

Miller—Bolivia; Katherine Moore—Kenya; John Poulter—China; and Carin Wunneburger—Senegal.

It is my honor to recognize these individuals and the long-standing institution known throughout the globe. The people of the 24th District of Texas are proud of their achievements. I wish them and all members of the Peace Corps the best of luck and an eventual safe return home.

IN HONOR OF FRANK THOMPSON
AND HIS SERVICE TO SPOKANE
COUNTY VETERANS

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Frank Thompson. On March 1, 2008, Mr. Thompson, Director of the Spokane County Veteran Services, retired from his post in Spokane County, after an honorable 32-year career in veterans' services. In a time when our country acknowledges how much we depend upon our soldiers, and accordingly understand what honor, respect, and responsibility is owed to them when they become veterans, Frank Thompson stands out as an example of what it means to truly dedicate oneself to these deserving men and women, to serve them in a meaningful way.

Frank Thompson grew up in Pittsburgh, PA, and attended West Virginia Wesleyan College, graduating with a B.A. in social studies in 1967. When he entered the Air Force 3 months later, he began a lifelong attachment to the military which would continue all the way up to today. He later went on to serve 4 years in the Strategic Air Command during the Vietnam War. Upon being discharged, he attended graduate school at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA. Earning an M.A. in counseling in 1975, he also entered the Washington Air National Guard, joining the 105th Tactical Air Control Squadron. It is obvious, Mr. Speaker, that Frank Thompson's dedication to the United States and his willingness to serve in the armed forces can never be doubted.

Frank began his service of three decades to American veterans on February 1, 1976, when he began working at the Spokane County Veteran Services as a Veterans Contact Representative. His reliability and talent shown through when, just 4 years later, he was appointed director in 1980. Mr. Speaker, he did all this while still serving in the Washington Air National Guard and did not retire from military service until December of 1991, having attained the rank of major. He continued his honorable work at the Spokane County Veteran Services until this past week.

Madam Speaker, I thank Frank Thompson for his service to those who sacrificed so much for their country. I praise him as example to us all of what true responsibility to our veterans looks like. And I offer my best wishes for him and his family as they open this new chapter in their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on February 28, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for roll-call Nos. 85–87.

Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 85—"yes"—John "Marty" Thiels Southpark Station.

Rollcall No. 86—"yes"—Sgt. Jason Harkins Post Office Building.

Rollcall No. 87—"yes"—Iraq and Afghanistan Fallen Military Heroes of Louisville Memorial Post Office Building.

HONORING WINIFRED ANN
WATERS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, a community is an aggregate of its residents, but its quality of life is determined by the dedication of those who devote themselves to the welfare of their community. Winifred Ann Waters, known to all of us as Winnie, is a born and bred Bronx girl who has devoted herself to her community and the people in it.

She was born to Peter and Elizabeth McGee and grew up on Cypress Avenue and 138th Street. Her father died when she was a youthful teenager and she grew up helping her mother care for her siblings, Jimmy, Louis, and Veronica.

Winnie was 16 when she first met Jimmy Waters, who was to become her husband. They have now been happily married for 40-plus years, and have 4 children, Jimmy, Vincent, Peter and Mary, who gave them 6 grandchildren with a seventh on the way.

After working for several years in the private sector Winnie left to have her first child. In 1985 she began working at Community Board 12 as a community associate with one of her responsibilities taking the complaints of unhappy citizens.

Taking lemons and making lemonade, she established many lasting and close relationships over the years. She is one of a rare breed who works unselfishly without need for credit or praise. In time she started to adopt the community as a second family and devoting herself to making the community a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Now, no matter where Winnie walks in the Community Board 12 neighborhood, she is recognized by all. She will be greatly missed in her retirement but her goal of making the community a family environment is one that we will continue to follow from her fine example.

I sincerely thank her for all that she has done for the people of her community. She is an inspiration to all.

A BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO
WILBERT TATUM AND THE AM-
STERDAM NEWS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate two birthdays.

Wilbert "Bill" Tatum never shies away from a good fight. The publisher emeritus of Amsterdam News, starting in 1978, ran editorials excoriating then-Mayor of New York, Democrat Ed Koch, once a week—every week—on the paper's front page. The recurring, and unrelenting, box read: "Why Koch Should Resign." By the time Koch left office a decade later, Tatum had turned his attention to another New York mayor, this time Republican Rudolph Giuliani. He demanded his resignation, too.

