

THE RECOGNITION OF 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICERS AND INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as I did last year, I rise today to congratulate and recognize outstanding employees of the Officers (Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer) and Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives who have reached the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Our most important asset in the House is our dedicated employees, and their work, often behind the scenes, is vital in keeping the operations and services of the House running smoothly and efficiently. The employees we recognize today are acknowledged and commended for their hard work, dedication, and support of House Members, their staffs and constituents, and for their contributions day-in and day-out to the overall operations of the House. These employees have a wide range of responsibilities that support the legislative process, assure the security of the institution, and maintain our technology and service infrastructure. They have accomplished a great many things in a wide range of activities, and the House of Representatives and its Members, staff, and the general public, are better served because of them. The individuals we honor today have collectively provided 225 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives:

Tina M. Agee, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Peter L. Baer, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Joseph M. Dean, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Alan Deluca, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Patrick T. Kenealy, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; John A. King, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Patricia A. Mattimore, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Thoa N. Nguyen, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Charles D. Woodson, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations and once again recognize and thank these employees for their commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and to their respective House Officers and Inspector General in particular. Their long hours and hard work are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service, dedication, and commitment to the House set an example for their colleagues and other employees who will follow in their footsteps. I celebrate our honorees, and I am proud to stand before you and the nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

**HONORING DICK JOHNSON**

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to a dear

friend and to honor the memory of a great man who will long be remembered in Columbus and across the State of Indiana as a business and community leader.

For years, Dick Johnson was regarded as a role model in the business community of eastern Indiana. Dick will be remembered for his willingness to share in his successes with others; he will undoubtedly be missed by his wonderful family, but also all those whose lives he touched.

Dick Johnson was born on November 25, 1932 in Fort Wayne, Indiana to Samuel Gideon and Jessie Loomis Johnson. Dick spent his youth in Fort Wayne before graduating from the Indiana University School of Business in 1955.

At IU, Dick showed the promise of a young man committed to honesty and integrity that would be fulfilled each day of his life. Dick earned the nickname "honest Abe" and was elected president of his fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Dick also demonstrated his love for country, completing ROTC training and serving as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army from 1955–1957.

Dick began his business career in 1957 when he purchased a Shell Oil distributorship which would become the Johnson Oil Company. Dick's business acumen was evident as the company grew and diversified under his leadership.

In 1981, Johnson Oil Company opened its first convenience store in Nashville, Indiana. Now the Bigfoot Food Store chain operates more than 200 locations in Indiana, Kentucky, and Illinois.

Dick was often recognized for his leadership in the business community, serving as President of the Indiana Oil Marketers Association and on the National Distributor Council for Shell Oil. He was also honored as the 1988 Columbus Small Business Person of the Year, the 1994 IU Distinguished Entrepreneur and the 2000 Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

Dick Johnson will always be remembered for what he accomplished in the business world, but those closest to him also know of a kind-hearted man with a commitment to his community.

He chaired the Columbus Front Door Committee and served as the president of many organizations over the years including the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, the Heritage Fund of Bartholomew County, the Columbus Economic Development Board, and the Columbus Regional Hospital Foundation.

Dick and his beloved wife Ruth were also significant philanthropists, donating to causes such as the Columbus Area Arts Council and the Columbus Senior Citizens Center.

As a proud graduate of Indiana University, Dick was so very proud of his founding sponsorship of the Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Kelley School of Business.

I first came to know Dick Johnson as a respected competitor of my father in the business world. Then, as now, Dick Johnson was admired for his devotion to his faith, his family, his business acumen and his unblemished reputation for integrity.

Dick Johnson was a public man who saw business as a means to improve his community, his state, his university and his nation.

To his loving wife Ruth, his children and entire family I offer my deepest condolences and

prayer that they may be comforted with the faith we share.

Columbus and Indiana have lost a giant and I have lost a cherished mentor and friend.

