

occurred on September 29, 2009 in American Samoa and Samoa; H.R. 3371, Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009 and H. Res. 786, Commemorating the canonization of Father Damien de Veuster, SS.CC. to sainthood.

A TRIBUTE TO EDOUARD
GUILLAUME

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Edouard Guillaume, MD, for his record of extraordinary service to New York's Tenth Congressional District.

Dr. Edouard Guillaume was born in Gonaives, Haiti, studied medicine at the University Hospital of Haiti, and completed his formal training in Internal Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital in Chicago, Illinois and Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. He currently focuses on hematology and oncology. Dr. Guillaume today heads Interfaith's acclaimed Comprehensive Sickle Cell Program, where he is well known as a "pain specialist". He was honored by the Sickle Cell Thalassemia Patients Network (SCTPN) in 2005 for his dedicated and distinguished service to patients affected with the disease.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Edouard Guillaume.

GIRL SCOUTS USA
COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 621, the Girl Scouts USA Centennial Commemorative Coin Act. The Girl Scouts of the USA is an outstanding organization dedicated to nurturing young women in the leadership skills they will undoubtedly utilize in their futures.

Founded in 1912 in Savannah, GA by Juliette Gordon, Girl Scouts of the USA has unanimously carried out its mission to "build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place." In fact, this organization has grown very large over its 97 year history to include 3.7 million Girl Scouts, 2.7 million girl members, and 928,000 adult members who serve as volunteers. Further, Girl Scouts has become a global organization including 236,000 troops and groups in over 90 countries.

Girl Scouts are known nationwide for their delicious cookies; however, this organization does much more than baking for the lives of young women. While various activities and youth groups teach basic skills and promote teamwork, Girl Scouting goes beyond that and encourages youth to achieve a deeper appre-

ciation for service to others in their communities. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Girl Scouting promotes activities that lead to personal responsibility and high self-esteem. As a result, when hard decisions must be made, peer pressure can be resisted and the right choices can be made.

Madam Speaker, from the beginning of the Girl Scout program as a Daisy to the eventual completion of the program and attainment of the rank of Ambassador, Girl Scouts of the USA has long trained young women in the necessary skills that will enable them to be the future leaders of the United States. The young women in this organization complete "journeys" that enlighten them on social issues, promote community service, and instill in them the necessary confidence and courage to have a bright and successful future. I applaud the efforts and the accomplishments of all of our nation's Girl Scouts, and specifically those of the 11th District of Georgia, which is my privilege to represent in Congress. I urge all of my colleagues to continue to support this honorable organization and the excellent young women that it continues to produce.

THANKING PEYTON JEFF JACKSON
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on May 15, 2009, we rise to thank Mr. Peyton "Jeff" Jackson for his 31 years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Jeff has served this great institution as a valued employee of House Information Resources (HIR), within the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Jeff began his tenure with the United States House of Representatives in 1978 as Lead Computer Operator in the HIR Communications Services group. Jeff assisted in diagnosing and resolving operational problems with the various online systems supported by the Computer Center. He also monitored and maintained all House data communication networks including the Amdahl 4705 and 4745 front-end processors. Jeff tracked and logged trouble calls from both the Washington and district offices and dispatched network installation technicians for problem calls. Jeff's expertise contributed to the installation and maintenance of the IBM 3270 inventory and storage facilities for the Communications Services group. Jeff continued to provide network operational support to the ever expanding networking and unified communications infrastructure environment.

Jeff has played an integral role in the re-vamping of the Network Control Center (NCC) following the events that occurred on September 11, 2001. The NCC was later expanded to encompass the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) which serves as a transmission point for emergency action messages to the House community.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Jeff for his many

years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives.

WALTER YENT, JR.

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the life of Walter Yent, Jr. for his exceptional service to our country and devotion to his family and friends.

Born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, Walter Yent, Jr. enlisted in the Army on March 6, 1944. A World War II Veteran, Mr. Yent was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, two Bronze Stars, and the Army of Occupation Medal with Germany clasp, in addition to many other medals for his outstanding service as a member of the Armed Services.

