

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 26, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the RECORD my position on the following votes I missed due to personal reasons.

On Monday, February 25, 2008, I missed rollcall votes 69, 70, and 71. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL CROPP, 2008 RECIPIENT OF THE LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA SOCIETY "SERVICE TO MANKIND" AWARD

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 26, 2008*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Michael Cropp on receiving the Western New York and Finger Lakes Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society 2008 "Service to Mankind" Award. Dr. Michael Cropp was honored at the 16th Annual Diamond Ball on Saturday, February 23, 2008. Dr. Cropp is a brilliant example of commitment and devotion to one's community and fellowman.

Dr. Cropp serves as the president and chief executive officer of Independent Health. He received his undergraduate and medical degrees from Brown University and MBA from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 2003. A board-certified family physician, he has worked in medicine and led health systems for over 30 years.

His dedicated work and leadership have served several partners in western New York including Millard Fillmore Health System in Buffalo, United Way, the March of Dimes, Camp Good Days, and Special Times. Dr. Cropp acts as chairman of the Pursuing Perfecting, P2, collaborative of western New York, which addresses breast cancer and heart disease, and serves on the boards of the National Federation for Just Communities, the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise, the Elizabeth Pierce Olmsted Center for the Visually Impaired, and the Buffalo Niagara Partnership. His service is far-reaching and has powerfully touched the lives of patients, families, and their communities.

Dr. Cropp's work should inspire us all to serve our communities and fellow man with dedicated hearts and committed lives. I am proud to congratulate Dr. Cropp for this great honor, and wish him and his family the very best.

## RECOGNIZING VICKY EYNON

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 26, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, in our modern, fast paced world many people often forget to

take the time to appreciate their surroundings. Inhabitants of the beautiful north Houston neighborhoods are fortunate enough to reside in an area deemed the "livable forest." As these communities progress into the future, residents like Vicky Eynon work at the same time to preserve these unique surroundings. As a result of her efforts FamilyTime has awarded her the 2007 Women of Achievement Award.

An advocate for the trees, Vicky Eynon's commitment to improving the lives of fellow Texans is truly admirable. Not only has she dedicated herself to local forests, as a school nurse she is also an advocate for the wellbeing of children. For 23 years she worked as a school nurse for Humble ISD.

By observing and predicting health concerns among students Vicky became instrumental in the fight for providing schools with Automatic Emergency Defibrillators. Not long after their implementation, she was able to help save a teacher's life as a result of the AED. Although she is now retired, Vicky Eynon's dedication to serving others further extends into the local church community. At Atascocita Presbyterian Church she teaches CPR, instructing others in the art of compassion.

I salute Vicky Eynon not only for the charity demonstrated through her work as a nurse but also for her environmental activism. Due to the work of Vicky and her group of volunteers, citizens in surrounding areas were made aware of the construction plans and were encouraged to take action. Her belief in the power of people through positive action is inspirational. As a result of Vicky's dedication, development projects involving the removal of large numbers of trees unnecessarily were reconfigured to allow for a more natural landscape.

Because of her efforts to preserve the landscape of Southeast Texas, Vicky Eynon was awarded from FamilyTime the 2007 Women of Achievement Award. This remarkable Texan's commitment to improving many different aspects of the community affects the lives of countless people.

And that's just the way it is.

ENDORISING THE IDEA THAT THE PAPERS OF CARIBBEAN LEADERS BE MADE PUBLICALLY AVAILABLE THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 26, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the University of the West Indies and its recent push to make publicly available those official papers penned by some of the Caribbean's greatest leaders. These papers shed invaluable insight into the area's national and regional public policy, and their availability would grant a host of students, citizens, and political analysts knowledge of their governments' inner workings. The New York CARIB News article, "Give Us Your Papers, They Would Help Future Generations," published on Feb. 5, makes the case.

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES TO FORMER CARIBBEAN LEADERS: GIVE US YOUR PAPERS, THEY WOULD HELP FUTURE GENERATIONS

"Give us your official papers that deal with both national and regional public policy."

That appeal to former leaders of several CARICOM nations, from P.J. Patterson of Jamaica, Dr. Kenny Anthony of St. Lucia and James "Son" Mitchell of St. Vincent to Owen Arthur and Sir Lloyd Sandiford of Barbados has come from Dr. Nigel Harris, Vice Chancellor of the University of West Indies. He told the Carib News in New York yesterday that such papers would enhance the ability of future generations of students, political scientists and researchers to understand the development of the region's public policies.

