

SeniorNet Inc—that helped older citizens learn how to use computers and navigate the internet; fostered the development of the first information and assistance programs in Lucas County for grandparents and other kin who are raising children; she established the first Elder Friendly Program for Toledo—affiliated with the national Elder Friendly Program—with the assistance of the former Toledo Mayor Jack Ford, to help improve services and accessibility for older citizens shopping in retail stores and local businesses; she fostered the creation of a Senior Safety program for older citizens; and she spearheaded the organization of the first campaign to get a Senior Citizens Tax Levy on the ballot in Lucas County to help increase meals for homebound elders, expand home care for the sick and frail elderly, provide more services of Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers, and expand services for senior centers.

Billie Johnson is widely regarded by her colleagues in the aging network. Her leadership fosters a spirit of cooperation, allegiance and loyalty which is rare. Evidence of her skill is the development of a master plan, in cooperation with many partners, for the re-use of the 42 acres of county-owned land surrounding the Area Office on Aging into a comprehensive, continuing care complex for older adults. As the Area Office on Aging's first and only Executive Director for three decades, Mrs. Johnson has helped in the creation and development of many senior centers, nutrition sites for seniors, transportation programs, health services, adult day care programs, home care, and numerous other services for older adults. She has been an advisor, consultant and speaker for numerous local, state, national and international organizations and agencies serving older persons including: Iowa Commission on Aging, Ohio Department of Aging, National Church Residences, National Council on Aging/NISH, National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Gerontology Program for the University of Toledo, and numerous Area Agencies on Aging located in Michigan, Ohio, Kansas and Iowa. She was even selected to participate in the United Nations World Conference on Women Forum in 1985 in Nairobi, Kenya. The International Federation on Aging later published excerpts of her white paper in a book entitled: "Global Aging."

More important than any professional achievement, Billie Johnson has carried forward the lessons learned at her grandmother's knee as she inspires and teaches her own daughter and granddaughters. She guides them in proud tradition and shows them by example how to be strong women in their own right.

I have counted on Billie Johnson's wise counsel throughout the years, as have many others in our region. She is a compassionate, caring, and dynamic woman, and a fine example to all as a Member of the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame. I know I join with many across our state when I offer my warmest and heartfelt Congratulations!

IN HONOR OF DAVE PAVLICK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Dave Pavlick

for his dedication to social justice on the occasion of the completion of his second 600 mile walk throughout southeastern Ohio to promote the Health Care for All Ohioans Act.

In coordination with the Single Payer Action Network (SPAN), Dave is ending his twenty-three day walk for Healthcare Justice in Parma, Ohio. The purpose of the walk is to promote the Health Care for All Ohioans Act and to raise awareness of the plight of millions of Americans who are underinsured or without healthcare. Dave's walk across southeastern Ohio has garnered attention and support from people all over the State of Ohio and has raised our collective consciousness of one of the biggest issues facing Americans today. I, along with SPAN and the United Auto Workers Local 1005 join in welcoming Dave back to Parma at tonight's "Welcome Home Dave" celebration.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Dave Pavlick, and in recognition of his outstanding commitment to social justice and promoting healthcare for all Ohioans.

UNLESS U HAVE WALKED IN OUR SHOES

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

UNLESS U HAVE WALKED IN OUR SHOES

(By Brock DeAngelo)

My name is Brock, I am 13 years old. I will make a difference in a world that refuses to hear our voices. We deserve a voice. And that voice should be our own. We live in a nation that offers "Freedom of Speech." Not only should we be heard but we should be offered respect. Please join me in a mission that is all about U. Contact me at unlessuwalked@aol.com.

My name is Brock, Brock DeAngelo. For years I would have loved any last name but mine. Then one day I realized, it's not the name that makes a person; it's the person that makes the name.

I then decided I will change the vicious cycle behind my last name. The mental and physical abuse, the evilness and malicious lies stop with me.

I will show my brother and one day my children; that a man with great pride and integrity stands in front of the "DeAngelo" name. And it began with me, Brock!

The courts cursed me with a Guardian ad Litem. I can honestly say she never listened to a word I said. She was too busy trying to twist my situation around to suit her views. It was a little hard for her to accomplish since everytime we met the stories on my behalf were always the same. Funny thing about "the truth", it's consistent.

She was the first of many disappointments. Children's Services made me a promise that they never followed through with (no thanks to my ad Litem).

In the end, the person that does not deserve a title to fatherhood, saved his own reputation. He agreed to leave me alone. Unfortunately not every one is as lucky.

