

A graduate of Columbia College and Harvard Law School, Richard began his career practicing corporate securities law in New York City. In 1981, he began working at Goldman Sachs and Co. where he rose to Partner and Managing Director from 1990 to 2002. Currently the Senior Managing Director of The Orienta Group, an investment and advisory firm, Richard also serves on the Board of Directors of Jets.com, a jet charter company with offices in New York City, Boston and Phoenix.

Richard contributes to and advocates on behalf of a number of charitable causes, several of which are educational institutions. He is a Vice Chairman of the Columbia University Board of Trustees and a member of the Board of the Columbia Investment Management Company. He is the Chairman Emeritus of the Board Visitors of Columbia College, a Trustee of the National Museum of Jewish History in Philadelphia, and a member of the Executive Committee of Gilda's Club of Westchester.

Mr. Witten has balanced his distinguished career and philanthropic work with an equally impressive family life. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Mamaroneck, New York. They have three children, Anne, Alex and Jeffrey. A gifted writer, Richard recently published his first novel, *Divided Loyalties*, a historically accurate depiction of his father-in-law's experience during the Second World War.

Additionally, through their private foundation, Richard and his wife have also provided the primary funding for iTeach, a program developed by Massachusetts General Hospital and Partners Aid Research Centre to improve delivery of HIV and TB care in South Africa.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize my good friend Mr. Richard E. Witten for a successful career in finance and unparalleled devotion to charitable causes. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his tremendous accomplishments.

HONORING THE REVEREND ELBERT R. CURVEY ON FATHER'S DAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, this Father's Day, I would like to honor a man who exemplifies what it means to be an excellent father—a man who is a community leader, an upstanding and moral man, and a positive role model for our youth. The Reverend Elbert R. Curvey, who lives in my congressional district, has done great things, and I am proud to express my congratulations to him for all he has done for our community.

Reverend Curvey is a veritable fixture of the Sunny Side community of Houston. He has been the pastor of the Sunny Side Missionary Baptist Church since 1960 and has overseen strengthening of the congregation over the years. Reverend Curvey has made a point over his lifetime of improving the lives of our young people. He taught for years at Harper Junior High and Clinton Park Elementary, where he served as a tremendous role model for his students. He continued in the Houston Independent School District for decades, eventually becoming Assistant Superintendent.

Reverend Curvey's work in helping our youth through avenues ranging from academic to religious is truly a shining example to behold.

Reverend Curvey has long been a valued member of community, and rightly so. On this occasion of Father's Day, I would like to recognize Reverend Curvey for all of his accomplishments and urge people across America to look to leaders such as Reverend Curvey as role models for their work in inspiring and engaging our youth to live productive, positive lives.

HONORING OFFICER ERIC D. HITE OF TUCSON, ARIZONA, POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I am honored to acknowledge today the exceptional life and public service of Eric D. Hite, an officer with the Tucson Police Department who was tragically killed in the line of duty on June 1st, 2008.

Officer Hite was known as "a cop's cop." He was dedicated, loyal and brave—everything we expect from a law enforcement officer. He took a solemn oath to protect and serve his community. When danger arose on the streets of Tucson early that Sunday morning, Officer Hite wasted no time in responding. "Without hesitation, he ran to that call, ran towards danger," explained Tucson Police Chief Richard Miranda at Officer Hite's funeral. "He gave up his life so that others can live free."

Officer Hite was 43 years old at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, daughter, son, parents, countless friends and colleagues and a grieving community. For four years, Officer Hite proudly wore the uniform of the Tucson Police Department. For 21 years before joining the department, he served with distinction in the United States Air Force. Officer Hite's entire adult life was spent in the service of his country and his community and for that we all owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Every day, thousands of men and women like Officer Hite put their lives on the line in the name of something bigger than themselves. They risk everything for an ideal—the ideal of protecting American freedoms and rule of law. The death of Officer Hite is evidence of the ultimate sacrifice that can come from that ideal.

On June 10th, more than 3,000 mourners attended a service to pay their respects to Officer Hite. Following the service, thousands more lined the streets to salute him as the funeral cortege passed by. Befitting how he lived his life, Officer Hite's funeral service was attended by law enforcement personnel from every police department in Arizona and was filled with touching military and police ceremonies. His coffin was carried by colleagues in dress uniforms and an honor guard representing every law enforcement agency saluted as he passed. There were many moving eulogies but it was his son Roy who best captured the life and legacy of Officer Hite: "He always knew what was right—what was the right thing to do, the right thing to say and the right way to act."

