

need to lead healthy lives as productive members of their communities.

Madam Speaker, it is time we take a stand to put an end to long-term homelessness in America. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to support a proven and cost-effective solution to ending chronic homelessness.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF JIM MAPLES

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and public service of Jim Maples, a teacher, a coach, past Tulare County supervisor, and a close friend.

Some people in this world become larger than life, not because of their physical size or presence, but because of the number of people they influence in their lifetime. Jim Maples was both a father figure and a friend to many. His influence has been felt throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

Maples graduated from Porterville High School and Porterville College. He earned degrees from Fresno State and UCLA. Prior to becoming county supervisor, Maples was on the faculty at Porterville College for 34 years, serving as chairman and advisor of the technical vocational department.

Long active as a coach, Maples was inducted into the California Community College Basketball Hall of Fame in 1986. He was also named to the Porterville College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1999, placed on the Porterville High School Wall of Fame in 2000 and received the Book of Golden Deeds Award by the Exchange Club International.

Maples also had the privilege of serving on the Tulare County Board of Supervisors from 1992 until 2003. Maples's dedication to Tulare County was full-time. He was a powerful advocate for local law enforcement and was constantly engaged in the defense of our area's heritage and quality of life.

Maples proudest accomplishment can be found in his loving family. He enjoyed a 54-year marriage with wife Myrna and was the father of two children; Vickie and Jaime.

Jim Maples left his community of Tulare County a far richer place than the one he found, and for that we are blessed. He was a leader, a mentor, a statesman and will surely be missed.

HONORING THE BLACK STUNTMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND THE COALITION OF BLACK STUNTMEN AND WOMEN

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of a concurrent resolution honoring the Black Stuntmen's Association and the Coalition of Black Stuntmen and Women for their central role in the fight for racial equality in the film and television industry.

I have the honor of representing some of the founding members of these organizations, and I feel it is time the Congress of the United States recognizes the part they played in combating discrimination in Hollywood.

The film and television industry was not immune to the racial and cultural struggles of the 1950s and 1960s in America. This was reflected in the small number of African-Americans and other minorities working throughout the industry. When stunt doubles were needed for the few African-American actors working in Hollywood, common practice was to "paint down" white stuntmen, using makeup to darken their complexion. As more African-American actors began to find work in the major studios in the 1960s, the almost exclusive use of white stuntmen became a more visible example of the racial discrimination still plaguing our society.

In 1967, a group of African-American stuntmen, athletes and extras founded the Black Stuntmen's Association to address these lingering problems in the industry. The Coalition of Black Stuntmen and Women was formed in 1973 to continue the fight against racial bias in Hollywood. Together these groups confronted the studios over their discriminatory practices, pursuing legal action to bring additional diversity to the industry and monitoring compliance with the resulting agreements. Through their tireless efforts, members of the Black Stuntmen's Association and the Coalition of Black Stuntmen and Women paved the way for greater racial equality in film and television in the ensuing years.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize some of the individuals who were involved in the founding and operation of the Black Stuntmen's Association and the Coalition of Black Stuntmen and Women: Eddie Smith, Marvin Walters, Jadie David, Ernie Robertson, Henry Kingi, Alex Brown, S.J. McGee, and Willie Harris.

The efforts of these men and women, as well as many others, bore fruit in other aspects of the industry as well. African-Americans began to break through racial barriers both in front of the camera as actors and behind the camera as directors, producers and in other management positions. Their lasting contributions have changed the way Hollywood does business, and they truly deserve our recognition and gratitude.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the Black Stuntmen's Association and the Coalition of Black Stuntmen and Women.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. RORY COOPER

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rory A. Cooper, Ph.D. for his outstanding achievement of winning five gold medals at the 2009 National Veterans Wheelchair Games, for helping to guide emerging technologies and treatments to improve mobility for people with physical disabilities, and for promoting a positive image for our wounded, injured, and ill veterans.

While winning five gold medals is an exceptional achievement by itself, Dr. Cooper has

proven himself again and again. Madam Speaker, Dr. Cooper won four gold medals at the 2008 National Veterans Wheelchair Games and over 100 total medals since 1983. He has previously held the world record for the 10,000-meter wheelchair race. He has participated and won medals almost every year since he first started competing. In 1988 he won the bronze medal at the Paralympic Games in Seoul, Korea. He continued to stay active in Paralympic competition by serving as a member of the Steering Committee for the 1996 Paralympic Scientific Congress. He was also the Sports Scientist for the 2008 United States Paralympic Team. In recognition of his achievements at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, he was one of the featured athletes on a 2009 Cheerios cereal box.

