

growth well. She holds a BSN and MSN degrees from Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, New York and Georgetown University, in Washington D.C., respectively. She has distinguished herself as a competent Nurse Manager and Administrator for over three decades, in the Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Washington D.C. areas. In 1981, she joined the United States Army Nurses Corps, served as a Captain, active duty and in reserve.

At home, Constance has raised her four children to love and respect everyone especially their elders. She encouraged them to have positive outlooks in life and motivation to do "as much as they can" with care and dignity. It could not be otherwise since this has been an inheritance from her parents: John who died at the age of 114 and Imogene, at age 82. Faithful to that motto, she has been involved in many other activities such as a mediator at the Safe Horizon Brooklyn Mediation Center, as a Board Member of the Community Board 5 and as the Chair for Education and Training for Tashia's Life, a lupus foundation.

She was miraculously rescued from the September 11, 2001 disaster at World Trade Center. This encounter made her redefine her mission on earth, realizing that God had saved her life for some special purpose. She serves the Lord at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Canarsie, Brooklyn, where she functions as a Lay Ecumenical Minister, as well as a Vestry.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Hay-Alleyne has received numerous awards and recognitions including: being featured in "Who's Who?" in Nursing in Cambridge.

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SPEECH OF

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RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on any given day there are nearly a half million children in our nation's foster care system. These children have endured more pain and suffering in their short lives than many of us could ever imagine. Not only do they experience the physical and emotional trauma that is connected to their mistreatment, but they also face the grief of being separated from their siblings, extended family, friends, and their community. The foster care system serves as a safe sanctuary for these young people and provides services and support to help ease their suffering. It is in the foster care system that children find the help they need to address their pain, and where families can receive the services they need to safely restore their bond with their children. And when it is not possible to safely reunify a child with their parents, it is through the foster care system that a child finds a permanent home with a relative caregiver or an adoptive family.

The month of May is National Foster Care Month. It provides the nation with an opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful contributions of the countless men and women who dedicate their lives to assisting children and families, such as case workers and administrators, child and family advocates, research-

ers, volunteers, and community organizations such as the Child Welfare Organizing Project, which is doing fantastic work in my district. National Foster Care Month provides us with an opportunity to commend those individuals and families who open up their homes and lives to our most vulnerable children by becoming a foster parent. Foster parents step in to serve as a surrogate mom and dad to children when their parents are not there to comfort and care for them. Their services are invaluable in helping these children overcome their grief and move forward in their lives.

National Foster Care Month also provides us with an opportunity to evaluate our foster care system. Congress made great strides last fall in passing comprehensive, bipartisan legislation that strengthened the child welfare system. The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act provided new resources to the system and included policy changes aimed at improving the outcomes of children in care. The legislation has significantly improved the lives of foster children by facilitating their connection to extended family, supporting grandparents and other relative caregivers who care for these children, providing support to older youth in their transition to adulthood, ensuring the health care and educational needs of every child are met, ending the discriminatory practices against Native American children who are under the supervision of tribal governments, enhancing federal training assistance for child welfare workers and court personnel, and strengthening the federal adoption assistance program. The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act represented the most significant reform in the child welfare system in over a decade. I am proud of the bipartisan work that the Committee on Ways and Means did in developing the underlying legislation that led to the comprehensive bill. Nevertheless, there is still a great deal of work that needs to be done.

Despite the success of last fall's legislation, Congress needs to remain committed to further strengthening the foster care system and addressing some of the problems that have plagued it for years. Children of color are disproportionately over-represented in foster care. African American and Native American children are removed from their homes and placed in foster care at much higher rates than their white peers. Tragically, once they are removed from their homes, they are more likely to remain in the system for longer periods of time. This problem transcends urban areas and occurs across our nation, affecting not only New York, Michigan and Illinois, but States such as Iowa, Washington State and Minnesota. Many of the provisions included in the Fostering Connections the Success and Increasing Adoptions Act will help to begin to address this problem, yet more reform is still needed.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating National Foster Care Month by saluting the people who come to the aid of our most vulnerable children and families, as well as the men and women who are, or were formerly in, the foster care system. These individuals represent some of our bravest men and women who have overcome a level of grief and suffering that some will never experience in their lifetime. Yet, these remarkable people go on to lead successful lives, often exceeding their wildest expectations. Many of them now volun-

teer their time and expertise to efforts to improve the lives of those children who are currently in the system, championing their cause in State legislatures and throughout the halls of Congress. I salute these fine men and women for the example that they set for all Americans.

