

Shag Contest, Queen's Coronation, and Variety Show are among the other events put on by the Festival. Wilmingtonians have long worked to organize this legendary festival so that Americans might come from near and far to enjoy its distinctive charm.

Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to speak about one of North Carolina's most treasured events. I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of the North Carolina Azalea Festival as a great American tradition.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS  
TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and contributions of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. STEPHANIE was a good friend of mine, and I am still in shock by her sudden passing. She brought energy and enthusiasm, brilliance and dedication to this Congress, and her presence is already sorely missed.

In the weeks since her passing, I have been reflecting on her many contributions to her constituents, her state, and her country, not only most recently in the House of Representatives but also in a lifetime of service. She broke barriers, and in the process elevated the lives of those she touched, both professionally and personally. The first African-American woman elected to Congress from the state of Ohio, STEPHANIE has set the bar incredibly high with her dedication and devotion, and paved the way for future generations to follow. As an attorney, judge, and Member of Congress, she worked tirelessly on behalf of reducing poverty, ensuring access to education and affordable health care, and advocating for the rights of minorities nationwide. STEPHANIE and I saw eye-to-eye on many important issues, whether it was fighting to ensure affordable housing, or for greater protection for Haitian and other refugees, or for the simple notion that every vote should be counted. In the 110th Congress alone STEPHANIE introduced legislation to revitalize low-income communities, protect and ensure voting rights, curtail predatory lending, and provide greater resources for uterine fibroids research, a personal commitment of hers that I know she has carried for many years.

STEPHANIE and I have similar backgrounds as lawyers, judges, and of course Members of Congress, and thus I have always thought that she and I shared a kinship that went beyond just our professional responsibilities. I hold her in the highest degree of respect and admiration. Since her untimely passing, I find myself recalling her personal inspiration as she and I and so many others in this body continue to fight for a better, more equal, and more prosperous society. She is the very definition of a role model.

Mr. Speaker, STEPHANIE's presence will not be easily replaced, if it ever can. The country should value her service; and I, for one, also value her friendship.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
AMERICAN CITIZENS ABROAD

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of American Citizens Abroad, ACA. This organization deserves to be honored for promoting and protecting the rights of the global American community thereby contributing to the political, social and economic prosperity of all Americans.

Americans living abroad are a key demographic in many ways and are often overlooked in Washington. Americans living abroad continue to vote and pay taxes in the United States. Their role in extending American influence around the globe is vital to the well-being of our Nation. Moreover, they are unofficial ambassadors, often the first contact many people around the world have with America and our nation's representatives abroad.

The ACA provides reports containing important information and statistics free of charge to contribute to hearings and debates in the Congress on issues of importance to the American community abroad and to all citizens at home. These efforts are designed to help Congress and the Federal government better understand and serve the members of the American community abroad. The ACA also works hard to ensure that Americans are aware of their rights and privileges while living abroad.

The ACA was founded on July 10th, 1978 in Geneva, Switzerland. Since its inception the ACA has brought together U.S. citizens living all over the world to work together to promote and protect their rights. As a cofounder of the Americans Abroad Caucus with Rep. JOE WILSON, it gives me great pleasure to stand before this Congress and honor the 30th anniversary of this wonderful organization.

IN MEMORY OF MR. S. LEE KLING

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2008*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mr. S. Lee Kling of Country Life Acres, Missouri.

Mr. Kling was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. He attended the New York Military Academy and graduated from Washington University, St. Louis. He served in the U.S. Army from 1950 to 1952.

Mr. Kling had a commitment to political service that broke the boundaries of partisanship. He worked as finance chairman for the Democratic National Committee and served as treasurer of President Jimmy Carter's re-election campaign and treasurer of Congressman Richard Gephardt's presidential committee. He received the Democratic National Committee's Distinguished Service Award in 1982. Mr. Kling also held fundraisers for several Republican candidates, and in 2006, Governor Matt Blunt appointed him to the Missouri Veterans' Commission, as well as the Missouri Development and Finance Board in the spring of 2008.

Mr. Kling's political dedication also extended to the international level. In 1977, he represented President Carter at the funeral of the president of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios III. He co-chaired a committee for the ratification of the Panama Canal treaties. In 1979, he served as an economic adviser during the peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt. He was also a civilian aide to Secretary of the Army.