"First of all such donations would be a service to the region as a whole," Dr. Harris said. "Secondly, it gives enduring value to the University that this is a place that our leaders see as being vitally important; understand its enduring value; and in that context have a sense of comfort, if you will that what they leave, that part of their life that they are leaving to the University, will be preserved. It will serve to inform future generations of our peoples and our scholars."

Dr. Harris was in New York for the glitzy annual awards gala of the American Foundation for the University of the West Indies. Almost 400 guests attended the Black Tie dinner at the Waldorf Astoria in Manhattan where more than a dozen people were honored for their contribution to the development of the Caribbean or the societies in which they now live and work.

So far Edward Seaga, a former Prime Minister of Jamaica has donated his papers to the UWI's Mona campus; the papers of the late Dr. Eric Williams, the father of Trinidad and Tobago's independence, who helped to create CARICOM, are now housed at the St. Augustine campus in Trinidad; while those of Sir Shridath Ramphal, a former Commonwealth Secretary who later became the University's Chancellor, are at the Cave Hill campus in Barbados.

"We in the Caribbean need a place that scholars, students and others can go to understand, read and learn about public policy," Dr. Harris said. "Such collections shouldn't be stored in a willy-nilly fashion." The Vice Chancellor thinks the papers of Patterson and Arthur would be vital to an understanding of their approach to regionalism and to the policies affecting people in Jamaica, Barbados and the rest of the region.

In Arthur's case, he spent almost 14 years as the head of the government with lead responsibility for the launching of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and Dr. Harris said his papers were an "extremely valuable" source of information and guidance for future generations.

"Owen Arthur has been one of the thought leaders, if you will, with respect to the implementation of the CSME," Harris said. "It was a charge that he took on. He was engaged in a number of meetings and conferences, some of our university people were there, in terms of thinking through the CSME, the integration of the Caribbean and I think we can learn a lot from that in the short term. We can also learn a lot in the long-term in terms of the journey that we took, so to speak, when it comes to Barbados' development at this point in time and the journey we are going through right now

to achieve the Caribbean Single Market and Economy."

Interestingly enough, Dr. Harris said that technological development was making it easier to store and gain easier access to the papers than ever before and that should be an attraction to the donors and the users of such documents.

"Now that we can digitize material, which is what Mr. Seaga is doing with his papers, digitizing hundreds of thousands of pages, it is going to make it so easily accessible and acceptable to scholars in years and decades to come," was the way he put it. "Just plain folks who are interested throughout the region would be able to come in and examine them and learn about how decisions were made and positions taken. We have methods already that can readily assemble and store masses of information in ways that would be able to access easily." The UWI is celebrating its 60th anniversary and many of honorees who received awards on evening were hailed for their work in the Caribbean or the United States. "It was a very highly successful event," Dr. Harris said. "The American Foundation of the University for the West Indies plays a vital role in our University's continuing expansion."

Sir George Alleyne, UWI Chancellor, described the gala as a "special event" one that was particularly true as "our university celebrates" an important milestone in its history. "In a young institution like ours we must mark this early milestone and use them not only to review what we have done, but to see what else we may do and how much we can do better when we are doing."

During the gala awards were presented to Denis O'Brien, founder of Digicel; Dr. John Agard, senior lecturer in the UWI's faculty of science and agriculture at St. Augustine; Prof. Anthony Chen, professor of applied physics at Mona; Dr. Leonard Nurse, a senior lecturer in the Center for Resource Management and Environmental Studies at Cave Hill; Kenneth DeGhetto, a former member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees; Reggie Canal, first vice president of African Heritage Banking at HSBC; Raymond Goulbourne, BET's Executive Vice President; Noel Hankin, Senior Vice President of Multi-Cultural Relations at Moët Hennessy USA; Roy Hastick, founder and chief executive officer of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Brooklyn; Marc Morial, a former Mayor of New Orleans who is the President of the National Urban League; Colbert Narcisse, chief administrative officer of Global Investment Bank and the chief operating officer of the Americas Investment Bank at Merrill Lynch; Paul Altman, Managing Director of Altman Real Estate, the Caribbean's leading real estate company; Winston Bayley, UWI's chief financial officer; Dr. Rollin Bertrand, CEO of the TCL Group; Stephen Cozier, Managing Director of ScotiaBank's Eastern Caribbean operations; Vincent Hosang, founder of Caribbean Food Delights and Royal Caribbean Bakery; and Minna Israel, Managing Director for RBTT Bank Jamaica Limited.

Harry Belafonte, world famous entertainer and civil rights activist, was also honored. Susan Taylor of Essence Magazine accepted the award for him in his absence. Brenda Blackmon of WWOR-TV, My 9; and Maurice Dubois of WCBSTV were the gala's hosts. The Rt. Rev. E. Don Taylor, Episcopal Vicar Bishop of New York City delivered the invocation.

