

of Christ into people's hearts and minds," said a friend in the mission field, Charles Lambert.

Madam Speaker, I join Dr. Hester's church members and friends in honoring his 28 years of service at Eagle's Landing Church of God and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING SERENTO GARDENS ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG SERVICES FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Serento Gardens Alcoholism and Drug Services in Hazleton, PA, for more than three decades of counseling and drug prevention work throughout the greater Hazleton area.

Edward Pane, president and chief executive officer of Serento Gardens, has always maintained that it is their mission to provide education, prevention, treatment, and support to all those affected by addiction.

The gravity of the substance abuse addiction problem was recently underscored when a study committee, chaired by Mr. Pane, discovered that 93 percent of addicts began their use before the age of 17. Sixty-three percent began before the age of 14. And, alarmingly, 80 percent of those in prison in the United States are there for drug-related offenses.

Serento Gardens is the sole provider of drug and alcohol counseling and prevention services to children, teens, and adults in the greater Hazleton area. In 2006, the agency's programs reached more than 22,000 individuals in Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District. In its 30-year history, the agency has directly benefited hundreds of thousands of individuals in northeastern Pennsylvania.

In 2007, Serento Gardens was named the Pennsylvania Counseling Agency of the Year by the Pennsylvania Certification Board in Harrisburg. The PCB is the body which certifies all substance abuse counselors and educators in the Commonwealth.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Serento Gardens for the invaluable work that is done to prevent people from succumbing to the ravages of addiction and to rescue those already addicted so they can return to a productive life. The work being accomplished by Serento Gardens has improved the quality of life for thousands of people and has earned it the respect of a grateful community.

HONORING MARINA E. ORTEGA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I report the passing of Marina E. Ortega, a long time resident of Mount Vernon, who died on February 7, 2008. She

was born January 18, 1938 to Felix and Maria Ortega in Jamaica, West Indies, where she was raised. She trained as a nurse in England, graduating as a state certified midwife.

In 1968, she arrived in the United States and worked as head nurse in the medical/surgical unit at United Hospital. She also obtained her certificate as a nurse practitioner, HIV counselor, and New York State certified nurses aids trainer and examiner.

She retired in 1992 and worked as a volunteer at the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center until June 2006. During this period she established a volunteer services program and placed over 300 volunteers at the center; she set up and coordinated a Reach-Out and Read literacy program for children, which became a model program for the State; and served on all fundraising committees.

In 2006, Ms. Ortega organized and served as president of the Caribbean Cultural Caucus where she fought vigorously for an amnesty bill for the English-speaking Caribbean nations. In 2000, in part because of her work, I introduced legislation to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act in regard to Caribbean-born immigrants.

Ms. Ortega was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Mount Vernon. She is survived by a sister, Helen Graham; three brothers, Francisco Ortega, Sisto Ortega, and St. George Walker; two aunts, Josepha, Castera and Daisy Hernandez; a sister-in-law, Sylvia Webb; with Carol Morris and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Marina and I worked together many times in helping the Caribbean community. She was ardent and steadfast in helping people as a nurse, as a volunteer, and as someone who cared deeply for her community. It is with great sorrow that I and the entire community say farewell to her.

HONORING TONI BEATTY

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, Rio Rancho, NM, is known as the City of Vision. It exists today because of the vision of countless citizens and public servants who are transforming a desert into a metropolis.

Toni Beatty had a particular kind of vision. While others imagined homes and businesses and roads, she imagined a community of readers and thinkers and dreamers.

When Toni moved to Rio Rancho in 1986, the town had just begun to grow into a city. She was hired to build a library system that would keep pace with the area's dramatic growth. As Rio Rancho has grown over the last two decades, Toni's libraries have grown with it. They have hosted art shows and horse fairs. They have exposed residents to ancient cultures and current events. And they have always reflected Toni's remarkable combination of intellectual curiosity and public spirit.

Now, Toni is leaving Rio Rancho to return to Mexico City. She leaves behind a community more developed in every way than the one she moved to 22 years ago. She also leaves behind a library system that would be the envy of any city. During her time in Rio Rancho, she recruited and trained a professional staff

that will remember her ability and kindness long after she has left. Rio Rancho will miss her, but we wish her well as she begins the next chapter in her impressive career.

HONORING CARTER G. WOODSON FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, during the early years of the 20th century, a small number of intellectuals began to question whether the United States was simply a transplant of English civilization. W.E.B. Dubois, Theodore Herzl, and Randolph Bourne believed that modern America should embrace the cultural differences that newcomers brought with them to America. Democracy, they believed, required tolerance of difference and could sustain those differences in harmony.

Among those intellectuals of the Progressive era, Carter G. Woodson did most to forge an intellectual movement to educate Americans about cultural diversity and democracy. For the sake of African Americans and all Americans, Woodson heralded the contributions of African Americans and the Black tradition. In 1915, he established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and by the time of his death in 1950, he had laid the foundation for a rethinking of American identity.

The multiculturalism of our times is built on the intellectual and institutional labors of Woodson and the association he established. He should be known not simply as the Father of Black History, but as a pioneer of multiculturalism as well. In honor of its founder, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History devotes the 2008 Annual Black History Theme to both the labors of Woodson and the origins of multiculturalism.

I ask the House to join me in carrying out the work of Carter G. Woodson and to celebrate his many contributions to Black History.

PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF H. RES. 979, RECOMMENDING THAT HARRIET MIERS AND JOSHUA BOLTEN BE FOUND IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS, AND ADOPTION OF H. RES. 980, AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO INITIATE OR INTERVENE IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS TO ENFORCE CERTAIN SUBPOENAS

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 982, a resolution recommending that the House find White House Chief of Staff Joshua Bolten and former White House Counsel Harriet Miers in contempt of Congress for refusing to comply with subpoenas properly issued by the Judiciary Committee.

