

Board President for the Inland Gateway Association of Realtors and he also served as President in 1998. Frank has served the Realtors as the Federal Political Coordinator and State Director for 14 years, and is the 14th district Vice President.

Frank has also served as Chairman of Land Use and Vice Chairman of Property Management and Land Use for the California Association of Realtors. He is a member of Federal Issues, Local Government Relations, and served on a special task force for Private Transfer Tax and presently is serving on the Department of Real Estates for rewriting questions for the California Department of Real Estate license exam.

I also have a personal connection with Frank. He lived across the street from my mother, Marsha, and would often look in on her while I was away. Frank epitomized a good neighbor who was always there to lend a helping hand.

Frank's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. I am proud to call Frank a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as his term ends as the Inland Gateway Association of Realtors Board President.

A TRIBUTE TO DANIEL LEAL, M.D.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Dr. Daniel Leal. Originally from Texas, Dr. Leal would describe himself as a Community Psychiatrist. Educated in Texas, Dr. Leal completed his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy at the University of Texas, graduating second in his class. He matriculated at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, receiving his medical degree in 1989.

Dr. Leal pursued his internship and residency at the Beth Israel Medical Center in New York. His training at an inner city hospital fostered his life long interest in outreach to disenfranchised populations such as the mentally ill, the homeless, and the substance abusing population. His last academic training stop was as a fellow in Addiction Psychiatry at NYU-Bellevue. It was here that he studied and published on the effects of chronic homelessness for the mentally ill.

Dr. Leal has continued his advocacy for these individuals as Medical Director for the Washton Institute and as a consultant to Pathways to Housing. He frequently speaks to consumer advocacy groups such as the Alliance for the Mentally Ill and has instructed at the New School for Social Research in Manhattan.

Dr. Leal began working at Woodhull Medical Center in 2000 and feels he has found a supportive and enthusiastic work environment. "Working in emergency psychiatry, I feel it is imperative that I convey to a patient that they will be treated in a humane and respectful manner. The emergency room is often the first contact a patient or their family has with the mental health system. How we respond will often impact the course and outcome of their mental illness."

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Daniel Leal for his extraordinary accomplishments for mental health in New York City.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Daniel Leal.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MOUSTAPHA DIABY

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, this communication is forwarded on behalf of the constituents of Congressional District Three and myself as we pay tribute to the life of Dr. Moustapha Diaby. We are all saddened by the loss of his presence in this life yet joyful that he has gone to be with his Heavenly Father.

Dr. Moustapha Diaby, a great humanitarian and family man, passed away on November 29th. Dr. Diaby served as the religious guide and President of the African Islamic Institution Presidium, and was a leading candidate for President of the Ivory Coast in elections which were to be scheduled later next year.

Dr. Diaby was a Member of the Health Ministry of the Ivory Coast from 1981–1983 under then President Houphouet-Boigny, and was also a former counsel to both President Houphouet-Boigny and President Bedie. He was extremely well versed in Ivorian politics, and maintained close relations with members of a wide range of Ivorian political parties. A strong subscriber to the philosophy of former President Boigny, the founder of Ivorian independence from France, Dr. Diaby, like President Houphouet-Boigny, was an ardent proponent of tolerance and inclusion of all ethnic groups in the Ivory Coast, as well as the ideas of shared governance and the equitable distribution of resources throughout the country, irrespective of region or religious affiliation.

During the political crisis in the Ivory Coast, wherein a Dutch multinational company, Trafigura, unloaded nearly 600 tons of petrochemical waste in the commercial capital, Abidjan (leading nearly 100,000 Ivorians to seek medical attention), Dr. Diaby utilized his international contacts and did everything within his power to assist those suffering the fallout of the illegal toxic dumping. His activities included working closely with the Congressional Black Caucus of the United States Congress, the U.S. Center for Disease Control, and numerous other international organizations, in an attempt to bring immediate relief to the victims. This included the donations of medical supplies and food to the people of the Ivory Coast suffering from the tragic incident. Dr. Diaby was also the recipient of the "Peter the Great International Award" for merits and peace in 2005 in Dubai, U.A.E., for his efforts in attempting to bring peace to the Ivory Coast.