When Dr. Cooper is not competing, he is a researcher in the field of assistive technology design at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. He is also the Director and Veterans Affairs (VA) Senior Research Career Scientist for the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Center of Excellence, Co-director of the National Science Foundation Quality of Life Technology Engineering Research Center, a member of the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs Prosthetics and Special Disability Programs Advisory Committee, and a Director of the Paralyzed Veterans of America Research Foundation. He has published over two hundred peer-reviewed journal articles and two books, *Rehabilitation Engineering Applied to Mobility and Manipulation* and *Wheelchair Selection and Configuration*. Dr. Cooper is also a recipient of the Department of the Army's Outstanding Civilian Service Medal for "exceptional leadership, service, and advocacy of severely injured service members at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) and other military medical facilities from October 2004 through May 2008."

Madam Speaker, Dr. Cooper is truly an inspiration to all to us. I conclude my remarks by commending him for his outstanding achievements.

CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND EN- HANCEMENT AMENDMENTS OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 860, the Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009. I also want to thank the lead sponsor of the legislation and distinguished chair of the Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife Subcommittee, Ms. Bordallo, for all her tireless efforts to protect our natural resources and insular areas.

Mr. Speaker, coral reefs are among the most diverse, biologically complex, and valuable ecosystems on earth. In my home State of Florida, we are fortunate to have the third largest barrier reef in the world. The importance of coral reefs to south Florida cannot be overstated. In addition to erecting a vital first-line of defense against hurricanes and storm surges for our coastal communities, coral

reefs have an immeasurable environmental value. They provide awe and inspiration to divers and snorkelers from all over the world, and are a driving force for our tourism and fishing industries. In Broward County alone, coral reefs contribute over \$2 billion annually to our local economy.

Coral reefs, however, are in nothing short of a crisis. Faced with dangers both man-made and natural, including global warming, overfishing, coastal pollution, and bleaching, coral reefs are dying in alarming numbers. In fact, scientists estimate that 60 percent of coral reefs may disappear before 2050.

That's why I'm proud to support the legislation before us today. H.R. 860 will reauthorize the landmark Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, which created the Coral Reef Conservation Program to directly issue grants to States, territories, and other partners for coral reef conservation projects. The act also requires the development of a Coral Reef Action Strategy and authorizes NOAA to undertake research, mapping, management, and education and outreach activities to protect coral reef ecosystems.

In addition to reauthorizing these important provisions, H.R. 860 will make important changes to the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000. One will be to take advantage of the vast resources and expertise at our prestigious universities and research institutes. For example, the three U.S. Coral Reef Institutes at Florida, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii conduct outstanding scientific research, and support State and local coral reef resource managers and local action strategies.

I personally can attest to their great work because the National Coral Reef Institute, NCRI, is located in my backyard, in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. NCRI and the other institutes serve as a ready source of knowledge, research, monitoring, and management support for corals and coral reefs via partnerships between academia, NOAA, and other Federal, State, and local managers.

Another important aspect of this legislation will be to authorize NOAA to respond to vessel groundings. Since 1994, we've seen 12 large ships run aground on sensitive coral reefs near Ft. Lauderdale. The last one, occurring almost 2 years ago, involved a freighter that left a 20-foot swath of destruction about 100 feet long. Whatever coral that once lived there sadly is now gone.

Part of the solution to vessel groundings is adopting better prevention strategies, such as closing anchorage sites in shallow waters that are close to coral reefs. But we also need to respond faster when a vessel runs aground because the sooner the corals can be restored, the better chances it has for survival. Expanding NOAA's authority to act will allow NOAA to utilize their experience and resources to both assess the damage and restore the reefs.

Mr. Speaker, we, in this distinguished body, frequently debate contentious issues that divide America. But not with this bill and not with this issue. Protecting a national treasure such as coral reefs brings people together because everyone understands their vital importance—Democrats and Republicans alike. That's why I am confident that we'll have broad bipartisan support to pass H.R. 860. I thank my colleagues in advance.

