IN HONOR OF CONGRESSWOMAN JULIA CARSON

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Congresswoman Julia Carson who passed away on December 15, 2007. A woman of great passion and dedication, she will be remembered as a tireless advocate of the poor and working families.

Congresswoman Carson was the first and only African-American and woman in Indiana's congressional delegation. An exceptionally courageous and strong woman, she looked a childhood of poverty and segregation in the eye and rose above it to represent Indiana for over 35 years, first as an Indiana State representative and then as State senator before being elected to the United States Congress in 1996.

Julia was able to use her life experiences to help others also overcome poverty, discrimination and illness. I had the honor of being part of the Congresswoman's initiative to raise awareness of hypertension and stroke. I will always remember her unrelenting advocacy of women's rights, children's health, affordable housing, and equality. She stood up for unpopular, but critical issues including expanding SCHIP in the late 1990s and, most recently, voting against the war in Iraq. It is thus not surprising that Ms. Carson was the only person to ever be named Woman of the Year by the Indianapolis Star on two different occasions.

My strongest memory, however, is how Congresswoman Carson was a special and warm-hearted woman. She was one of the first to go out of her way to introduce herself to me when I first arrived at Congress in 2001. With our birthdays just a few days apart in July, she always took time to greet me with a special tenderness. Her determination on policy issues was matched by a stylish flair and humor that consistently brought a smile to the faces of all in the room.

On behalf of the families of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District, we extend our prayers and sincerest condolences to her children and all of the family and friends of Representative Carson. We lost a very dear sister this week. She will be remembered in the highest regard, and deeply missed by her colleagues at Congress and her constituents in Indiana.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying special tribute to the life and service of Congresswoman Julia Carson.

JOSHUA K. HUGHES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

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Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua K. Hughes, 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 412 and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joshua has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Joshua has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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