I ask the House of Representatives to join with me in extending condolences to the family and friends of Officer Hite and in thanking him for his great sacrifice as he courageously carried out his duty to protect and serve. His life is an inspiration to us all and he will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE REVEREND FRED McNACK ON FATHER'S DAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, this Father's Day, I would like to honor a man who exemplifies what it means to be an excellent father—a man who is a community leader, an upstanding and moral man, and a positive role model for our youth. The Reverend Fred McNack, who lives in my congressional district, has done great things, and I am proud to express my congratulations to him for all he has done for our community.

Reverend McNack has served as the pastor of Houston's Unity in God Missionary Baptist Church for the last 38 years. He also served his community well as the Associate Pastor of Christian Faith Missionary Baptist Church for 10 years. Not only has Reverend McNack shown admirable dedication to his faith, he also served our country in the United States Navy from 1941 to 1945 during World War II. It is safe to say that Reverend McNack has lived the kind of life that would serve as a good example to our young people of how to serve one's community and country.

Reverend McNack has long been a valued member of community, and rightly so. On this occasion of Father's Day, I would like to recognize Reverend McNack for all of his accomplishments and urge people across America to look to leaders such as Reverend McNack as role models for their work in inspiring and engaging our youth to live productive, positive lives.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE FIRE AND RESCUE WORKERS OF McDOWELL COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary service of the fire and rescue workers of McDowell County, North Carolina, who work tirelessly to ensure the safety of our families and homes. I specially want to offer tribute to the fire and rescue workers, many of which are volunteers, who have been honored with awards from the McDowell Fire and Rescue Association.

Since colonial times predating the birth of the nation, volunteer groups have banded together to form brigades to protect towns and cities from fire and other types of devastation. Benjamin Franklin, one of this nation's founders, was also responsible for the creation of the first volunteer fire department in Philadelphia in 1735.

Since that date millions of Americans, driven by a deep sense of responsibility and compassion for their neighbors, have risked their lives on a daily basis to ensure the safety of others. Currently, over a million Americans serve their communities as fire fighters.

I would like to specifically honor the following individuals who have been named Firefighters and Rescue Persons of the Year by the McDowell Fire and Rescue Association: for the Ashford North Cove Fire Department, Thomas Swofford; for the Crooked Creek Fire Department, Glen Anderson; for the Dysartsville Fire Department, Billy Driggers; for the Glenwood Fire Department, Ryan Spencer and Curtis Grant; for the Hankins North Fork Fire Department, Charles Parker; for the Marion Fire Department, Amy Hudgins; for the Nebo Fire Department, Alan Snypes; for the Old Fort Fire Department, Nick Stafford; for the P.G. Fire Department, Bradley Wyatt; for the Sugar Hill Montford Cove Fire Department, David Patton; for the Woodlawn Fire Department, Lucas Davis; for the McDowell County Rescue Squad, Randy Freeman.

I want to offer tribute to the following First Responders of the Year: for the Ashford North Cove Fire Department, Bradley Washburn; for the Crooked Creek Fire Department, Kirk Lunsford; for the Dysartsville Fire Department, Jeff Walker; for the Glenwood Fire Department, Gene Morgan; for the Hankins North Fork Fire Department, Jimmy Hardin; for the Marion Fire Department, Phillip Finley; for the Nebo Fire Department, Shane Kirkpatrick; for the Old Fort Fire Department, Roy Crisp; for the P.G. Fire Department, Danny Killough; for the Sugar Hill Montford Cove Fire Department, Chris Parker; for the Woodlawn Fire Department, Gary Cook.

I would also like to recognize Brian Lonon, McDowell County Paramedic of the Year, and Derek Carlson, McDowell County Telecommunicator of the Year.

It is with great respect and gratitude that I commend these brave and dedicated fire and rescue workers. I am honored to be able to stand with the McDowell Fire and Rescue Association in recognizing their hard work and service.

HONORING THE REVEREND WILLIAM A. LAWSON ON FATHER'S DAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, this Father's Day, I would like to honor a man who exemplifies what it means to be an excellent father—a man who is a community leader, an upstanding and moral man, and a positive role model for our youth. The Reverend Dr. William A. Lawson, who lives in my congressional district, has done great things, and I am proud to express my congratulations to him for all he has done for our community.