Upon his discharge from the Army in January 1950, Mr. Yent returned to his hometown of Baltimore where he enjoyed spending time with those he loved most, his family and friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the life of Walter Yent, Jr. His dedication to our country is an inspiration to all and deserves the utmost gratitude.

A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA MESSIER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Barbara Messier for her record of extraordinary service to New York's Tenth Congressional District.

Barbara Messier, born in Canton, Ohio, graduated from the St. Luke Nursing School in Cleveland and began her nursing career in the Apple Creek State Hospital. While at Apple Creek, she first got experience in psychiatric nursing, working under a group of extraordinary leaders in the field. She continued her work in psychiatric nursing after moving to New York, working with Dr. Jochanan Weisenfreund at St. John's Episcopal Hospital and later at the Interfaith Medical Center.

Mrs. Messier was instrumental in revitalizing Interfaith's Department of Psychiatry from an unlicensed, 25-bed inpatient unit, to a full fledged, top-quality department. As the Assistant Vice President of the Department of Psychiatry, she is also responsible for Bedford-Stuyvesant Community Mental Health Center's programs, serving patients in a variety of innovative capacities. She also serves as the Clerk of Session at the Oceanside Presbyterian Church, and teaches adult Bible classes there.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Barbara Messier.

A BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO DR. MELVIN E. BANKS, FOUNDER OF URBAN MINISTRIES, INC.

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today it is my distinct honor and privilege to rise to acknowledge and congratulate one of my state's unsung jewels. Seventy-five years ago today, on October 15, 1934, Melvin E. Banks was born into this world in the, then, relatively small town of Birmingham, Alabama. From his humble beginnings in the segregated South, through hard work, perseverance and an abiding faith in God, today, Melvin Banks presides over the strong and thriving Urban Ministries, Inc., the largest independent African American-owned Christian publishing company in the United States.

UMI is located in Calumet City, Illinois, and this global, family-operated business is a vital part of our state's thriving, south suburban community. With all of the accolades and accomplishments that Dr. Melvin Banks has rightfully earned over the years, I stand here, tonight, Madame Speaker, simply proud to call him my friend.

Melvin Banks' life story is uniquely American. He often tells the story of discovering his faith in his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, at the age of 12. Even at that young age, his sense of faith and guidance was so strong that he accepted his personal call to minister the gospel to all who would listen. His evangelism began, literally, on some of the dusty back roads of Birmingham. One day, young Melvin encountered an elderly gentleman who recognized his spiritual gifts and referred him to a scripture that influenced his life's work. That scripture, Hosea 4:6, states, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Upon hearing those words, young Melvin knew that God's purpose for his life was to help spread the knowledge of the gospel of Christ through the unique, cultural lens of the African American experience. And from that moment on, Melvin Banks' dreams and life's work continued to grow and to prosper.

As Melvin Banks grew in the Lord, he also embraced the value of a good education. Banks graduated from Parker High School in Birmingham, in 1952, and he went on to study at the Moody Bible College, in Chicago, where he graduated in 1955. Continuing his education, Banks attended Wheaton College, earning a B.A. degree in theology, in 1958, and his master's degree in biblical studies in 1960.

After graduation, Dr. Banks chose to remain in Chicago and he soon got a job with Scripture Press Publications, a job that included sales. Dr. Banks' work with Scripture Press gave him his first opportunity to begin to understand how to market to African American consumers. It was that passion to serve his community coupled with his godly vision, professionalism and drive that ultimately led him to launch Urban Ministries, Inc., in 1970.

After founding Urban Ministries, Dr. Banks and his small staff operated out of the basement of his home for 12 years. As Dr. Banks' faith grew, so did his media ministry. In 1982, Urban Ministries occupied the second floor of a building located at 1439 West 103rd Street in Chicago. Guided by a vision that continues to serve him well to this day, Dr. Banks moved

Urban Ministries, in 1996, to its current 46,000-square-foot headquarters in Calumet City. Shortly before that milestone, it's worth noting that, in 1993, his alma mater, Wheaton College, conferred its esteemed graduate with an Honorary Doctorate in Literature, a recognition of his consummate stewardship over the written and published word.