IN CELEBRATION OF SAINTS REST BAPTIST CHURCH'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Saints Rest Baptist Church of Fresno, California, on this ceremonious day, in celebration of their 65th anniversary.

The Saints Rest Baptist Church was organized by the late Rev. A.W. White and their motto of "Spreading Hope in the Midst of Hopelessness" remains inspirational today. Their mission statement rightfully explains the reason for their long-standing and continuing service to the community of Fresno: "The mission of Saints Rest Baptist Church is to become a Christ Centered Community within the community that transforms the community by providing relevant ministries that speaks to the mind, body, and soul of humankind."

The community of West Fresno grew rapidly during the early years of the Second World War. Noticing the growth of California Avenue and knowing no church existed to accommodate residents of that area, a prolonged and dedicated fundraising venture began for the purpose of building a church.

In 1945, groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted and the church was officially named Saints Rest Baptist Church. Only 1 year later, the church was able to add four deacons to serve the Saints Rest family. The church continued to grow and the faithful congregation endured worship services in a metal building located just north of the foundation with the knowledge and belief that this sacrifice would promote growth and allow them to continue their mission.

Former Pastor Chester Riggins, who served the church as pastor for 44 years from 1965 to 2009, helped to erect and then dismantle the metal building. It was in 1950 that the permanent building was officially erected and, poignantly, its first funeral service was for that of the founding father, Rev. A.W. White.

Under the leadership of Pastor Chester Riggins, many programs were instituted at the church, including the House-to-House Revival, Community New Life and Big Brothers and Sisters. Additionally, the community stewardship expanded to include Marriage Workshops, the Food and Clothing Ministry, and the support of the Poverello House and the Fresno Rescue Mission. Senior Pastor Shane Scott has now assumed the leadership at Saints Rest and continues to expand upon the outstanding community service the church provides to the community. As a first course of business, Pastor Scott immediately undertook the project of renaming East Florence Avenue to East Chester Riggins Avenue, in memoriam for the outstanding dedication and service of Pastor Riggins. The Planning Commission accepted the renaming and a dedication ceremony was held in June 2007 and the address for Saints Rest is now 1550 E. Rev. Chester Riggins Avenue.

Today, 65 years after its inception, the Saints Rest Baptist Church continues to be a shining light for the community of Fresno and its worshippers. Please join me in recognizing Senior Pastor Shane Scott and the Saints Rest family on the occasion of their 65th anni-

versary and wish them well as they continue to provide a meaningful place of worship for their congregation and the community. I am proud of the spiritual substance Saints Rest provides to our valley; the church's many efforts inspire and bring support to all of us.

CHINN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
PARKVILLE, MISSOURI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Chinn Elementary School in Parkville, MO. The school opened in 1959, and was officially named Thomas B. Chinn Elementary School in honor of Thomas B. Chinn, in gratitude for his long service and as a tribute to his profession.

Mr. Conyers was the first principal of the school in 1959. Chinn started as a 13 room structure and contained 1st through 6th grade. Since 1959, there have been 2 additions to the building, increasing grade level classrooms to 24, as well as several additional small rooms and a new gymnasium. Over the past 50 years, Chinn has had thousands of students pass through the halls.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Chinn Elementary for the learning foundation it has provided to so many students for so many years.

A TRIBUTE TO RICK WAGNER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Rick Wagner, Director of Litigation for the Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A "Brooklyn A" in East New York, who suddenly passed away in his home on September 20, 2009. Mr. Wagner was well known as a champion on behalf of Brooklyn's poorest tenants and homeowners.

Mr. Wagner was one of the leading foreclosure defense lawyers in the United States, single handedly leading the effort to educate and enlighten the legal community on the availability of a wide range of homeowner defenses to foreclosure actions. He fought daily against rampant predatory lending and deed thefts, often spearheading innovative new legal strategies. In the early 1990s, he pioneered the use of civil racketeering laws against landlords in East New York, winning a major victory when they were ordered to return deeds to their tenants.

His most recent focus was advocating for consistency, simplification and ease of access to loan modifications—in his words, "basic rules of the road to help homeowners keep their homes". Mr. Wagner's lasting legacy will be his passion and commitment to social justice, and the application of his legal acumen for the needy. Under his leadership, Brooklyn A has cemented its sterling reputation as a model community-based law practice embedded in and responsive to the neighborhoods it serves. He worked tirelessly and will be remembered dearly by the many lives he touched.