

preserving victims' remains so they can be buried according to Jewish law, and helping family members cope with the tragedy.

ZAKA volunteers are widely recognized and respected throughout Israel for their devotion to the difficult duties they perform. During 2007, they participated in more than 18,000 life-saving or search-and-rescue incidents. More than 2,000 times they were involved in activities to honor the dead after fatal accidents or attacks. Because of their professionalism, they have forged close working relationships with police and other emergency responders.

ZAKA has also expanded its work to respond to accidents and catastrophes around the world. They helped identify Jewish victims of the deadly Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in 2004 in Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, and Indonesia. They helped return the remains of victims of plane crashes in Russia and Namibia. They helped save 2,000-year-old Jewish catacombs in Italy. And they helped rescue and preserve sacred Jewish Torahs in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

I had the privilege of speaking at a lunch last week here in Washington honoring ZAKA and its founder, Yehuda Meshi Zahav. ZAKA's motto is "Saving those who can be saved, and honoring those who cannot." They live up to this motto every day. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this great organization, and to the many volunteers who give selflessly of their time to help those in need in Israel and around the world.

TRIBUTE TO GAYLE O. AVERYT

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tremendous business and civic leader and a great friend. Mr. Gayle Averyt is being honored on October 1st for accomplishing an extraordinary feat—50 years of service to the same employer—Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company.

After earning a bachelor's degree from Davidson College and an MBA from Harvard Business School, Gayle joined the staff of Colonial in 1958 at the age of 25. He rose through the ranks at Colonial, proving himself a very capable and collegial businessman. By 1970, he became Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer at a youthful 37 years of age. He held those positions for 23 years, until assuming the title of Chairman Emeritus of Colonial Life in 1993. That was the same year Colonial merged with UNUM Corporation of Portland, Maine, and he served on UNUM Corporation's Board of Directors from 1993–1999.

Gayle is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Health Insurance Association of America and served as Secretary of the South Carolina Insurance Commission. He also served on the Board of NationsBank, a board member of the National Association (Carolinas) from 1992–1995 and as a member of the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Ports Authority from 1995–1999.

Despite his hectic career, Gayle believed in his community and sought opportunities to

give back. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Foundation for Columbia's Future and is a former member of the Executive Committee (1979–1995) and Vice President (1988–1995) of the South Carolina State Fair Association. He has been a trustee of the University of South Carolina Business Partnership Foundation and is past president of the University of South Carolina Research and Development Foundation, having served as a Trustee of the Foundation from 1980–1991. He is past president of the University of South Carolina Orchestra Association and served on the board of the Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington Counties.

Gayle has been awarded numerous recognitions. In 1989, the South Carolina State Chamber of Commerce recognized him as South Carolina Businessman of the Year. The University of South Carolina awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Public Service that same year. He received Distinguished Service Awards from USC and from the Moore School of Business at USC in 1993 and 2006 respectively. In 1994, he received the Order of the Palmetto, which is the highest civic honor awarded by the Governor to individual citizens for outstanding service to the state. Four years later, he was inducted into the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame.

While Gayle has been a lifelong Republican who has been very active in numerous political campaigns, he has been a very ardent support of me and my political efforts. I am proud to call him a dear friend.

Gayle is married to the former Margaret "Peg" Finlay, and the two have three daughters, Caroline, Margaret, and Elinor. They are very active members of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Columbia.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Gayle Averyt for a remarkable career at Colonial Life & Accident and a lifetime of dedication to his community. He is a man of honor and integrity. I applaud his many contributions, and extend my best wishes and Godspeed on this tremendous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING OF STAFF SERGEANT DARRIS JULIUS DAWSON UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I rise today to honor the sacrifice of Staff Sergeant Darris Julius Dawson. On September 14, 2008, while serving his third tour in Iraq, Staff Sergeant Dawson was killed in the line of duty in Tunnis, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Staff Sergeant Dawson joined the United States Army shortly after graduating from Escambia High School in Pensacola, Florida. Darris re-enlisted twice and was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Madam Speaker, the Northwest Florida community is proud of his service, and we offer our sincere condolences to his wife, four

children, family and friends as they mourn their loss of this fine man. On behalf of the United States Congress and a grateful Nation, I am humbled to recognize his dedication and love for our country. May God continue to bless Darris and all of the men and women in uniform who protect our freedom, and may God continue to bless America.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND HARD WORK OF EDWARD JOHNSON

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Johnson, Arkansas' 2008 Outstanding Older Worker of the Year.