Throughout his life, which this year eclipses the 75-year mark, Tatum has been unafraid to show his mettle. He has railed against one-time popular policies—the invasion of Iraq and racial profiling—and defended unpopular, often controversial figures. The man who forged a niche for himself in black journalism, and broadened the field with his editorial perspective, is all about developing big ideas—and sticking to them. "Don't worry about your beliefs if they are yours," Tatum writes in a recent column. "If you have to depend upon somebody else's beliefs, then you have no beliefs at all." On the anniversary of his birth, it is that unflappable spirit we celebrate, honor, and uplift.

He's a self-billed "pragmatic idealist." As the director of community relations for the city's building department, he fervently sought to develop new housing in poor neighborhoods. He spent a winter's night in 1967, huddled in an evacuated and unheated Queens housing development, just to highlight the plight of tenants. He, years later, lobbied then-Governor Mario Cuomo to establish a toll-free telephone line that gave residents tips, and accepted their complaints, about drug trafficking. But over the past quarter century, he's made his mark in the media.

He owned financial interests in Inner City Broadcasting Corp, Apollo Theatre, and two radio stations, WLIB and WBSL. He served a brief stint as co-publisher of the New York Post in 1993, alongside real estate developer Abe Hirschfeld. And through the pages of the Amsterdam News, the Harlem-based Black weekly that came under his direction in 1982, Tatum developed his own voice.

That paper projected a critical and focused voice of its own, particularly at a time when issues of concern to African Americans were largely ignored by the mainstream media. It all began nearly 100 years ago—with nothing but \$10, six sheets of paper, a lead pencil, and a table as its initial capital—and, in short order, it became New York's largest and most influential Black-owned, Black-operated business. At its zenith, its circulation peaked 100,000 and by the 1940s, it had become a leading black paper along with the storied Pittsburgh Courier, the Afro-American, and the Chicago Defender. Greats like W.E.B. DuBois, Roy Wilkins, and Adam Clayton Powell contributed to its pages. As one of the most frequently quoted black weeklies in the world, it says its

strength lies in its "shaping the advancement and realization of Black aspirations."

It now commands an irrefutable spot on the mantle of American Black history. It made visible the invisible; gave speech to the voiceless. It championed the causes of civil rights, amplifying the too-often muffled calls from the community. It fought for integration in the Armed Forces during World War II and was at the forefront in covering events such as the Montgomery bus boycott in Alabama. Tatum, himself, has been lauded for taking the paper in a new, fresh direction—harkening back to its history while remaining modern and relevant. He's expanded its coverage of international affairs, attracting a wide variety of new readership from all corners of the local, national, and even international market.

Tatum was born in January 23, 1933, in a three-room shack in Durham, North Carolina, 10th out of 13 siblings, against the backdrop of segregation and summers of tobacco-field toil. He today boasts a degree from Pennsylvania's Lincoln University, the oldest Black university in the U.S., a master's in urban studies from Occidental College in L.A., and a National Urban fellowship at Yale. Out of work in segregationist America, "too well-educated" to land a post as a janitor at any of the New York newspapers, and instead, tried his luck as a reporter and columnist in Europe.

But he has since carved out a safe space of his own, assuming the leadership of a historic paper and injecting his powerful voice into the dialog. He has all our best wishes on his birthday and in this year, as his paper celebrates a milestone—a century's worth of scoops, awards, exclusives, and history-making. We are all the better for it.

HONORING THE PEAK CENTER OF LANSDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

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 Peak Center of Lansdale, Pennsylvania, for receiving National Institute of Senior Centers accreditation. Of the 15,000 senior centers in America, The PEAK Center is one of only 153 senior centers to receive this high honor, bestowed by the National Institute of Senior Centers, a constituent unit of the National Council on Aging.

The National Institute of Senior Centers mark of accreditation demonstrates the PEAK Center's outstanding service and commitment to seniors who live in the North Penn region of my district. As part of the accreditation process, staff evaluated their current programs and developed a 3-year strategic plan that will facilitate the development of additional programs and services. Accreditation demonstrates the Peak Center's outstanding leadership and commitment to continuing their tradition of developing quality programs and services for adults.