"We salute the immense contributions of our luminaries and other awardees," said Karl Rodney, New York Carib News publisher, chairman of the dinner committee. Michael Flanagan, the Foundation's Chairman, said that the event and the Foundation continue to "focus on supporting the Univer-

sity so that the institution can continue to expand and meet demands and remain relevant to the societies it serves."

# HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF EBONY EXPRESSIONS CULTURAL AWARENESS PROJECT

## HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 26, 2008*

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of Ebony Expressions Cultural Awareness Project in Madison, WI. Each year, Ebony Expressions auditions and selects students from Madison area high schools to take part in a program that uses music, dance, drama, and spoken word to deliver a positive and thought-provoking message about the African American experience. Over the years, the performances have left a profound and lasting impression on audiences throughout our great State. Founded in 1982 under the direction of Ed Holmes, Ebony Expressions has fulfilled its mission to educate all people on the richness of the African American culture and community.

Although February represents African American History Month, Ebony Expressions reminds us to recognize and value the cultural contributions of African Americans all year round. Since the time our Nation was just an idea, African Americans have been instrumental in creating and fortifying American culture through contributions in music, dance, and performing arts.

In addition to highlighting cultural contributions of African Americans, Ebony Expressions also addresses important social and political issues affecting the African American community today. The young performers initiate an important public dialogue while transcending damaging stereotypes. Too often, our young people of color are not given the chance to express themselves in a positive light. Ebony Expressions gives students the opportunities they deserve to articulate their beauty and intellect and turn a debilitating label of "at-risk to fail" into a success story of "at-risk to succeed and become leaders." Thanks to the tremendous work of Mr. Holmes and others in the Madison area, we can and will achieve something better.

To honor Ebony Expressions' 25-year legacy of dedicated service to our community, past and present performers will gather this week to present a special program titled "The Best of Ebony" to celebrate the most memorable performances over the last two-and-a-half decades.

I would like to congratulate Ebony Expressions on this magnificent milestone and I wish everyone involved 25 more years of continued success.

IN SUPPORT OF MRS. LEAH GALANTE SCHAD

## HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 26, 2008*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of

Mrs. Leah Galante Schad, a woman who devoted over 40 years of her life to protecting Florida's Everglades and a driving force in the American environmental movement. Her contributions helped bring about a new era in our country in which organizers, activists, and politicians worked together to implement courses of action that would improve our environment and our lives. After her recent passing, I am moved to reflect on her accomplishments and legacy as we strive to enact environmental policies for our districts, States, and Nation.

A native of Kentucky, Leah Schad became active in Florida's environmental movement shortly after she moved to the State in 1961. In the following decades, Mrs. Schad would become renowned for her fierce determination and uncompromising will to improve Florida's Everglades and wildlife, earning her the title of "The Grand Dame of Environmentalism." Realize, this title was not given to Mrs. Schad arbitrarily. As a board member of the National Audubon Society and the South Florida Water Management District, chairwoman of the Florida Audubon Society, and president and treasurer of the Audubon Society of the Everglades, Leah Schad had the audacity to successfully challenge decades of environmental mismanagement and to lead the effort to leave the earth in better shape than when we got it.

Without doubt, Mrs. Schad's passion and persistence inspired communities, organizations, and elected officials to engage in efforts to preserve and improve our environment. She received numerous awards for her decades of service including: the Florida Audubon Society's Chapter President of the Year Award in 1979, the Women's Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches Award in 1997, and the American Diabetes Society Valor Award in 2002. However, those who knew and admired Mrs. Schad understood that she worked in pursuit of a greater reward.

Mrs. Schad fought for environmental protection and restoration in Florida despite the people and institutions that threatened her mission and the cancer that threatened her life. Although we in Congress have made enormous environmental progress, our battle is far from over. Leah Galante Schad's struggles and successes remind us that we must confront adversity to ensure that we achieve our goal of comprehensive environmental restoration and protection.

Madam Speaker, in 1907 President Theodore Roosevelt told Congress, "The conservation of our natural resources and their proper use constitute the fundamental problem which underlies almost every other problem of our national life." As we reflect on the life and legacy of Mrs. Leah Galante Schad, we must enhance our efforts to restore the Everglades and other national treasures to their natural state. I urge my colleagues to continue the work of Leah Galante Schad, and other pioneers who fought to ensure that our Nation's unique habitats and wildlife are preserved for the enjoyment of the present generation and for generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 26, 2008*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on matters affecting my