His commitment and dedication to establishing employment opportunities for Americans who are beyond the traditional retirement age has helped play a vital role in Arkansas' economy.

There is no one more deserving of this recognition. Mr. Johnson loves to see the excitement on a veteran's face when he or she gets a good job.

He continues to lead a life of service he started when he joined the Army in 1948. Serving tours in Japan, Korea, Panama, and Vietnam and earning numerous medals he hasn't retired from helping his neighbors.

Following his military career, Mr. Johnson became the Workforce Services Veterans representative for areas in the third district, a position he has held for 30 years.

Married to his lovely wife, Louise, he has taught the importance of being involved in the community to three children and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Johnson remains active with the chamber of commerce and he enjoys the company of his family and friends.

I congratulate Mr. Johnson and thank him for his service.

CELEBRATING OXI DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to join Hellenic-Americans and Philhellenes everywhere to celebrate "OXI Day (No Day)," which falls on the 28th of October. This year marks the 68th anniversary of a very important day in Hellenic history, the day on which brave Greek patriots said "No" to fascism, "No" to injustice, and "No" to slavery. For those individuals who lived through that momentous period and their descendants, many of whom live in the 14th Congressional District of New York, "OXI Day" is more than a memory: it is the embodiment of Hellenism and its highest ideals.

At dawn on October 28, 1940, General Ionnas Metaxas was confronted with an ultimatum. An Italian ambassador delivered a message directly from General Mussolini demanding that Greece allow Axis forces to enter Greek territory and occupy certain unspecified "strategic locations" or face war.

General Metaxas simply replied "No" and committed the brave people of Greece to resistance against Axis oppression. With level-headed determination and steadfast resolve, the citizenry of Greece mobilized. Men went calmly to their closets and retrieved their military uniforms and weapons. Women went about their necessary tasks, and the children assisted as they were able.

On OXI Day, the people of Greece chose the harder path, the path of resistance. That brave generation of Hellenes refused to submit to oppression even at the cost of their homes, their land, and their lives. Theirs was an act of self-sacrifice that clearly proclaimed the humanitarian ideals of their Orthodox Christian faith and their ethnic heritage. The Greeks' brave defense of their land was a crucial turning point in the Axis eastern advances. Dogged resistance by Greek patriots weakened Axis morale and derailed the Nazi war effort by delaying the eventual attack on Soviet Union. The Greeks' sacrifice will forever be remembered and honored by the free nations of the world.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the heroes of OXI Day. In their brave words and deeds we see all of the highest virtues of Hellenic heritage: passion for justice, courage at a time of trial, unity in the midst of conflict, and willingness to sacrifice one's life for the good of others. On this day, we thank Greece for saying "OXI."

HONORING THE NEW DOVE CHOCOLATE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I stand today to commend the opening of the new Dove Chocolate Center for Excellence in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania on Monday, September 29th. On the 29th, I will join Dove in celebrating the completion of a \$70 million factory expansion. The expansion not only represents an investment in Mars production capacity, but represents a \$70 million investment in the Elizabethtown community as well.

Mars Snackfood US has a history in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, dating back to 1970 when Mars, Incorporated purchased the Klein Chocolate Company. In order to keep up with production demand, their facility, which was originally built in 1915, has been renovated and expanded several times since the purchase in 1970. Today, the Elizabethtown plant is the center of the Mars Snackfood US chocolate making world, roasting and grinding the cocoa beans used in the company's various snack products.

Mars currently employs more than 300 people at the Elizabethtown plant, and the expansion will retain current jobs and add more than 30 new jobs as well. As a part of the financial commitment to the expansion, in November 2007 Mars showed its ongoing commitment to the Elizabethtown community by contributing \$125,000 to the borough to be used for mitigating traffic concerns during the expansion project.

