

HONORING THE WORK OF YOUTH
SERVICE, INC. OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in commemorating the 125th anniversary of the National Florence Crittenton Foundation. I am equally pleased to recognize the organization's deep roots in Philadelphia through Youth Service, Inc. and the tremendous work that has been accomplished on behalf of young women and girls in crisis.

One hundred and sixteen years ago, Charles Crittenton founded the 7th Mission Home in center city Philadelphia. The Mission later moved to the Germantown section of North Philadelphia. During that time, it sheltered young, unwed mothers and provided counseling, parenting workshops, and adoption services. Over the years, as the shifting population of Philadelphia diversified, so did the services at the Crittenton site. What remained constant, however, was the commitment to meeting the needs of youth in crisis.

The core principles of the Crittenton Mission are exemplified in Youth Service, Inc.'s mother & baby group home. Located in West Philadelphia, the home serves expectant and teenage mothers that are unable to remain in their own homes due to conditions of abuse, neglect or abandonment. It offers a structured, nurturing environment, where young women receive comprehensive support and the tools necessary to become self sufficient adults and responsible parents.

The original Crittenton site has remained a fixture in the Germantown community for more than eighty years. Currently, it operates as the Crittenton Family Support Center of Youth Service, Inc. and provides vital support services for women, children and families.

In an area where many residents experience limited opportunities for academic and occupational advancement, the services provided at the Crittenton Family Support Center are of critical importance. For infants and young children, Youth Service, Inc. operates the only Crisis Nursery Programs in Philadelphia, with sites in Germantown and Mantua, respectively.

On behalf of my constituents, I am proud to represent Youth Service, Inc. and to share in their history and dedication to the people of our community and to future generations of Philadelphians.

HONORING LOU COSTANTINO, SR.

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask the House to reflect on the memory and devotion of a valued employee who loved this institution, Lou Costantino, Sr.

Mr. Costantino's passing over the weekend was a loss to the House of Representatives. He had a deep reverence for this institution and always conducted himself with honor and decency. Whether it was a Member of Con-

gress or a member of the public passing by the door to the floor, Lou treated everyone with equal respect and civility. He was an ambassador for the House of Representatives and the Capitol Hill neighborhood where he spent the majority of his life.

Lou Costantino, Sr. was born in a house on New Jersey Avenue just a couple of blocks from the Capitol. His parents ran a grocery store at that time, the same grocery that Lou would begin running shortly after graduation from high school, along with a carry out, barbershop, and cleaners that his parents opened. He operated these businesses until coming to work for the House of Representatives in 1980.

During those early years, Mr. Costantino met his wife Doris while going to Eastern High School on Capitol Hill. They were married in 1965 at St. Peter's Church and had two children, Eydie and Lou. "There's been a Costantino at St. Peter's for 100 years," he would often remark.

Lou's devotion to family was indicative of the commitment he had for the House of Representatives. He first began his career here in 1980 with the Office of the Doorkeeper. He always loved his job and the people around him, and held the history and the daily workings of the House in the highest esteem. In accordance with his post, and owing to the high regard in which he was held, Mr. Costantino had the honor of escorting the First Lady to her seat for the State of the Union Address, a task he accomplished annually for every First Lady since Nancy Reagan.

Born just a few blocks away, and having worked in the Capitol for more than 25 years, Lou Costantino, Sr. served this institution and his country with honor and distinction. We extend our sympathies to his family during this time of loss. But we also offer our deep and sincere gratitude for the devoted service given by an individual whose qualities represent the best that this institution has to offer.

HONORING CHIEF WILLIAM S.
JOHNSON ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, today marks the end of an era as Fire Chief William S. Johnson celebrates his retirement after 41 years of dedicated service to the Center Fire District of West Haven, Connecticut. It is with the greatest pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, colleagues and community members who have gathered in extending my heartfelt congratulations on this very special occasion.

For more than four decades Chief Johnson has diligently served the West Haven community. For him, it has not only been a job but the extension of a family legacy. His father served as Chief just a decade prior to his own assumption of the title and his grandfather was also a volunteer firefighter. Today, his own son, Lieutenant William S. Johnson, IV also serves in the Department. There are few firefighters in West Haven, volunteer or career, who have not in some way been mentored, inspired, or influenced by Chief Johnson.

Though originally trained as a school teacher, the Chief joined the then West Haven Fire Department, later renamed Center District, in July of 1966. He quickly rose through the ranks of the independent district and was appointed to lead the Department 26 years ago. He is well known, not only in West Haven, but across the state of Connecticut and nationally as an innovative and progressive leader. Chief Johnson is one of the founders of Connecticut's Fire Chiefs' Association and worked for years as a fire science instructor at Waterbury State Technical College, the University of New Haven, and the National Fire Academy. The Chief is credited with being among the first in the state to equip the department with cutting-edge protective equipment and technology. He also used his department as a testing ground for many local and national initiatives and made sure that his Department was among the first to implement such programs as the "Stop Drop, & Roll" educational program for schools and the promotion of fire-retardant clothing for children. I had the opportunity to work with Chief Johnson on the issue of fire-retardant sleepwear for children and was always impressed with the passion and dedication with which he approached and advocated for this important issue.

Throughout a career that has spanned five decades, Chief Johnson has demonstrated a unique commitment and dedication to public service. Too often we take for granted the incredible work of our country's firefighters. I have always held a deep admiration for those who serve as firefighters—each day facing new challenges and seemingly overwhelming responsibility. It takes a unique combination of bravery, compassion, and generosity to serve as a firefighter and especially as Chief. As head of the Center District Department, Chief Johnson made the men and women of the Department his highest priority—always ensuring that they had access to the most current technologies and equipment. Perhaps even more telling, until the day of his retirement and at the age of 71, Chief Johnson not only responded to incidents but joined his men in attacking threatening blazes. The City of West Haven, its residents, and families have certainly been fortunate to have him protecting their community. Mere words cannot begin to repay him for the comfort and security he has provided all.

It is with the greatest respect and my deepest appreciation that I rise today to honor Chief William S. Johnson and thank him for his many invaluable contributions to our community and the discipline of firefighting. His knowledge, skill, and passion for his work have left an indelible mark on our community and a legacy that is certain to inspire generations to come. I am pleased to stand today to join his wife, Dorothy; children, Michelle, Kimberly, Stephaine, and William; grandchildren, Stephaine, Patrick, Michael, Emery, and Richie; as well as all of the family, friends, and colleagues gathered tonight in extending my heartfelt congratulations to Chief William S. Johnson as he celebrates his retirement. Chief—you are a reflection of all that we hope our public servants can be and I wish you all the best for many more years of health and happiness.