The Peak Center's mission is to support wellness and quality of life for adults over 55 years of age and promote their participation in all aspects of community life. The staff of the PEAK Center works diligently to maintain the center as a hub of learning and activity in the

community. The center has year-round programs that engage adults in lifelong learning pursuits, some in cooperation with local corporations and civic groups. Programs include aerobics, studio art, health screening, computer training, and the "Senior Environment Corps." I have been pleased to recognize the Peak Center's active participation in the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the PEAK Center on receiving National Institute of Senior Centers accreditation and wishing this important organization many more years of success.

COMMEMORATING THE COURAGE OF THE HAITIAN SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT FOR AMERICAN INDE- PENDENCE IN THE "SIEGE OF SAVANNAH" AND FOR HAITI'S INDEPENDENCE AND RENUNCI- ATION OF SLAVERY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution commemorating the courage of the Haitian soldiers who fought for American independence in the "Siege of Savannah." This resolution also honors those soldiers who fought for Haiti's independence and the renunciation of slavery. As a cosponsor of this legislation, I would like to express my appreciation for the efforts of my good friend from Florida, Congressman KENDRICK B. MEEK, for introducing this important legislation and for the House Leadership for bringing it to the floor for a vote.

The War for American Independence was not easily won, and it took the contributions of an untold number of American patriots. It is important that we continue to remember those heroes who gave their lives for the freedoms we can enjoy today. In 1779, American rebels fought to take back the city of Savannah from the British. This resolution commemorates a group of 500 Haitian volunteers who fought valiantly alongside the patriot forces for more than 2 weeks as the siege continued. It is important for us to take this moment to commemorate and honor the memory and sacrifice of the 300 Haitians who gave their lives during that historic battle.

It is fitting that a monument to these brave men now stands in Savannah, Georgia, where this momentous fight took place. It is also fitting that the monument depicts a young Henri Christophe, a man who helped gain Haitian independence and end slavery in that country.

Mr. Christophe and his compatriots fought valiantly for the causes of liberty and justice on both American and Haitian soil, proving their deep commitment to these ideals. Their desire for liberty is not yet fulfilled, so we must continue to work with the people of Haiti to realize the dreams of their founders.

We can hardly begin to measure the ways in which the people of Haiti have shaped our country. In South Florida, residents of Haitian descent have contributed so much to the fabric of our community. Their culture, heritage, and traditions have influenced almost every

single corner of our society. South Florida—so rich in diversity—would not be what it is today without the Haitian people. From the beginning of our history, the Haitian people have left their mark on America and have helped to shape our great nation. In fact, the contributions of Haitians began before our country had even won its independence, and they continue to this very day.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this important resolution and honor the valor and ideals of the Haitian soldiers who fought for American independence and to end the practice of slavery.

RECOGNIZING BOBBIE AND DON CASSANO

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker I rise today to recognize the achievements of two outstanding people from my hometown, Tempe, Arizona—Don and Bobbie Cassano. My pride in their contributions is magnified because I also count them among my friends.

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce recently presented them with the 2008 Spirit of Tempe Award during the annual Breakfast for Chamber Champions on February 29th. This award recognized business people who "go above and beyond".

The soul of any community is its people, and Don and Bobbie Cassano have epitomized the spirit that makes Tempe such an outstanding community. I am pleased that their outstanding efforts for our community have been formally recognized by the Tempe Chamber.

Don and Bobbie wasted no time in getting involved in their community when they moved to Tempe thirty four years ago. It is easy to assume that this was strictly a team effort, but Don and Bobbie have each made significant individual contributions as well.

Bobbie has served as president of Tempe Leadership, the Tempe/Kyrene Communities in Schools and the Tempe Governors. She was a founder of the Communities in Schools group. She has also served on the Tempe Community Council Board of Directors, the Tempe Connections Advisory Council and the Tempe Citizens Corps Council.

Don has also served as President of a number of organizations, including Friendship Village of Tempe, Arizona Clean and Beautiful and the Tempe Nuevo Kiwanis Club. He has chaired the Valley Business Council and Valley Forward Association. I am also proud to have served with him during the time he was a member of the Tempe City Council, from 1984–1993.

Together they joined forces to help pass a transit tax in Tempe which goes toward improving public transportation, including the light rail system which starts running this year. In addition, it funds expanded bicycle paths, and a free neighborhood circulator bus to help increase ridership on public transportation.

I can't think of two people who are more deserving of this award, and I say congratulations for a job well done.