I want to congratulate Mars on the completion of a successful expansion project and praise their commitment to American jobs by

maintaining and indeed expanding production here in Pennsylvania, to the benefit of the Elizabethtown community. It is important that we recognize firms like Mars for their investment in the communities in which they operate. At a time when many jobs are being sent overseas, I commend Mars for creating expanding opportunities for employment right here in Pennsylvania's 16th Congressional District.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize the Republic of China's National Day, which is October 10th.

Madam Speaker, Taiwan and the U.S. have a long and valued partnership. For over half a century, a close relationship has existed between the United States and Taiwan, which has been of significant political, economic, and cultural advantage to both countries. Taiwan is one of the few vibrant democracies in the region, and its citizens enjoy all of the civil liberties found in the United States and Europe. Freedom House, in its ratings of freedom, consistently rate the people of Taiwan to be among the freest in Asia.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Taiwan, it gives me great pleasure to witness the impressive democratic and economic transformations that Taiwan has undergone. Mr. Ma Ying-jeou was elected president of Taiwan in March of this year and took office in May. The transfer of power from the Democratic Progressive Party to the Nationalist Party was smooth and peaceful. President Ma stresses economic competitiveness for Taiwan, strong bilateral relations with the United States, and gradual improvement of cross-strait relations.

Again, I extend my congratulations to the people of Taiwan on their National Day.

HONORING THE SOUTHFIELD VETERANS COMMISSION AND SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Southfield Veterans Commission and Southfield Public Library for their outstanding participation in the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress.

The Library of Congress Veterans History Project collects and archives the personal recollections of U.S. wartime veterans, to honor their service and to share their stories with current and future generations.

The Southfield Veterans Commission and Southfield Public Library have worked together to ensure that veterans from the city of Southfield and surrounding communities have their stories included in and honored by the project. Their efforts have become a model for other organizations and communities.

Under the leadership of chairman Dan Brightwell, the commission has collected the

histories of over 70 local veterans. Each week, members of the commission volunteer their own time and skills to interview and record the stories of each veteran and prepare the histories to be archived at the Library of Congress.

These interviews have preserved extraordinary stories of individual service and important moments in our Nation's history. They include the first-hand accounts of a young man at Pearl Harbor on the morning of December 7, 1941; a 21-year-old Army nurse lieutenant treating the wounded on Fiji islands; a Marine fighting on the island of Pelilu and Guadalcanal; a Tuskegee Airman shot down over Germany and captured as a prisoner of war; a 19-year-old Army private storming Normandy beach, and veterans from the most horrific battles of the Vietnam conflict.

The Southfield Public Library was named as a Partner Archive to serve as a local repository for Veterans History Project interviews. The library provides space each week for the collection of veterans' histories and has created an online archive where residents can easily view and enjoy local veterans' stories.

This Veterans Day, November 11, 2008, I am proud to recognize the Southfield Veterans Commission, the Southfield Public Library, and the local veterans who have contributed their stories to the Veterans History Project at a special event, "Honoring Southfield's Veterans," at the Southfield Public Library. This special celebration brings together the Southfield community to honor local veterans for their service to their fellow citizens and country and the work of the local volunteers to preserve their stories so that future generations can learn from their service and sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF TAIWAN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to extend my warmest wishes to the Taiwanese people in anticipation of the celebration of their National Day on October 10, 2008.

For nearly 30 years, the U.S. and Taiwan have shared an official commitment of friendship and cooperation. Not only is the bond between our peoples very strong, but the framework established by the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act continues to provide a solid foundation for the close relations between our two countries. Our ties have been particularly strengthened by the Taiwanese-American community, which has made pivotal contributions to American social, economic, and political life.

When I recently visited Taiwan, I met with newly elected President Ma Ying-jeou and learned about the great development in his country. I witnessed first-hand the success of Taiwan's robust democracy and vibrant economy. This year, Taiwan has risen to become the U.S.'s ninth largest trading partner. Through the maintenance of strong dialogue and collaboration, our nations will surely continue to benefit from the mutual advantages we offer one another.

Taiwan also plays a critical role in the shared goal of maintaining peace and stability