Dr. Diaby was also an extremely successful businessman, and, with his family, ran a family business by the name of Al-Salasa, with corporate headquarters in Dubai, UAE. Al Salasa is a general trading company and business house offering substantial trading opportunities to local, regional, national and international organizations on partnership, consultancy and joint venture basis.

During the time Dr. Diaby spent overseas, he discussed governance in emerging African democracies, particularly in the Ivory Coast, economic development and international trade, and was an ardent advocate for a cessation of fighting in the Sudan. And as founder of the Moustapha Diaby Foundation, he worked tirelessly to raise funds for education and healthcare for children in the Ivory Coast and on the African continent.

Dr. Diaby will be missed not only by members of his family, but by many in the Ivorian community. Dr. Diaby was a great humanitarian, and a role model for business and political leaders throughout the African continent. The Diaby family will remain in my thoughts and prayers.

A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY: BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS TO ENTITLEMENT SPENDING

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I have been concerned about the financial future of our country for some time and in 2006 introduced legislation to set up a national commission to review our nation's long-term economy, including mandatory entitlement spending, discretionary spending and tax policy, and recommend a plan to Congress to get America on a sustainable financial path.

During the 110th Congress this bipartisan legislation—the SAFE Commission Act—was reintroduced with Representative JIM COOPER of Tennessee. The bill has over 110 bipartisan cosponsors in the House, and similar legislation was introduced in the Senate by Budget Chairman KENT CONRAD and ranking member JUDD GREGG.

In November I wrote to President-elect Obama asking that he consider the SAFE Commission as a bipartisan way to mandate action on this critical issue. Mr. Obama has indicated his willingness to reach across the aisle to find bipartisan solutions. I have always believed that working together in a bipartisan manner is what the American people expect of their elected leaders. That's why I have asked the president-elect to join the effort Congressman COOPER and I have been pushing. I submit a copy of this letter for the RECORD.

The American people are experiencing a crisis of confidence. The SAFE concept has active support from many who have a deep understanding of economic issues, and could help restore America's confidence and get us on the right track.

Doing nothing is not an option.

The window of opportunity is now. With the mounting short-term federal deficit from the additional spending needed to get our banking system on sound footing, and the growing long-term debt from mandatory spending programs, we have an historic opportunity to address the nation's financial future in a truly bipartisan manner. I am committed to bringing attention to this issue and getting something done.

Not only are we facing a projected \$1 trillion in deficit spending for this fiscal year, there is now \$53 trillion in unfunded mandates through Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, which

will only continue to grow until we reverse course. As if that amount were not difficult enough to comprehend, it is expected that when the new total is released later this month, it is likely to be over \$56 trillion.

Over and over again there are warning signs that something is terribly wrong in our economy. You may have read recently that China now tops Japan in U.S. debt holdings, amounting to about 1 out of every 10 American dollars. In my opinion there is no greater wake up call than China—a government who persecutes its own people because of their faith—slowly becoming our banker.

This is an economic, moral, and generational issue. I think about sitting on my front porch someday and telling my grandchildren about my days serving in Congress. It isn't right for us to look the other way while out-of-control entitlement spending threatens the way future generations will live.

George Washington said that, "Worry is the interest paid by those who borrow trouble."

I worry that Congress isn't up to its job, and we will allow our children and grandchildren to languish in a political divide. The SAFE Commission process gives us the necessary push to get the job done.

We are at the point of no return in our nation's history. We have hard questions to answer. Are we willing to make the sacrifices necessary so that future generations will have even greater opportunities than today?

National syndicated columnist Robert Samuelson recently wrote, "The great project of the next president is to improve the economy's stability without subverting its vitality." Make no mistake, autopilot entitlement spending is slowly undermining America as we know it.

Isabel Sawhill, senior fellow at The Brookings Institution, has likened this situation to "termites in the woodwork, slowly eroding our strength as a nation."

Congress must do the right thing for the American people. Support the SAFE effort, and if there are other bipartisan proposals that could pass Congress, let's look at those, too.

But we just can't continue the current course.

