

HONORING WIL COOKSEY

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2008*

Mr. LEWIS of KENTUCKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wil Cooksey for his service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Mr. Cooksey, a resident of Bowling Green, Kentucky, recently retired as plant manager of the General Motors Bowling Green Assembly Plant.

Mr. Cooksey served as plant manager at the "Home of the Corvette" since 1993. The Bowling Green facility employs approximately 1,000 total employees and assembles 35,000 Chevrolet Corvettes and 4,000 Cadillac XLRs per year. Under Mr. Cooksey's leadership the Corvette team has earned more than 70 automotive industry awards since 1997 including Motor Trend Car of the Year, JD Power Silver Plant Award, JD Power APEAL Award, and Car and Driver Top 10.

Mr. Cooksey has been a successful advocate for building diversity at the Bowling Green facility, recruiting qualified minority students from schools not used in the past. Mr. Cooksey has also been active on the Executive Advisory Board of Advancing Minorities' Interest in Engineering and 100 Black Men of America Inc. For his hard work, Mr. Cooksey was recently awarded the Civil Rights Humanitarian Award by the State Street Baptist Church.

Mr. Cooksey is also an active member of the Greenview Hospital board of directors, the boards of the National Corvette Museum, Tennessee State University, Western Kentucky University's College of Education and Behavioral Science, and the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Advisory Council.

It is my privilege to honor Wil Cooksey today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for his service to the Bowling Green community. I wish Wil, and his wife Elizabeth, a happy and healthy retirement.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2008*

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, from late January 29 through February 7, 2008, I was unavoidably detained due to my daughter's heart surgery.

On January 29, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 27 and 28. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both votes.

On February 6, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 29 through 31. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

On February 7, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 32 through 42. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on Nos. 32, 33, 36, 37, and 38, and "aye" on Nos. 34, 35, 39, 40, 41, and 42.

CONGRATULATING MR. JAY DELANEY ON THE OCCASION OF BEING NAMED "MAN OF THE YEAR" BY THE GREATER PITTSSTON FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2008*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Jay Delaney, of Hughestown, Pennsylvania, who was selected as the 2008 "Man of the Year" by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Mr. Delaney is a lifelong resident of the Greater Pittston community and is a leader in business, civic, and government affairs. He presently serves as executive assistant to Pennsylvania State Senator Raphael Musto, a post he has held since 1994.

Mr. Delaney was associated with Wilson Foods Corporation from 1952 to 1994, retiring as regional sales manager for the northeastern United States covering eight States including Washington, DC. He was named manager of the year in 1987 after he earned a place in the "General's Club" of Wilson Foods in 1982. Also in 1987, he became president of the prestigious Wilson Foods Ring Club.

Mr. Delaney was mayor of Hughestown borough from 1982 to 1989. He served as a member of Hughestown borough council from 1969 to 1977. He was also chairman of the Hughestown Democratic organization for 4 years and successfully chaired the special election to the 11th Congressional District in 1980 on behalf of then State Representative Raphael Musto.

He is a member of the Blessed Sacrament Church, Hughestown; a former member of the Earth Conservancy Land Use Planning Committee; former member of the American Heart Association and former member of the Luzerne County Democratic Executive Committee. He has received national recognition by the American Cancer Society, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Association, and St. Jude's Children's Hospital. He has served on the board of directors of the Harvey's Lake Yacht Club and is a charter member of the Nutty Buddy Club of Greater Pittston. He is a life member of the John F. Kennedy Council 372, Knights of Columbus and its Fourth Degree Assembly; the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick; life member of the Hughestown Hose Company; and a member of the Salvation Army advisory board.

Mr. Delaney and his wife, Dorothy, to whom he has been married for 51 years, are the parents of four children and seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Delaney on this special occasion. Mr. Delaney's service to family and community is extraordinary and an inspiration to all. His selection for this honor reflects the respect with which he is held by his neighbors and peers.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE'S "THE OPPORTUNITY COMPACT," A BLUEPRINT FOR ECONOMIC EQUALITY

**HON. CHAKA FATTAH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2008*

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Congressional Urban Caucus, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Marc H. Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League (NUL), and delegations from Urban League affiliates from around the country to Washington, DC for their 5th Annual Legislative Policy Conference on March 5-6, 2008. Over the course of these two days, the NUL unveils its annual landmark State of Black America report, meets with Congressional leaders, and brings a slate of key policy recommendations to members of both houses.

