

A WELL-DESERVED TRIBUTE TO
THE REVEREND HOWARD M.
HAYWOOD

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on November 23rd, the congregation of the Myrtle Baptist Church, joined by many of the citizens of Newton, and indeed of the greater Boston area, will pay a bittersweet tribute to the Reverend Howard Haywood, commemorating the exemplary service he has provided to that congregation—and to the community at large—for more than two decades.

Reverend Haywood took over as pastor of the Myrtle Baptist Church in 1985. His formal role ended in July of this year, and the many people that he served, comforted and inspired are gathering to honor him. At a time when questions of the appropriateness of the size of compensation have been an important topic in this House, I think it worthy of noting that Reverend Haywood took no compensation at all for the extraordinary work that he has done.

Under his leadership, the Myrtle Baptist Church has become a source of help for people from all generations and walks of life. In the terrible aftermath of Katrina, when the Federal Government failed so many people, under the Reverend Haywood's leadership the Myrtle Baptist Church did an extraordinary amount to provide the assistance that people needed. From this relatively small congregation, two truck loads of food, clothing and gifts were dispatched and noncongregate students from the surrounding colleges were so inspired by this that they joined the effort.

While Howard Haywood's works are truly impressive, the greatest gift he has given all of us is the example of a man of considerable talent dedicating that talent to bettering the lives of others and providing a wonderful example of religion and religious service at its best.

Madam Speaker, I am glad to hold out to the Nation the example of Howard Haywood, and I look forward to participating in the event in which I and many others will tell him how much we appreciate his work.

SPEAKER PELOSI RECEIVES THE
KNIGHT'S CROSS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with our colleagues the remarks made by the Italian Ambassador, the Honorable Giovanni Castellaneta, as he awarded you with the Knight's Cross. The Knight's Cross is the supreme decoration of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy and, as the highest ranking Italian-American in our Nation's history, it is an honor which you richly deserve. I urge all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating you on the receipt of this high tribute from such an important ally and in thanking the Ambassador for recognizing the historic role you have played in the American story.

AMBASSADOR GIOVANNI CASTELLANETA'S
REMARKS VILLA FIRENZE, SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

“...il vivere libero (...) propone onori e premii mediante alcune oneste e determinate ragioni, e fuora di quelle non premia né onora alcuno”. Those are the words of the great Italian thinker, Nicolò Machiavelli. Translation: “living free (...) offers honors and rewards for certain honest and specific reasons, and outside of these, honors and rewards none.” For Machiavelli rewarding merit, and not noble birth or riches—is the basis for “living free.” It is the very foundation of democracy, where the merits of individuals are affirmed unhindered and contributes to the progress of the Nation.

There are no doubts of the merits of the Honorable Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, garnered over the years of her public and political engagement. Years in which she emerged in the United States as a prominent political figure and a foremost representative of Italianicity.

The roots of her political inclinations are clear. Speaker Pelosi was born to a family with a long history in political life. I recall seeing a picture of Nancy in the arms of her father, Thomas D'Alessandro, on the campaign trail that would lead him to the U.S. Congress representing the State of Maryland.

He handed down his passion for politics to his children: Thomas D'Alessandro III followed in his footsteps in Baltimore, serving also as Mayor from 1967 to 1971.

It was then to be Nancy's turn. With such a background, how could she not heed the call? Her father's bloodline and her Italian genes could lead nowhere else. This legacy was merged with the wholly Italian sentiment of building a fine family (her husband Paul, whom she met at Georgetown University, the five wonderful children, Nancy Corinne, Christine, Jacqueline, Paul and Alexandra) always supporting her decision to go into public service and embark on a career that would prove stellar. Let me mention two moments in that process:

(1) Her designation in the Fall of 2002 as House Minority Leader for the Democrats, the first woman in U.S. history to hold this post.

(2) Her current position as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives which, according to many, makes her the most powerful woman in the United States and perhaps in the world.

I think the history of the D'Alessandro-Pelosi family is especially meaningful, mainly because it exemplifies and underlines the great contribution that Italians in America have made to the political edifice of this great country.

It is a contribution that is part of the Italian gene: political beings “par excellence” from the birth of politics. The Romans took their lessons from the Greeks, transformed it into an art form, and passed it on genetically to the Italians of later generations. In the beginning I cited Machiavelli: Is it any wonder that the founder of modern political science was an Italian?