A TRIBUTE TO YVONNE NIXON-ORR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Yvonne Nixon-Orr. In 1970, Yvonne immigrated to the United States and has resided in Brooklyn, New York. Soon after her arrival, she began teaching at the Haitian American Day Care Center, and later joined the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) where she has been teaching for more than 25 years. Middle School 61 in District 17 is where her career with the NYCDOE began as a literacy instructor for 6th and 7th graders. All along, she maintained her volunteering as a Sunday school teacher and an assistant youth coordinator at her local church, planning and implementing activities for the youth of the community.

Yvonne Nixon-Orr is presently the school librarian at P.S. 181, The John Steptoe School

in Brooklyn, working with students from Grades K through 8. In her functions, she helps students to develop a love for books and multicultural literature. In her teaching, she imparts skills that incorporate literacy, social studies, and the arts. Yvonne is passionate about imparting a love for learning and moral responsibility to the youngsters she encounters in the Public School system classrooms. In her role as a staff developer, she shares instructional techniques and skills with colleagues, mentors and assists new teachers with methodology, classroom management, and facilitates their transition to the New York public school system. Through her dedication and hard work as an educator, she has touched many lives and has equally had her own life enriched by working with colleagues, students, and families from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Yvonne Nixon-Orr holds an Associate Degree of Science from New York City Technical College, a Bachelor of Arts from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York (CUNY), and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Adelphi University. Her post-graduate education focus has been in literacy development. She continues to enhance her knowledge of education and teaching skills by reading and attending professional workshops and seminars that expand on the latest development in literacy and the best approaches to teaching and learning in the 21st century.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Yvonne Nixon-Orr for her extraordinary contributions to education in New York City.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Yvonne Nixon-Orr.

TRIBUTE TO THE ST. ANTHONY BULLDOGS GIRLS GOLF TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding group of young women from Effingham, IL.

The St. Anthony Bulldogs Girls Golf Team took State Championship honors October 18, knocking off runner-up Champaign St. Thomas More by 10 strokes to capture their second consecutive State title. The conclusion marked a rally from a seventh place standing midway through the State Championship competition.

I want to send my congratulations and those of the House to Coach Kevin Behl and the members of the St. Anthony Bulldogs State Championship Team: Kelli Griffin, Kelly McHugh, Lauren Kabbes, Emily Calhoon, Taylor Behl, Jackie Wortman, and Shelby Spruell. We are all inspired by their dedication, their courage in the face of adversity, and their determination not to give up, even when trailing going into the final day of competition. Their victory is one which will long be remembered in the storied history of St. Anthony, and their back to back titles will stand as a statewide tribute to their devotion to excellence.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL NONNAN HAYNES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Michael Nonnan Haynes. Mr. Haynes, a Brooklyn native, earned his Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from Northwestern University. He later began a career at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, becoming the first African-American Senior Director of Clearing House Operations there.

Mr. Haynes, in 1990, shifted his career focus from supporting people's financial pursuits to supporting people coping with the emergent HIV/AIDS pandemic. One of Mr. Haynes' proudest moments as Director of African American Services for Stop AIDS Chicago was when he provided HIV/AIDS prevention education for a Youth Summit at Operation PUSH.

Mr. Haynes continued his quest to serve by moving to Santa Fe to work for a workshop that changed his life, The Experience. This personal growth and empowerment workshop gave him new tools and refined what his tight-knit circle of support (family, extended family and friends) had taught him about "being" with people. Santa Fe is also where Mr. Haynes became infected with HIV.

While this might have sidetracked another, it only empowered Mr. Haynes' desire to give back even more. Currently, he works for the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation as an Assistant Director in the Office of Behavioral Health. In this capacity, he has spearheaded innovations in chemical dependency treatment as they concern the eleven public hospitals, including Woodhull, Kings County, and Coney Island hospitals. Honored as a Join Together National Leadership Fellow by Boston University's School of Public Health, Mr. Haynes has championed the implementation of cutting edge, researched based practices that effectively lead Brooklyn and city-wide residents through chemical dependency treatment and onto the road to recovery.

These contributions to the Brooklyn healthcare community over the past 13 years, are evident, but none more personal or visible than Haynes' face and prevention message on billboards, bus shelters, and subway stations throughout New York City and worldwide through the internet as part of the HIV Stops With Me campaign.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Michael Nonnan Haynes for his extraordinary accomplishments in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment efforts.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Michael Nonnan Haynes.

TRIBUTE TO THE SUNY CORTLAND MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the State University of New