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RECOGNIZING ZUNI ELEMENTARY'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

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**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Zuni Elementary School in Scottsdale, Arizona. Zuni, first opened its doors to students in the fall of 1989. This fall, Zuni will merge with another nearby school to become Redbird Elementary.

In its two decade existence, Zuni earned many awards of distinction, most notably the Honor Council Excellence Award from the American Student Council Association and the National Association of Elementary School Principals. Zuni earned this award every year since 1993, a remarkable accomplishment. Since 2005, Zuni has received the Arizona Department of Education's highest ranking of "Excelling School."

In addition to its educational successes, Zuni's philanthropic efforts have been an inspiration to our community. Over the past 12 years, Zuni Elementary raised over \$106,000 as part of the Jump Rope for Heart campaign that supports heart disease and stroke research by the American Heart Association.

As a former teacher, I personally understand the importance of building a strong educational foundation during elementary school. I would like to congratulate the Zuni Coyotes—teachers, students, and parents—on this exceptional milestone.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Zuni Elementary on its 20 outstanding years of educational excellence and dedication to scholastic achievement.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, May 12, 2009, I was unable to cast my votes on the Motion to Table the Flake Question of Privilege, H. Res. 413 and H. Res. 378 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 243, on the Motion to Table Representative FLAKE's Question of Privilege, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 244, on suspending the Rules and passing H. Res. 413, Supporting the goals and ideals of "IEEE Engineering the Future" Day on May 13, 2009, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 245, on suspending the Rules and passing H. Res. 378, Recognizing the 30th anniversary of the

election of Margaret Thatcher as the first female Prime Minister of Great Britain, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA F. BROOKS

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Andrea E. Brooks of Indianapolis, Indiana. She passed away on April 25, 2009 at the age of 65. Andrea was a great leader and an inspiration to us all.

As a government servant, Andrea dedicated her career to working with the Department of Veterans Affairs and as a labor activist to the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE). Her perseverance stemmed from the belief that unions play a necessary role in the fight for fairness and equal justice in the workplace.

Over the course of 30 years, Andrea had led a brilliant career. She served as the National Vice President of Women's and Fair Practices Department at the AFGE. Before that Andrea was Chief Steward, then Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Vice President and then President for ten years of the AFGE Local 490 at the Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Los Angeles, California.

Andrea left behind a legacy of being a visionary activist. Her hope for the union was for it to be a leader for civil rights activism, protecting the rights and freedom of women, minorities and the disabled. Andrea's many accomplishments will continue to motivate everyone who was touched by her work. I extend my deepest condolences to her friends and family as they mourn her passing. My thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

Madam Speaker and esteemed colleagues, I urge you to join me in paying tribute to Andrea E. Brooks for her distinguished service to our Nation's workforce.

HONORING MARK HAWKINS

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Hawkins as he retires from the General Motors Truck Assembly plant after 37 years of service. Mark was the Shop Chairman of UAW Local 598 for the past 20 years and a member of the UAW Local 598 bargaining committee for the past 31 years. A celebration will be held on May 15 to recognize his achievements and life.

A graduate of Beecher High School, Mark has worked tirelessly to advocate on behalf of the employees of General Motors. His skill as a negotiator has earned him the respect of GM Management, UAW Local 598 membership and the UAW international leadership. The National Bargaining Committee elected him to chair the National Negotiations in 1993, 1996 and 2003. Mark negotiated a Living Agreement between UAW Local 598 and GM

Flint Assembly in 1997. This unprecedented agreement secured new work for the plant and a \$500 million investment from the company. He was elected without opposition in his 7th bid for Local 598 chairman. Earlier this year he negotiated a new Local Living Agreement that is serving as the role model for other plants in the United States.