**HONORING KENNETH TAYLOR**

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Kenneth "Kenny" Taylor upon being named by the Madera District Chamber of Commerce as a 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award, Memorial Honoree. The life of Mr. Taylor will be honored on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at the Fifth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Installation Dinner.

Mr. Kenny Taylor was born at Dearborn Hospital in Madera, California, to Minnie and Marie Taylor. He graduated from Madera High School in 1968. He attended Fresno City College, and in 1970 joined the family business, Taylor Insurance; he later bought the company from his father. Throughout his career he was a trusted and respected professional. Mr. Taylor treated his business and customers with unquestionable integrity.

Mr. Taylor was proud of his community and Madera High School. He was a member of Saint Joachim's Church, the 20/30 Club, Exchange Club, Kiwanis Club, Madera Babe Ruth, Madera Elks Lodge, Fresno/Madera Basque Club, and Madera Golf and Country Club. While active with the Exchange Club, Mr. Taylor created the "Boy of the Month Award" to recognize the all-around achievement of senior high school students in Madera. When the Exchange Club closed its doors, Mr. Taylor joined the Kiwanis Club and brought the award with him; he funded the program out of his own pocket. He attended as many Madera High sporting events as possible; he coached baseball and played golf. Once, Mr. Taylor attended a Madera High cross country meet and realized many of the athletes did not have proper shoes. Without a word, or attention brought to the situation, those athletes had new shoes provided to them at no cost. That was the kind of person he was.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor the life of Kenny Taylor upon being named the Madera Chamber of Commerce 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award Memorial Honoree. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Taylor's life and best wishes for his family.

**TRIBUTE TO WEST MORGAN HIGH SCHOOL**

**HON. PARKER GRIFFITH**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, Mr. ADERHOLT and I rise today to recognize the Lady Rebels of West Morgan High School in Trinity, Alabama. In May, West Morgan's softball team captured the first Alabama State Championship for West Morgan in 42 years of athletic competition.

West Morgan High School has always upheld the highest standards of excellence in all its endeavors, and this team of outstanding athletes is no exception.

We commend the leadership of Principal Billy Hopkins and Coaches Keith Harris, Alesha Hutto, and Kenda Bradford on their successful careers with West Morgan High, and we look forward to the continuation of a tradition of solid and consistent performance in both academics and athletics.

Madam Speaker, we congratulate each member of the dedicated Lady Rebels softball team—Hannah Harris; Haley Willingham; Madison Jones; Whitlee Potter; Hayden Hamby; Britanny Thompson; Ashley Hooper; Rachel Harbin; Briley Stephenson; Hallie Cunningham; Lauren Seibert; Hannah Amos; Hannah Draper; Heather Amos; Mary Kelley; Chelsea Boston; Delissa Tidwell; Baylee Carpenter; Mikinzie Steele; Ashley Crow; Jamie Rohr; Katie Brazier; Alexis Casteel; Kimberlee Denard; Bari Jones; Kristen Parrish—and their staff for their commitment to achieving this championship.

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IN HONOR OF RON SARGENT

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**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2009*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to extend warm greetings and offer my congratulations to Ron Sargent as he retires from the YMCA Retirement Fund. When Ron came to the Newark YMCA 40 years ago, I immediately saw his potential. He was eager to do the job as a well prepared and dedicated employee. During his 40 years in various roles with multiple YMCAs, he has been a credit to the YMCA's programs and we owe him our respect and gratitude for a job well done. It was a pleasure for me to personally work with him during his tenure with the YMCA of Newark and Vicinity.