Mr. Kling was appointed by President Clinton to head the Base Realignment and Closure Commission in 1995. Three years later, Gephardt asked him to head the Amtrak Reform Council. In addition, Mr. Kling was the chairman of the board of the Bames-Jewish Hospital Foundation and chairman of the Kling Co., an insurance, consulting and investment firm.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Kling was a valuable leader, businessman, philanthropist, and public servant. I know the members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife, Rosalyn Kling; his four sons, Stephen, Lee, Allan and Frank; and his two grandchildren.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED  
SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE  
ROBERT H. OLIVER

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2008*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues from California, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. NUNES and Mr. CARDOZA to pay tribute to the distinguished public service of Judge Robert H. Oliver. After more than 15 years, Judge Oliver is stepping down as Chairman of the California State University, Fresno Board of Governors in September of this year.

During his tenure with the University, Robert worked tirelessly to improve the Foundation Board, and its service to both the school and the community by increasing the orderly annual contributions to the University Advancement Division, as well as developing a strong executive committee structure within the organization. It is because of these endeavors and others like them that Robert was able to serve the second longest term as Chairman in the 76 year history of the foundation. It goes without saying that his dedication to the community is to be commended.

Due to his vast wisdom and knack for educating others, Robert was frequently called upon to lecture on or moderate discussion of a diverse variety of issues including: domestic violence, the history of traditional jazz in America, juvenile justice, and leadership in the volunteer sector. Throughout his distinguished career, Robert has served on numerous committees, boards, and panels such as the Fresno County Interagency Council for Children and Families, the Rotary Club of Fresno, and the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California. His service and work have been recognized by countless awards and honors, not the least of which is his recognition as an "Outstanding Alumnus" from both the Craig School of Business at California State University, Fresno and Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco.

Throughout his career, Robert Oliver has proven to be a highly effective leader who was always committed to excellence in public service. As he gets ready to spend more time on other causes and endeavors of interest to him, we thank him for his service and we wish him continued success and best of luck for the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CITY  
COUNCILMEMBER MATT GARCIA  
OF THE FAIRFIELD, CA CITY  
COUNCIL

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2008*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Councilmember Matt Garcia, who faithfully served the city of Fairfield and whose life was tragically taken last week.

Councilman Garcia, in his 22 years, made an indelible mark on the city of Fairfield and as a young leader he inspired many to make this a better world through service and sacrifice.

As the youngest member ever elected to the Fairfield City Council, Matt understood the potential for young people to effect change in their communities.

He coached Little League, rejuvenated the Fairfield Youth Commission, and vigorously supported the Police Athletics League; Councilman Garcia was a tireless advocate for the youth of Fairfield.

At the age of 16, Matt told his fellow students that he would become the mayor of Fairfield one day and never lost sight of that goal.

From his days at Armijo High to his victorious race for City Council, Matt was able to bring together diverse people and organizations.

My thoughts and prayers are with Councilmember Garcia's family and our community at this very difficult time. I am deeply saddened by his passing and know his memory will live on for generations through the work of those he inspired.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN W. ROD-  
GERS—SUPERINTENDENT OF  
SCHOOLS, SANTA ROSA COUNTY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2008*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my good friend and neighbor, Superintendent Johnny Rodgers. Johnny has been the Superintendent of Schools, Santa Rosa County since 1999. The people of Santa Rosa County re-elected him twice since then and he is retiring from public service at the end of this year.

A career educator, the Pensacola News Journal recently wrote "For years, Santa Rosa County has relished the title of being a high-performing public school system." As Johnny gets ready to turn over the reins to a new superintendent, he should be proud of how good a school system he has led and mentored.

Johnny started his life of public service in 1968 in the United States Air Force. He served honorably in Vietnam and Thailand and upon returning to civilian life, Johnny received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of West Florida. Johnny doesn't talk much about his service during the Vietnam conflict but we all know how important his contributions were and I want to thank him again for his service during a time of war.

Before Johnny's current position, he served in numerous public education positions in Santa Rosa County, including teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal. Named Elementary School Principal of the Year in 1994 and Middle School Principal of the Year in 1997, Johnny has done it all.