Over the years, Mark has gained a reputation for helping those less fortunate. Starting in 1994, UAW Local 598 membership has donated over \$1 million to feed and clothe needy children. Mark has organized the building of 8 playgrounds at local elementary schools and parks. Responding to the tragedy of September 11, he spearheaded the drive to build two trucks with donated labor and GM components for the New York Fire Department. Across the Nation the UAW and General Motors followed his example and a total of 60 trucks were given to the Fire Department.

The community has recognized his contributions and Mark has received the following awards: 2000 Walter Reuther Award, 2000 Liberty Bell Award, 2001 American Red Cross Hero Award, 2002 Martin Luther King Award, and in 2003 he received the Michigan Parks and Recreation Committee Award.

Mark and his wife, Shelley, have been married for 19 years and have 3 children Joseph, Brandi, and Richard and four grandchildren Brooklyn, Olivia, Chace, and Emma.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the life of Mark Hawkins. He has been diligent in fighting for the rights of the UAW membership. Gifted with vision, tenacity, and mediation he has brought a deep comprehension of both sides of a problem to the negotiating table. Deeply engaged in the struggle to bring dignity to the workplace, Mark Hawkins has been a true friend to workers everywhere. I consider him a friend and have valued his insight and wisdom over the future of the U.S. auto industry. I am a better Congressman for having known Mark and I wish him the best as he starts this new phase of his life.

REVEREND CHARLES E. SMITH

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I have the honor of welcoming and recognizing Reverend Charles E. Smith, who just gave the opening prayer before Congress this 13th day of May, 2009. Reverend Smith is the Pastor at Berea Baptist Church in Forest Hill, Texas. He is joined today by his wife Gloria, his children, and several members of his family and church congregation.

Reverend Smith is a native of Texas and a longtime resident of Fort Worth, where he and his wife live with their six children. A graduate of the Southern Bible Institute and of the University of Texas at Arlington, Reverend Smith has served as a spiritual foundation in his community for over 25 years.

Madam Speaker, I commend Reverend Smith for his long-standing service to Fort Worth and to the members of his congregation whom he has so capably served. It is my pleasure to have Reverend Smith here today, and an honor to represent him in the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALBIO SIRES**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the RECORD my position on the following votes I missed on May 12, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 243 to table the motion, "yes" on rollcall 244 on H. Res. 413; and "yes" on rollcall 245 on H. Res. 378.

A TRIBUTE IN REMEMBRANCE OF  
STEVEN L. ZELKOWITZ

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Steven L. Zelkowitz, a visionary leader in our community and an inspiration to all of New York.

Steven L. Zelkowitz, an independent energy consultant and attorney, is a senior veteran in New York's energy industry. He began as an attorney in private practice, representing utilities and energy companies for twenty years. He then joined Keyspan Corporation, serving as its General Counsel, Chief Administrative Officer, Executive Vice President, and eventually President of the Energy Assets & Supply Group. At every point in his career, Mr. Zelkowitz distinguished himself by his keen understanding of New York's energy needs, his tireless work ethic, and his loyalty.

Steven L. Zelkowitz has also earned an excellent reputation for supporting local organizations and institutions of higher learning. Mr. Zelkowitz serves on the Board of Trustees of Brooklyn Law School and is chair of its Finance Committee. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Brooklyn Bar Association, a member of National Board of Governors of the American Jewish Committee, a member of the American Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association, and a past chair of its Public Utility Law Committee.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Steven L. Zelkowitz, a well-respected leader in Brooklyn's business and educational communities.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Steven L. Zelkowitz.

REMEMBERING THE QUARTERBACK FOR FREEDOM, JACK KEMP

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in somber remembrance of Jack Kemp, who on and off the field, played his position with sure hands and a compassionate heart. That position—as I called it—was Quarterback for Freedom, a role he assumed effortlessly and