Established in 1910, the National Urban League is the Nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization devoted to empowering African Americans to thrive in the economic and social mainstream. Today, the National Urban League, headquartered in New York City, spearheads the non-partisan efforts of its 101 local affiliates in 36 states and the District of Columbia, providing direct services to more than 800,000 people annually, and impacting millions more through its advocacy and research.

This year the NUL and its affiliate delegates are bringing to Congress an important blueprint for economic equality known as The Opportunity Compact. The Compact is a comprehensive set of principles and policy recommendations set forth by the National Urban League (NUL) designed to empower all Americans to be full participants in the economic and social mainstream of this Nation. In pursuit of this end, the NUL (1) identifies principles that reflect the values inherent in the American dream; (2) examines the conditions that have separated a significant portion of the American population—particularly the poor and disadvantaged residents of urban communities—from accessing that dream; (3) proposes, for honest evaluation and discussion, several policy recommendations intended to bridge the gap between conceptualization and realization of the American dream.

The Opportunity Compact is the culmination of extensive research and policy analysis by the National Urban League Policy Institute (NULPI) and is based upon the input of dozens of policy experts from academia, public policy think tanks, non-profit service and advocacy organizations, the business sector, and the Urban League movement. Among other things, the NULPI hosted a series of five roundtable discussions and obtained feedback and recommendations from numerous experts concerning the development of a coherent and comprehensive plan for empowering the Nation's urban communities. As the foundation for such a plan, NUL has clearly identified four cornerstones that reflect the values represented by the American dream: (1) The Opportunity to Thrive (Children), (2) The Opportunity to Earn (Jobs), (3) The Opportunity to Own (Housing) and (4) The Opportunity to Prosper (Entrepreneurship). These cornerstones are supported by a list of ten policy priorities.

Each of these opportunities for upward economic and social mobility are available in few other countries outside the United States. Therefore, maintaining equal access to these opportunities is a vital part of preserving the very principles that make this country unique and will prove to be an effective way to eliminate gaps in income, wealth and educational attainment within this country that are too often defined along the lines of race or socioeconomic status.

The Opportunity Compact serves as a vehicle to develop a serious plan of action to address the persistent inequalities faced by those in urban communities. Yet, all Americans, regardless of place of residence or racial identity, can benefit from the policy recommendations presented in this blueprint for economic equality. Furthermore, there is a role for all parties to play—private citizens, national, state and local governments, community-based service providers and the business community—as together, we seek to strengthen our Nation by maximizing the potential of all its citizens. By generating new ideas, initiating productive partnerships and fostering collaboration, The Opportunity Compact seeks to expand access to the incentives and rewards that act as the driving force behind what makes this country great—personal responsibility, initiative and hard work.

Madam Speaker, I firmly believe that the proposals embodied in the National Urban League's Opportunity Compact provide a powerful framework for approaching the difficult challenges faced by America's cities. I therefore rise today to congratulate the National Urban League for its work on behalf of cities and for bringing The Opportunity Compact to the attention of Congress.

#### TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA J. KURTZ

##### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2008*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cynthia J. Kurtz, who recently retired from her post as City Manager of Pasadena, California. Ms. Kurtz served the City for over 20 years, spending the last 10 years as the chief administrative officer of Pasadena's diverse community of 144,000 residents and has left a legacy that will be enjoyed by generations to come.

In her capacity as city manager, Cynthia was responsible for over 2,300 employees with an operating budget of over \$550 million. With a keen vision for the "big picture" and a wealth of experience to draw upon, she was the driving force behind some of the most important projects in the city's history.