Reverend Lawson is a tremendous father figure and fixture in our community. He has been married to his wife Audrey for over fifty years and admirably raised four children. He was the founding pastor of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church and continues to lead that con-

gregation. Reverend Lawson has also been deeply involved in the community even outside of his church, having conceived and organized the United Way's Houston Homeless Initiative, which raised over \$4 million in a four-year period. He also organized the Houston area's largest and most productive scouting program, leading to his receipt of the 1991 Silver Beaver Award in support of scouting. Clearly, Reverend Lawson has demonstrated the very kind of leadership that we need in our communities to help our youth develop into successful adults.

Reverend Lawson has long been a valued member of the community, and rightly so. On this occasion of Father's Day, I would like to recognize Reverend Lawson for all of his accomplishments and urge people across America to look to leaders such as Reverend Lawson as role models for their work in inspiring and engaging our youth to live productive, positive lives.

REAUTHORIZE THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I join Representatives CASTLE, FERGUSON and SHAYS in introducing the Assault Weapons Ban Reauthorization Act of 2008. This September will mark the fourth anniversary of the expiration of the landmark 1994 Assault Weapons Ban. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms reported that crimes involving assault weapons dropped by two-thirds while the Federal ban was in effect. As the Nation witnesses a dramatic spread of violent gang activity, it is imperative that we take action to keep automatic weapons out of the hands of these criminals. It is high time to bring back the ban.

This bill will prohibit the domestic manufacture and sale of military-style semi-automatic assault weapons such as AK-47s and UZIs, as well as high-capacity ammunition clips that hold more than ten rounds. It also includes weapons designed to fit accessories such as flash suppressors, silencers, and bayonets—accessories that serve no legitimate purpose outside the military and law enforcement.

The Mexican government is currently engaged in a violent war against heavily armed, extremely violent drug traffickers. Just recently the cartels assassinated the Mexican equivalent of our FBI Director. They are now threatening President Calderon's life.

These gangs operate in every major metropolitan area in the United States, and are increasingly active in suburban America where the local police are ill-equipped to meet this threat. Restoring the assault weapons ban will help level the playing field for these police as they work to keep our communities safe and gang-free.

I urge my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this commonsense legislation.

HONORING THE REVEREND ROBERT JEFFERSON ON FATHER'S DAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, this Father's Day, I would like to honor a man who exemplifies what it means to be an excellent father—a man who is a community leader, an upstanding and moral man, and a positive role model for our youth. The Reverend Robert Jefferson has done great things, and I am proud to express my congratulations to him for all he has done for our community.

Reverend Jefferson has long devoted himself to improving our community, especially for our young people. Along with serving as the pastor of the Cullen Missionary Baptist Church, which I attend, he is the Founder/President of the Ministry Advisory Council, Special Projects Director to the Houston Ministers Against Crime, and the Founder/President of A Brand New City. He has played a critical role in creating the Teen Court, a program to be implemented with the Houston Independent School District that would allow students to be punished for infractions without developing a criminal record. I have personally observed Reverend Jefferson's work with children and other at-risk individuals and I can testify that he is an exemplary leader for our young people.

Reverend Jefferson has long been a valued member of community, and rightly so. On this occasion of Father's Day, I would like to recognize Reverend Jefferson for all of his accomplishments and urge people across America to look to leaders such as Reverend Jefferson as role models for their work in inspiring and engaging our youth to live productive, positive lives.

CELEBRATING 80TH BIRTHDAY OF GERALD (JERRY) KOPEL AND 56TH ANNIVERSARY OF JERRY AND DOLORES KOPEL

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a dual celebration for two distinguished members of the First Congressional District. This week the Kopel family of Denver celebrates the 80th Birthday of Gerald (Jerry) Kopel and the 56th Anniversary of the marriage between Jerry and Dolores Kopel.

Jerry and Dolores have led an interesting and engaged life together, balancing careers in journalism, law, politics, and policy. They were the original "power couple" long before dual careers were more outwardly prevalent and socially acceptable. What is truly admirable is the Kopels managed to pursue these accomplishments while raising a family and contributing to the broader well-being of our community.

Dolores and Jerry met at the University of Colorado when Jerry was managing editor of the Silver and Gold newspaper and Dolores was a reporter. Jerry graduated from the University and Dolores transferred to the University of Denver College of Law. They married at