I am asking U to join me on my quest, to become a voice and to make what U have to say important.

I have discussed this matter with my attorney, met with a Special Assistant to Tim

Ryan and discussed this matter with Sandra Harwood, State Representative, 65th House District.

My goal is for Congress to not only hear us but to act upon our intelligence. In order for U to be recognized, we must fight together. U are old enough to know right from wrong. The courts need to listen. U are the future.

CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS
DECLARATION I

Congress shall allow no law that endangers a child's physical, emotional or physiological well-being.

DECLARATION II

Congress shall encourage all states to provide standardized legal representation of children and their specific issues in legal domestic disputes, regardless of state jurisdiction or residence.

DECLARATION III

A child shall be guaranteed an equal voice in determining court-ordered visitations with parents or guardians as well as the continuation of those visits.

DECLARATION IV

No child shall be forced to endure ongoing physical, emotional, or verbal harm by a parent, guardian or other individual.

DECLARATION V

No child shall be forced to return to the care of a parent or legal guardian who has been convicted of certain civil crimes or any felony, unless they themselves desire it.

DECLARATION VI

Accusations by a child concerning ongoing parental misconduct shall be investigated within twenty-four hours and taken seriously until otherwise proven false.

DECLARATION VII

The child physical, emotional and physiological well-being shall be of the utmost concern when determining their possible court testimony against a parent, guardian or other adult.

DECLARATION VIII

A child shall have a voice in determining the need for restraining orders against a parent, guardian or other adult.

DECLARATION IX

Reports from doctors, physiologists, social workers and other professionals and paraprofessionals shall be given the highest priority when determining parental rights, visitations, and other issues concerning the emotional and physiological well-being of the child.

DECLARATION X

The rights of all other citizens shall be applied with equal conviction to all children.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF RANDALL C. FERGUSON, JR.

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the achievements of Mr. Randall C. Ferguson, Jr., an important resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I am honored to represent. This week, Mr. Ferguson is to be inducted into the Missouri Walk of Fame during a reception as part of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, an event held to honor the achievements of African-Americans who have made significant contributions

to Missouri. Randall is a retired executive from the IBM Corporation. He spent 29 years with IBM in various sales, management, and executive positions. His last position at IBM was senior location executive for the Kansas City region and senior state executive for Kansas and Missouri with responsibility for programs and policy implementation essential to IBM's interests, reputation and involvement relating to both the internal IBM community of 900 employees, and to the outside community. His responsibilities also included government relations, community relations, and all IBM philanthropic grants.

After IBM, he was recruited to be the senior vice president for business growth and member connections for the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. His responsibilities included membership, technology, small business activities, aviation, minority business alliances, the economic advisory board, and the world trade center.

Randall holds a bachelor of science degree in business administration with honors from Walton School of Business, University of Arkansas. Throughout his life, Mr. Ferguson has exercised a tireless belief in the principle of putting "others" before "self." He has put his principles to practice, and the effects of his efforts can be felt throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. Recognizing his business acumen, Great Planes Energy, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and Shelter Insurance voted him on to their corporate boards.

Civically, Randall serves on 12 boards in the greater Kansas City area with varied interests such as energy, healthcare, education, economic development and technology, employment, and diversity in such areas as race, sex, and religion. In all of his activities, he demonstrates his dedication and commitment to the greater good of others. His high energy pace translates directly to the results he is able to obtain for the benefit of all in the greater Kansas City area. Regardless of whether he is in the trenches or the boardroom, his poise and thoughtfulness is ever present. For those reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and a privilege to recognize Randall Ferguson, Jr. at the Missouri Walk of Fame reception, hosted by myself and fellow Missourian, U.S. Representative WM. LACY CLAY of St. Louis.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Randall Ferguson, Jr. and his endless commitment to serving the residents of the State of Missouri. He is a true role model not just to the African-American community in Missouri, but to the entire African-American community-at-large. May his success serve as a stepping-stone for many other African-Americans eager to be just as successful in their endeavors. While it is but a small acknowledgement for all of the work he has done, it is a heartfelt gesture to a heartfelt friend, taking strength from the lives he has touched in our hometown.

COMMEMORATING SEA OTTER AWARENESS WEEK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 6th Annual Sea Otter

Awareness Week, September 22–28, 2008, sponsored by Defenders of Wildlife. This weeklong event provides the opportunity to educate the broader public about sea otters, their natural history, the integral role that sea otters play in the near-shore marine ecosystem, and the conservation issues they are facing.