He has been married to the former Vick Rogers for 40 years and together they have two children and four grandchildren.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
JORGE ALBERTO SUBIRATS

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2008*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and the State of Alabama, recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Jorge Alberto Subirats and pay tribute to his memory.

A native of Havana, Cuba, Jorge came to the United States at the age of 12. He, along with his brothers and sisters, left Cuba in 1961 and flew to Miami. Jorge and his siblings soon moved to Birmingham, Alabama, where they were joined by the rest of their family in 1963. Jorge graduated from John Carroll High School in Birmingham in 1967 and from Auburn University in 1972.

A resident of Mobile for 36 years, Jorge was perhaps most widely known for his service as a realtor with Roberts Brothers for 31 years. He was consistently one of the company's top agents each year, an achievement due in large part to the trust and admiration he earned from his clients.

Jorge met every definition of a community leader—he served as a high school teacher and coach, a swim and dive coach, and a Sunday school leader. He was active in many civic organizations, including the Mobile Area Kiwanis Club and the Mobile Association of Realtors.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader, a friend to many throughout Alabama, as well as a wonderful husband and devoted father. Jorge Alberto Subirats will be dearly missed by his family—his wife of 25 years, Valerie Jean Subirats; their four children, Lindsey Loper, Michael Jorge Subirats, Laura Katherine Subirats, and Katherine Anne Subirats; his mother, Elvira Margaret Subirats; his brothers, Fernando Subirats, Gustavo Subirats, and Luis Subirats; and his two sisters, Silvia Theye and Margaret Hopkins—as well as the many countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO 173RD AIRBORNE  
PARATROOPERS

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2008*

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and to submit for the RECORD a story concerning the events of July 13, 2008, and an account of the heroics of the paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne. Reports such as this one remind every American of the bravery, the courage, and the willingness to sacrifice of every servicemember in the U.S. Armed Forces—but this tale is an exceptional example. I am honored to share it with you and with the American people.

I'm sure you heard about 9 soldiers being killed in Afghanistan a couple of weeks ago. As AP reported it, it was a "setback", the "newly established base" there was 'abandoned' by the Americans. That, of course, was the extent of their coverage.

Steve Mraz of Stars and Stripes and Jeff Emanuel tell the rest of the story. Emanuel, who went out and dug into the story sets the enemy force at 500 while AP sets it at 200. Frankly I'm much more inclined to believe Emanuel than AP.

July 13, 2008 was the date, and Jeff Emanuel, an independent combat reporter sets the scene:

Three days before the attack, 45 U.S. Paratroopers from the 173d Airborne [Brigade Combat Team], accompanied by 25 Afghan soldiers, made their way to Kunar province, a remote area in the northeastern Afghanistan-Pakistan border area, and established the beginnings of a small Combat Outpost (COP). Their movement into the area was noticed, and their tiny numbers and incomplete fortifications were quickly taken advantage of.

A combined force of up to 500 Taliban and al Qaeda fighters quickly moved into the nearby village of Wanat and prepared for their assault by evicting unallied residents and according to an anonymous senior Afghan defense ministry official, "us [ing] their houses to attack us."

Tribesmen in the town stayed behind "and helped the insurgents during the fight," the provincial police chief, told The Associated Press.

Dug-in mortar firing positions were created, and with that indirect fire, as well as heavy machine gun and RPG fire from fixed positions, Taliban and al Qaeda fighters rushed the COP from three sides.

As Emanuel notes, the odds were set. 500 vs. 70. Even so, Emanuel entitled his article, "An Alamo With a Different Ending." The 500 terrorists apparently didn't realize they were attacking US Army paratroopers.

The unit in question was 2nd Platoon, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, led by 1LT Jonathan Brostrom.

The first RPG and machine gun fire came at dawn, strategically striking the forward operating base's mortar pit. The insurgents next sighted their RPGs on the tow truck inside the combat outpost, taking it out.

That was around 4:30 a.m.

This was not a haphazard attack. The reportedly 500 insurgents fought from several positions. They aimed to overrun the new base. The U.S. Soldiers knew it and fought like hell. They knew their lives were on the line.

The next target was the FOB's observation post, where nine soldiers were positioned on