Recommending the House cite someone for contempt of Congress is a significant step, one that I support under only the most necessary circumstance. Regrettably, it is a step that must be taken. Since assuming office in 2001, the Bush Administration has repeatedly thumbed its nose at Congress, ignored our constitutional mandate as a check upon the executive branch.

This resolution comes after the Judiciary Committee attempted for months to gain access to information requested by the committee. The Congress has a responsibility to investigate this matter and therefore, the White House' refusal to cooperate with the Congress leaves us no choice.

Testifying before the House Rules Committee yesterday, my colleague JOHN CONYERS said that he had written nine letters over more than 8 months trying to resolve this matter. But despite properly issued subpoenas, the White House had "determined that it has the unilateral authority to prevent Mr. Bolten from providing us with a single piece of paper and to prevent Ms. Miers from even showing up at a committee hearing." Madam Speaker, the President is wrong and we have a responsibility to the American people to correct him.

If the executive branch can disregard congressional subpoenas in this way, we no longer have a system of checks and balances. That is the cornerstone of our democracy, and it is our responsibility to protect it. That is why I am proud to join my colleagues today in support of the resolution.

RECOGNIZING STEVEN FRANK
LAVALLIE FOR SERVICE DURING
WORLD WAR II

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who served with honor and distinction in World War II, and who was taken from us in battle much too soon. Following his induction into the Army in 1942, Steven LaVallie served outside the continental United States in the cause of freedom and liberty against the Axis powers. While he fought bravely for the better part of 2 years, Mr. LaVallie was sadly killed in action fighting the Germans in France on October 28, 1944.

Originally hailing from Montville, Connecticut, Mr. LaVallie eventually earned his GED certificate. In addition to his marriage to his wife Elsie and the birth of his son Steven J. LaVallie, Mr. LaVallie was an active member of the Masonic Fraternal Organization. I was very honored to present his son, Mr. Steven J. LaVallie of Wesley Chapel, Florida with his father's posthumous Purple Heart in a ceremony earlier this month.

While Mr. LaVallie did not make it home from the front lines of World War II, his contributions to world freedom and liberty will never be forgotten. He may have been taken from his family too soon, but his son and dearly departed widow Elsie LaVallie should know

that he gave his life so that others might be free.

Madam Speaker, soldiers like Steven Frank LaVallie should be recognized for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. LaVallie's son with his long overdue Purple Heart earned on the battlefields of France so many years ago. All Floridians should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

HONORING CARMEL REILLY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Carmel Reilly has been a member of the Rockland County Ancient Order of Hibernians for 8 years and in that relatively brief time has been involved in so many activities involving AOH causes that she has been named its 2008 Hibernian of the Year.

Carmel is the daughter of Matt and Moira Reilly from Blauvelt where she grew up along with her three sisters. The family's Irish heritage was incorporated into everyday life and Irish step-dancing lessons resulted in Carmel being a participant in Rockland County's first ever Feis in 1974.

Carmel has participated in all things Irish: St. Patrick's Day parades, Irish festivals, and Feiseanna, to mention just a few events.

She joined the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 3 in 2001 and quickly joined the Rockland County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. In 2003, she was part of the newly formed Halfway to St. Patrick's Day committee. As chairperson of the committee's highly successful Night at the Races, over \$20,000 was raised for the Rockland County St. Patrick's Day Parade over the next 2 years.

As a Ladies AOH member, Carmel was always ready to volunteer. She has been the chair of more than a dozen Christmas and St. Patrick's Day dinners. She has contributed to the Rockland AOH/LAOH Feis for several years and was a co-chairperson, along with Michael O'Sullivan, of the Feis journal for 2 years.

In 2004, Carmel began raising funds for the Rockland Gaelic Athletic Association, originating the highly successful Pub Quiz, which is in its fifth season.

Carmel also has the Irish love of horses and in 2006 she invested in two racehorses—one of which, Tater Tutt, recently won his fifth race from his last six starts.

Carmel, a Dominican College alumna, is employed as the Treasury/Budget Manager for Common Ground, an organization that helps the homeless find housing.

Working with the Rockland AOH in assisting hurricane victims or sending a notice of a fundraiser to hundreds of supporters, Carmel tirelessly gives her time and energy. Her energy and devotion have earned her this honor, and I join in congratulating her for this recognition.

**HONORING JAMES RYAN JOE
TURNER**

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Ryan Joe Turner, 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 215, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

James has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. James started his journey with the Boy Scouts as a tiger cub. Over the years James has been involved in scouting, he has earned 27 merit badges, and also completed the achievements for his Bronze Palm. For his Eagle Scout project, James installed handrails at McMurry United Methodist Church.

Madam Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not mention the strong family foundation James has supporting him. His proud parents Rochelle Fee and James Kelly Turner, as well as his grandfather Robert Axtell who was the most influential person in James' scouting life.

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

**MS. MEGAN YEE DISTINGUISHED
FINALIST PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT
OF COMMUNITY AWARD**

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Megan Yee, who has been selected as a Distinguished Finalist for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, which honors young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. The Prudential program was created in 1995 to emphasize the importance our nation places on service to others, and to encourage all young Americans to contribute to their communities.

A senior at Desert Mountain High School in Scottsdale, Arizona, Megan organized a series of computer classes to teach members of the Phoenix area's Chinese-American community how to use word-processing programs, spreadsheets, e-mail, and the Internet. Megan worked hard to design the curriculum, recruit volunteers to teach the classes, prepare all of the lesson plans, and teach classes herself.

Megan should be proud of her accomplishments. Again, I congratulate Megan on her award and thank her for a job well done.