In the early 1700s, before wide-scale hunting began, sea otters ranged across the North Pacific rim from Japan to Baja, California. The worldwide population estimates for that time range from the hundreds of thousands to possibly a million or more. Before the hunting began, there were approximately 16,000–20,000 along California's coast. Killing these animals for their fur brought down their numbers until they were thought to be extinct off California by the early 1900s.

But they were not driven completely to extinction. In the 1930s a small population, less than 100, was discovered that had escaped the hunt in a remote cove on a coastal ranch in Big Sur on the central coast of California. Since that time, groups such as Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the Sea Otter, and The Ocean Conservancy have raised public awareness and helped protect this important species under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act.

The presence of the California sea otter has become an icon of the State's coastal environment and culture, and these charismatic animals bring significant tourism revenue to Californian coastal communities. The spring census conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey this year counted 2,760 animals, down 8.8 percent from last year, and their range extends along the central coast from Half Moon Bay to Pt. Conception.

These numbers are significantly less than what is necessary to consider the population stable and their population growth in recent years is slower than their cousins in Alaska. Researchers are beginning to identify indirect hazards for sea otters such as non-point source pollution, pathogens, and entrapment in fisheries' gear that are causing their population growth to slow. Such realizations support the need for continued research and preventive measures to respond to these issues, while continuing to ward against the direct killings/takings that still occur.

The decline of southern sea otters off the California coast not only impacts the species itself, but it affects other marine populations and the surrounding ecosystem. They are what scientists refer to as a keystone species. This means that they are integrally important to the ecosystem in which they live. For example, the demise of sea otters allows their prey, sea urchins, to proliferate unchecked, which leads to the alarming overgrazing of kelp beds—one of the ocean's nursery grounds for many marine animals. In particular, research shows that the absence of sea otters has a direct link to the sharp decline of kelp along portions of California's coast.

The sea otter is also what scientists refer to as a sentinel or an indicator species. In this way, the sea otters are the canaries in the coal mine for our coastal health. The sea otters are all too effective at monitoring toxins and diseases in the marine environment, which can affect the health of humans and other wildlife.

California has taken the first step toward addressing these emerging concerns by signing

into law California Assembly Bill 2485, which establishes a State fund for sea otter conservation. Again this year Californians had the option of donating a portion of their tax returns to sea otter conservation. I want to emphasize that this means that Californians voluntarily pay a little more on their tax return to help protect these animals. To date, this has raised almost \$270,000.

However, this is a federally protected species and California cannot go it alone. In addition to working with my colleagues to secure Federal funds to support a continued and complete recovery of the population, I introduced H.R. 3639, the southern sea otter Recovery and Research Act. Earlier this year, the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans held a hearing about the southern sea otter and the management of these populations.

Dr. James Estes from the University of California, Santa Cruz; Andrew Johnson, from the Monterey Bay Aquarium; and Jim Curland from Defenders of Wildlife testified on the state of the sea otter populations. I and my colleagues have sought their knowledge and expertise, along with other Federal, State, and local experts and citizens to provide for research and recovery programs for the southern sea otter.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the many accomplishments of Defenders of Wildlife, who carry out the important mission to preserve our Nation's wildlife and habitat. I also applaud the other non-profit environmental organizations, working with the Monterey Bay Aquarium, researchers, fishermen, State and Federal agencies, schools, and many other institutions and individuals, who devote tremendous effort to protect and recover the southern California sea otter. Sea Otter Awareness Week is just one of their many activities geared towards honoring and saving this species, and I am proud to be associated with this vital work.

HONORING JUDGE HAROLD BAREFOOT SANDERS, JR.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I mourn the passing of one of my political heroes, the legendary U.S. District Judge Harold Barefoot Sanders, Jr.

Madam Speaker, Judge Sanders is best known for overseeing a desegregation plan for the Dallas Independent School District from the 1980s until 2003. Judge Sanders also directed the overhaul of state schools for mentally retarded people and served as a legislative counsel to President Lyndon Johnson.

Madam Speaker, from his core, Judge Sanders symbolized civil rights. He knew that fairness took work, and his diligence is why he was able to make history and inspire a generation of my Texas colleagues. As an assistant attorney general in the Department of Justice, he was credited with helping pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As a Texas legislator, he helped write the Texas Mental Health Code. And as a federal judge, in a ruling that I believe took more courage than any other, he declared Dallas' segregated schools illegal.

Madam Speaker, President John F. Kennedy appointed Judge Sanders as U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Texas in 1961.