Once in America, Italians adapted their calling and penchant for politics to this country, one they helped build in the thousand assemblies and congresses of the towns, cities, and states of this great Nation. A vocation that generations of Italian-Americans have knowingly and naturally expressed also in Washington, in Congress, wherever politics is spelled with a capital P.

The Pelosi family is one example of how millions of Italian Americans have given their talent and their calling to help build its democratic conscience.

Mark Twain used to say that “history never repeats itself but it does rhyme a lot.”

And history will certainly continue the rhyme with the D'Alessandro-Pelosi family. Nancy's father, Thomas, also received the distinction that I will be bestowing upon her this evening. For two members of the same family to be awarded the highest decoration of the Republic of Italy is rare indeed.

And the similarities do not stop there. The D'Alessandro lived on Albemarle Street in Baltimore. Tonight we find ourselves on Albemarle Street in Washington, so in a way we are reconnecting to Nancy Pelosi's childhood.

I would lastly remind of the profound meaning that the bestowal of this honor holds for my country. It is an expression of appreciation that Italy extends, tonight in the person of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, to all the Italian-Americans that continue to feel a strong bond with their country of origin and whose personal and professional lives are animated by the “Italian spirit” that sets us apart.

Now wherefore, on behalf of the President of the Republic and of all the people of Italy, I hereby induct Nancy Patricia D'Alessandro Pelosi into the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy (OMRI) with the degree of “Knight of the Grand Cross” that recognizes merits to the Nation in the sciences, letters, economics and public service and in activities with social, philanthropic and humanitarian purposes, as well as far-reaching and distinguished contributions while in public and military service.

HONORING JOE HARATANI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Joe Haratani for his humanitarian efforts and his service to this country. Mr. Haratani was acknowledged Wednesday, October 1, 2008 in his home town of Sonora, CA.

Joe Haratani was born in Florin, a rural farming community in northern California, to Japanese parents in October 1923. He was one of seven children and his father was a Methodist minister. In the fall of 1941 Mr. Haratani enrolled at Modesto Junior College. While attending school he worked as a house boy for a Caucasian family. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he was let go from his job. Within weeks, the U.S. Government restricted the movement of all Japanese and Japanese descendants, forbidding them to travel more than 5 miles away from home. On February 19, 1942, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized Executive Order 9066, Mr. Haratani, along with approximately 110,000 other people with Japanese ancestry on the West Coast, was forced into 1 of 10 internment camps across the country.

Mr. Haratani and his family were taken to the Merced Fairgrounds, known then as the Merced Assembly Center. The shelter consisted of a tar paper shack until September when they were moved by train to the Amache Relocation Center in southeast Colorado. The camp in Colorado was surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards. The internees were largely left alone to live their lives and fend for themselves. Many of the people had farming backgrounds, so they began to plant vegetables and trees for food and shade. Mr. Haratani found a job as dishwasher where he earned about \$12 dollars per month.

In early 1943, the U.S. Government offered draft eligible men the opportunity to enlist into the military and a way out of the camps. Mr. Haratani accepted this offer by pledging his loyalty to the U.S. Government and renounced loyalty to the Japanese emperor. After training, Mr. Haratani was assigned to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and fought in the European theater. He was placed in a unit that consisted solely of Japanese-American soldiers fighting under Caucasian officers. This unit became the most decorated unit for its size in the history of the U.S. Army. The 442nd fought along the Italian border then moved into France. In France, they helped to liberate the town of Bruyeres. Mr. Haratani escaped the war uninjured; he returned to Livingston, CA and resumed attending classes at Modesto Junior College.

In 1946, Mr. Haratani met Amy and in October 1948, they were married. Shortly after their wedding, he was accepted into Stanford University and attended with full funding from the G.I. Bill. He graduated with a degree in civil engineering and earned a master's degree for the University of California at Berkeley in sanitary engineering. After school, Mr. Haratani accepted a position with the California Department of Water Resources. Just 3 years later he was approached by the U.S. Agency for International Development to assist with humanitarian services abroad. Mr. Haratani, his wife, and their 1-year-old son packed up and headed for Bolivia to work on improving local water sanitation. He worked in Bolivia (where their second son was born), in Nicaragua for 2 years and Vietnam. He was transferred to Vietnam in mid-1961.