And so, Madam Speaker, as I enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on this day, it's my pleasure to note these words from UMI's website:

UMI is the largest independent, African American-owned and operated Christian media company. UMI publishes Christian resources, including Christian education and Vacation Bible School curricula, books, movies and websites designed for African American churches and others seeking a diverse, Christ-centered perspective on faith and life issues.

Today, UMI is the largest, independent African American Christian publisher in the United States. UMI, literally, serves thousands of churches nationwide with curriculum resources, teaching materials, videos and other products aimed at instilling character in the youth and adults of our nation.

Madam Speaker, today, more than 10,000 churches utilize UMI materials, on a weekly basis, and a dozen different denominational groups call UMI their publishing partner—a distinction that gives this Illinois-based company its national and global impact.

Madam Speaker, for the more than 50 years that Dr. Melvin Banks has been a citizen of our great state, I'm proud to report that he has also been a devoted husband to his wife and business partner, Olive Banks, and the father to his children, Melvin Banks, Jr., Patrice Banks Lee and Reginald Banks, all of whom have worked with their father to help make this company the global leader it is today.

As I conclude this well-deserved tribute, let me also say that as my heart breaks for the thousands of children in this nation whose lives are cut short because of violence and unrealized dreams, my hope is that as these words enter the permanent annals of history that some young boy or girl will look upon these words and be inspired by the tremendous life of Dr. Melvin E. Banks.

My hope is that they will see in his life the hope, the determination and the abiding faith that God gave him. While every child may not have all the spiritual gifts that Dr. Banks enjoys, my hope and prayer is that they will see in his life what a made up mind can do.

PROJECT MEND-A-HOUSE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS IN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Project Mend-A-House and its twenty-five years of service to the citizens of Prince William County, the City of Manassas and the City of Manassas Park.

A joint effort between private citizens and the Prince William County government, Project Mend-A-House was created in 1984. At the time, Lily Blackwell was a volunteer delivering meals to seniors who were confined to their homes due to disabilities. Her call to action began with the observation that a number of

seniors along her delivery route could no longer perform necessary home repairs. Basic home repair and some structural improvements were needed to ensure that these disabled seniors remained safe and independent. Ms. Blackwell partnered with Toni Clemons-Porter and Lin Wagener of the Prince William Area Agency on Aging to create the foundation of an organization that has now provided humanitarian assistance for a quarter of a century.

Project Mend-A-House completes home repairs and safety modifications to facilitate independent living for seniors, the disabled and low-income residents. Over the years, projects have ranged from fixing termite damage in an older home to making entire houses more accessible with wheelchair ramps, hand rails, shower seats and transfer benches. The work is truly a community effort. Local corporate partners provide monetary support, volunteers and building materials. Civic associations and faith based groups contribute hundreds of volunteer hours to Project Mend-A-House each year. Project Mend-A-House puts everyone to work regardless of skill level to improve the quality of life for our disabled, elderly and low income neighbors.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Project Mend-A-House and its volunteers. The strength of a community can be measured by how it responds to the plight of the less fortunate, and Project Mend-A-House is certainly contributing to a robust spirit of community in Prince William County.

WEST PAPUA'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA IN AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING TSUNAMI

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following message of support submitted by Tom Beanal, Chairman of the Papua Presidium Council, in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

PRESIDIUM DEWAN PAPUA, JAYAPURA,

OCTOBER 7, 2009.

Hon. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FALEOMAVAEGA, on behalf of the people of West Papua, we are writing to express to you our greatest sympathy for the losses and sufferings of the people of American Samoa and other Pacific Islands caused by the recent tsunami.

Please accept our sincerest condolences to you. Please also extend them to your people. We are with you all in our hearts, tears, and prayers.

With God's grace, may you, our dear Congressman, and the people of American Samoa, find the strength to endure in this tragic tragedy.

TOM BEANAL,
Wakil Ketua,
HERMAN AWOM,
Moderator,
THAHA MOHAMMAD
ALHAMID,
Sekretaris Jenderal.