Cynthia came to Pasadena after 10 years of employment with the city of Portland, Oregon, where she held a variety of positions in the Office of Transportation and the Bureau of Economic Development. That experience served Pasadena well when she was hired as the City's Capital Program Administrator in 1987. In 1991, she became director of public works for the City of Pasadena where she shepherded high profile projects such as the delicate \$24 million reconstruction of the historic Colorado Street Bridge.

During my years in the California State Senate, I worked with Cynthia on the planning for

a light rail line from Los Angeles to Pasadena, and her contributions to that project were vital to its success. Completed on time and under budget, the Gold Line light rail project has been an invaluable asset to the San Gabriel Valley, and especially to Pasadena.

The Pasadena City Council was well aware of Cynthia's hard work on their behalf, and when the position of city manager became open in 1998, she was the first woman to be appointed to that post. As city manager, she first concentrated on solidifying budget procedures while also attending to the quality of life issues that make Pasadena a special place to live and work.

Ms. Kurtz's most recent landmark achievement was last year's completion of a \$118 million renovation of historic Pasadena City Hall. When the structure was determined to be seismically vulnerable, she worked with her staff to create a plan that would safeguard Pasadena employees while also preserving this most recognizable jewel of the "Crown City." The project was completed ahead of schedule and continues to stand as a testament to Pasadena's rich architectural heritage.

Cynthia Kurtz has been an invaluable asset to the city of Pasadena, and I ask all Members to join me in thanking Cynthia J. Kurtz for over 2 decades of dedicated service.

#### HONORING THE EASTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

##### HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2008*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce on achieving an important milestone, its 75th anniversary. Since 1933, the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce has tirelessly promoted its members and the economic health of our community. I am honored to represent this organization in Congress.

In 1933, the Jenkintown Businessmen's Association was incorporated with just 44 members. Since that time, the chamber has changed its name a number of times to mark its growth within the business community. In 1961, the organization became the Jenkintown Chamber of Commerce. By 1968, the organization became known as the Greater Jenkintown Chamber of Commerce to reflect the expansion of its service area. In 1992, the chamber became the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.

While successfully fulfilling its mission to support and promote local businesses of all sizes, the chamber has also successfully established strong community ties. The chamber has partnered with area businesses to host the annual Best of the Burbs celebration of business cultural and community events, featuring the chamber's annual Business Expo, which showcases over 100 area businesses. In 2003, the chamber established Leadership Montgomery County, an innovative program dedicated to strengthening the personal and professional skills of our community's future leaders.

The chamber's active board of directors and committed staff implement outreach, advocacy

and fundraising activities to strengthen the chamber's enduring presence in the community. Over the past 75 years, the Eastern Montgomery Chamber of Commerce has served as a powerful catalyst, uniting businesses, community agencies, government officials, and educational institutions to make our community a great place to live and work.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's 75th anniversary milestone and wishing the chamber and its members many more years of community enrichment and service.

#### TRIBUTE TO MONSIGNOR WILLIAM J. LINDER

##### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2008*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to acknowledge the lifetime service of Monsignor William J. Linder, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newark, New Jersey and founder of the New Community Corporation.

Monsignor Linder has served in the Catholic priesthood for more than 44 years, spending the entire length of his ministry in Newark, New Jersey. For the past 31 years he has been the pastor of St. Rose of Lima parish, a multi-ethnic and multi-racial congregation with representation from 42 nations around the world.

The New Community Corporation celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Its history is filled with stories of service to the city of Newark. The New Community Corporation is the most comprehensive and largest community development organization in the United States, employing over 1600 individuals and providing urban dwellers with housing, day care, alternative education, social services, job training, employment services and health care.

Monsignor Linder has received many honors and awards including the HUD Distinguished Service Award, The National Association of Home Builders Housing Hall of Fame award, the Aetna Foundation Voice of Conscience Award, the MacArthur Foundation Fellows Award and the Governor's Gold Medal (NJ). He was also selected by President Clinton to attend the president's first inauguration as one of the 60 "Faces of Hope" and by President Bush to participate in a conference on faith-based initiatives.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring a wonderful servant to humanity. I am pleased to recognize his tremendous contributions to the city of Newark and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO LOUVENIA JOHNSON

##### HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2008*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a woman of faith,