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

It now commands an irrefutable spot on the mantel 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 INDEPENDENCE IN THE ''SIEGE OF SAVANNAH'' AND FOR HAITI'S INDEPENDENCE AND RENUNCIATION 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.