As Ron Sargent begins a new phase in his life, I want him to know the dedication and commitment he exhibited during his YMCA career will always be appreciated. It takes a special person to contribute to society in the way of YMCA service. Fortunately, while acting in his different capacities, he was able to make a difference in the lives of many through the programs he was involved in and/or instituted. Ron's effectiveness and creativity led to multiple awards being presented to him and his programs were featured in the YMCA Discovery Magazine. His career with the YMCA has certainly been one of accomplishment and leadership by example. As he is feted at a dinner in his honor on July 31, 2009, Ron should know that his many years of service to the YMCA are true testaments of his character and that his significant contributions will never be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues agree that Ron Sargent has been a true asset to the YMCA and that they join me in wishing him well as he enters his retirement years.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NAOMI DURST BOWDEN

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**HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2009*

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Naomi Jane Durst Bowden.

Mrs. Bowden was born in Custer, South Dakota, on June 13, 1915, and lived there until 1948. She was the daughter of pioneers and a loving mother and homemaker. She moved to Jesup, Georgia in 1948 and was an integral part of the community, serving as a founding member and Lay Leader of the Epworth United Methodist Church. She taught as a substitute teacher in the Jesup schools, and, for a number of years, hosted a women's radio program on WBGR in Jesup. She had six sons, eighteen grandchildren, and twenty-four great grandchildren. Up until a short time before her death, she could name the names of all her grandchildren and great grandchildren—something she routinely did before she fell asleep. At age 93, Naomi Jane Durst Bowden passed away in her sleep on Monday, May 25th in Athens, Georgia.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life and works of Naomi Jane Durst Bowden.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

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**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2009*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation. The Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation was created in 1999 founded on the Potawatomi belief "to take what we need and give back what we can."

A review of the history of the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe will help to understand their desire to give back to the community. The tribe was forcibly removed from its homeland, endured strained relationships with governments, and lived in hardship and poverty. They survived by relying upon their internal strength and sharing with each other.

Through its foundation, the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe now provides to others who are struggling in the community. I believe that despite of or rather because of these centuries' old struggles, the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation has emerged to reflect their tribal values and beliefs to return assistance to the communities where they live and work. The Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation supports civic and community projects, such as public health care issues, education, economic development, and the arts. They have funded many different types of organizations ranging from large, well known associations to small grass-

roots organizations. The foundation meets with any organization that applies for a grant and, if funded, works in partnership with the group to ensure success. The foundation feels each agency it funds allows them to carry on the Potawatomi tradition of "giving back what we can."

Now celebrating their 20th Anniversary, the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation has delivered over \$18 million dollars to more than 250 charities and nonprofit organizations throughout the Greater Milwaukee area. I am grateful for their empathetic spirit of giving.

Madam Speaker for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation for their support, dedication and service to the people of my district and throughout Wisconsin.

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HONORING MRS. MELENA BOGHOSIAN

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**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an Armenian Genocide survivor, Mrs. Melena Boghosian. She passed away at her home in Fresno, California at the age of one hundred and three.

A fifty-five year resident of Fresno, California, Mrs. Boghosian was known around the community for her amazing survival story during the First World War, when the Ottoman Turks massacred an estimated 1.5 million Armenians. Born in Erzurum Turkey, she fled her home as a young child after her parents and siblings were murdered, in an attempt by the Ottoman Empire to eliminate any Armenian presence in the area. Missionaries took young Melena to an orphanage in Syria where she lived for several years.

During her stay at the orphanage, Melena began corresponding with her future husband Avedis Gegaregian. At the age of sixteen, she left the orphanage and married Avedis in Beirut, Lebanon. Shortly after they were married, the two traveled by ship to the United States and immigrated through Ellis Island in New York City. Avedis and Melena settled in Camden, New Jersey until Avedis' death in the mid-1950's.

After the death of her first husband, Melena moved to the Central Valley of California, to be closer to family and friends. While living in Fresno, she worked in alterations at Berkeley's Department Store. She later met, and married, her second husband, Nooregan Boghosian, and they lived together until his death. Melena was an active member of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church and a life long member of the Armenian Relief Society. She is survived by her daughter Jessy Shahbazian.

Madam Speaker, I stand today to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Melena Boghosian. I invite my colleagues to join me in this tribute to this incredible woman, and hope that her legacy lives on for future generations.