-do spirit of America.

For sixty-one years Nick and Grace have been the owners of Vitori's Marketplace in Middletown, Ohio and in less than a month, after some seventy-eight years in business, this landmark grocery, this priceless slice of Americana will close its doors. Nick and Grace are as much a Middletown landmark as the grocery they own. After serving in World War II Nick left college to take over Vitori's from his ailing father, Pasquale, also known as Patsy, who opened Vitori's in 1929. Nick and Grace have been watching over Vitori's ever since. Undoubtedly Middletonians will miss Nick's famous ham salad, Grace's smiling and kind face behind the cash register, and their trademark red jackets.

Through good and bad, Nick and Grace and Vitori's Marketplace has loyally, thoughtfully and generously served their neighbors. Few in Middletown can say their lives haven't been touched by Nick and Grace, and their retirement is certainly well earned.

Grace and Nick Vitori are a testament to the American ethos, to the spirit of community and a devotion to others. I consider it an honor to represent Grace and Nick in Congress, and I wish them a long, happy and healthy retirement.