Upon arriving in Vietnam there were about 55 Army advisors there, according to Mr. Haratani. Soon after he arrived, so did the troops; President John F. Kennedy made the decision to send 15,000 troops into Vietnam. Mr. Haratani maintained his position in Vietnam and avoided ground fire by flying to the rural provinces that he was assisting. His third son was born in Saigon. In 1963, Mr. Haratani was called back to the United States but soon joined the Peace Corps and was off again; this time he went alone. In the Peace Corps he joined the staff covering the western coast of South America. He was soon promoted to the director of the Ecuador operation. Two years after he joined the Peace Corps, they began allowing families with children to serve as volunteers. He resigned as country director and signed up his entire family for service.

The Haratani family was assigned to the Galapagos Islands. He assisted in building a new water system and in expanding the area's electrical capability. Mrs. Haratani taught English at a grammar school, worked as a librarian at Darwin Research Station, and assisted in family planning. After 2 years, the family's assignment was complete. They returned to the U.S. and moved into a family hunting cabin in Columbia, CA. Mrs. Haratani began to work at Columbia College, and Mr. Haratani worked for the U.S. Forest Service from 1973 to 1978. In 1978, he was called back to USAID. He spent 4 years in the Middle East evaluating sanitary engineering projects. In 1983 Mr. Haratani retired, although he did remain a consultant for over 10 years. As a consultant he traveled to Yemen, Egypt, Chad, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, the Gaza

Strip, Ethiopia, and Central America. Today, Mr. and Mrs. Haratani live in Sonora, CA. Their three sons and two grandchildren live throughout California. Mr. Haratani is living a peaceful and relaxing life for the first time ever.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank Joe Haratani for his commitment to this Nation. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Haratani many more happy years of retirement.

HONORING GAIGE HARRY POPE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Gaige Harry Pope of Blue Springs, Missouri. Gaige is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1603, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Gaige has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Gaige has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Gaige Harry Pope for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
RABBI SOLOMON SCHIFF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor one of south Florida's most distinguished residents, Rabbi Solomon Schiff. For more than 40 years, Rabbi Schiff has dedicated his efforts to increasing and strengthening interfaith cooperation in south Florida.

Due to his service and his undying commitment to our community, he will be awarded the Papal Medal Benemerenti by Pope Benedict XVI. This prestigious award was instituted by Pope Gregory XVI in 1832. The medal is awarded to recognize those individuals who have helped foster outstanding interfaith collaboration with the Catholic church.

Rabbi Schiff served as executive vice president of the Rabbinical Association of Greater Miami for 42 years before retiring in 2006. He has also worked as staff chaplain for patients of all faiths at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach. His devotion to his work led him to serve as Chairman of the Dade County Community Relations Board and as President of the National Association of Jewish Chaplains.

Rabbi Schiff's guidance and expertise on interfaith cooperation earned him appearances

on CBS's "60 Minutes" and NBC's "Nightline" news magazine shows. His love for people of all faiths and his conviction that common ground can be found among all is an example for us all. I am blessed to have him represent my district, but even more grateful to call him a friend.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND
RETIREMENT OF JIM WILSON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of a valued staff member—Dr. James Wilson—who will retire at the end of this year from the staff of the Committee on Science and Technology. As the staff director of the Subcommittee on Research and Science Education, Jim's expertise and wisdom on issues of science and research policy and the federal role in science and math education are unmatched.

Jim has served on the professional staff of the Committee since 1987. In his 21 years of service on the committee he has ably supported the oversight and authorization of the National Science Foundation; the U.S. Fire Administration; the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program; and K-12, undergraduate, and graduate science, mathematics, engineering, and technology education programs under the committee's jurisdiction. He has also played key roles in the committee's work on nanotechnology, high performance computing and communications, and information systems security. Moreover, Jim played a very important role in the formulation of the America COMPETES Act—an initiative enacted into law last year that will go a long way towards fostering increased investment in innovation and improve the competitiveness of the U.S. Jim's contributions were instrumental in making it a good and effective piece of legislation.

Before coming to the Hill, Jim, who has a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from West Virginia University, managed research programs in fluid dynamics at the Air Force Office of Scientific Research in Washington, DC, and served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force at the Flight Dynamics Laboratory at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH.

Madam Speaker, Jim's dry wit, thoughtful approach to policy, institutional knowledge, and general unflappability have made him a valued member of the committee staff. I know that all of the Science and Technology Committee's Members and staff wish him and his wife Sandra well as he moves on to a well-deserved retirement. With his love of tennis, travel, driving his Porsche, and enjoyment of the area's cultural offerings, I know that he will not be bored once he leaves the Hill. In closing, I just want to say thank you, Jim, for your many years of dedicated and loyal service. We will miss you.