

HONORING THE SANDY GROUND HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR THEIR CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

**HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor the Sandy Ground community in Staten Island, New York. It is the oldest community established by free slaves in North America, and still thrives today.

After slavery was abolished in the State of New York in 1827, freedmen from all over the state, as well as far away as Maryland and Virginia, settled in the area known since colonial times as Sandy Ground, which was located in the area around what is now the intersection of Bloomingdale and Woodrow Roads in Rossville.

These early settlers were also skilled in the oyster trade, and brought this knowledge with them to Staten Island. Oyster harvesting was a major business on Staten Island during the 19th Century and was conducted mainly on the island's south shore. Sandy Ground also served as an important stop on the Underground Railroad, and is the oldest continuously settled free black community in the United States.

The Sandy Ground Historical Society, which preserves the history and physical surroundings of the Sandy Ground community and maintains a museum and library, was organized on February 28, 1980. The Museum and library contain letters, photographs, film, art, rare books, quilts and other archaeological artifacts. The Museum also possesses a rare surviving can of Tettorsalve, a beauty product manufactured by Harlem businesswoman Madame C. J. Walker, and a letter from W.E.B. DuBois.

The museum also sponsors arts-and-crafts sessions, a musical heritage series, a lecture series presented in Staten Island schools and churches, and a traveling lecture series to institutions around the country. The African-American quilt-making tradition is also continued through quilting workshops.

The Sandy Ground Historical Society has graciously lent us a quilt that we have hung proudly above the entryway to my personal office in Washington. The quilt depicts the history of strawberry farming on the land, which starts with two brothers named Moses and Silas Harris. They bought property circa 1850 in what is now Sandy Ground, with the intention of farming on it. Upon inspection of the land, they noted that the soil was sandy, but they found a plant that grew well in sandy soil: strawberries. They became so successful at growing strawberries that the town was first called "Harrisville," which later became Sandy Ground. Today there is a street in the Sandy Ground community called Harris Lane, named after the Harris Brothers. Wild strawberries still grow on the few open plots of land that are left in the area.

Sandy Ground is an important historical landmark, an asset to Staten Island, and an asset to the United States of America.

IN MEMORY OF MR. DAVID W. TROUTMAN

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mr. David W. Troutman of Akron, Ohio.

David (Dave) William Troutman, 67, passed away on October 26, 2009.

Dave was born on February 16, 1942 in Wooster, Ohio to George and Ruth Troutman. Most important to Dave was his beloved family.

He is survived by his lovely wife of 40 years, Janet L. Troutman. He was a loving and devoted father to Michael (Danielle) Troutman and DeAnna (Thomas) Donaldson; a dotting grandfather to his precious grandchildren, Luke Donaldson and MacIntyre Troutman. He is also survived by his sisters, Hannah Onderack and Florence (James) Castner through whom his family legacy extends through his nieces and nephews, Alicia, Nicholas, Jennifer, Daniel, Katie, Chelsea, Aleem, and Sofia.

Dave's life was dedicated to serving his community, state and country. His accomplished career in law enforcement spanned over 40 years. He served as a soldier in the U.S. Army Reserve, Summit County Sheriff Deputy for 10 years, Barberton Chief Probation Officer for seven years, Summit County Sheriff for 14 years and finally served as U.S. Marshall for nine years at the request of then President Bill Clinton. From his early years attending high school in Barberton, Ohio and college at Miami (Ohio) University, Dave was committed to serving his community and helping others. Throughout his lifetime, he served in numerous appointed and elected public offices to include Coventry Township Trustee, Coventry Country Parks and Recreation Board Member, Summit County Sheriff, OPOTA Council Member, Ohio Organized Crime Commission Member, Ohio Athletic Commission Member and Kiwanis to name but a few. His leadership role in so many offices was not for public recognition as is typical of so many, but for his belief that he could serve others from such a position and lead others to public service. Because of his generosity and outstanding servitude, an exhaustive list of recognition and awards were bestowed upon him including the Cliff Skeen Award and Sheriff of the Year.

To have known Dave was to know a man of integrity, honesty and service. His love for people and community was shown daily as he always helped others when often no one else would. To say Dave personally touched the lives of thousands would be an understatement. His legacy of service and love for others and his lifelong example of honesty and integrity is priceless and inspiring to so many. How would Dave have us honor such a lifetime of example? By following that example and becoming great through helping others. Dave will be missed, loved and never forgotten. Ohio has truly lost one of its most beloved sons. We love and miss you Dave!

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Department of Interior, EPA Appropriations Bill:

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fayette County Commission

Address of Requesting Entity: Fayette County Commission, 103 1st NW, Fayette, AL 35555

Description of Request: "Fayette County Reservoir \$6,000,000" The funding would be used for the construction of a water reservoir located in Fayette County that will serve as a water source for an area where residents are suffering from poor water quality. This project will provide a dependable supply of water to the 120,422 residents of Fayette and surrounding counties. Taxpayer Justification: This project will provide a dependable supply of water to the 120,422 residents in Fayette County, Marion County, and Walker County.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION AND SUPPORT OF OUR MILITARY FAMILIES

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the dedication and support of our military families, servicemembers, and the veterans who went before them.

When a servicemember joins the military, it is not a just a job; it is a family commitment to our country. As our country continues to deploy overseas, we see the impact it has on family members at home. The month of November is designated as Military Family Month. This observance provides an excellent opportunity to show support for our servicemembers and families as we pause and reflect on the contributions, support and patriotism they exhibit each day.

Military families continuously undergo tremendous challenges and it only begins when they find their loved ones deployed for long periods of time. During frequent moves, they effortlessly relocate their belongings, find new schools for their children, navigate the complex options for medical care, and solve myriad other challenges. They are truly resilient and strong.

It is an honor for me to convey my heartfelt appreciation for the service and support of some particular events in Northwest Florida in the coming weeks that will honor our veterans and educate our children about their heroism and sacrifice. On November 4, Blue Angels Elementary School will partner with the History Channel's Take a Veteran to School Day to

honor our veterans. The following week, both Blue Angels Elementary School and Navy Point Elementary School in Pensacola will hold their annual Armed Forces Foundation national education initiative, "Operation Caring Classroom". During this event, the schools will be engaged in classroom activity the week of Veterans Day to learn about this holiday and reach out to military children nationwide. This year, 50 civilian elementary schools and 50 military elementary schools will participate in various activities during the week of Veterans Day to raise awareness and appreciation for our military families. The outpouring of support for these special events makes me proud to call Northwest Florida home.

Some of the events will help raise money to continue supporting our World War II Veterans. Both schools are raising money to sponsor multiple "Honor Flights". We just completed our fifth "Honor Flight" from the Emerald Coast on 21 October. We greeted 103 of our WWII Veterans as they stepped off the plane and watched many of them see their WWII Memorial for the first time. The charity pays for them to fly to Washington, DC and it's wonderful to see support for future trips.

Our veterans, servicemembers, and their families have sacrificed so much for our nation and deserve the highest level of respect. This nation owes you a debt of gratitude. Here on Capitol Hill, many of us felt it was time to organize a caucus with a focus on Military Families. On November 4, the Congressional Military Family Caucus will feature its inaugural event. The caucus will foster the interest of family members of the uniformed services by educating Congressional Members and staff on resources the military provides as well as discuss the barriers that a military family faces. The goal of the caucus is to address issues such as education, childcare, healthcare, spouse employment, and the effects of multiple deployments.

We all play an important part in recognizing military families, servicemembers, and veterans. I am humbled by the remarkable role each and every one of them play in the future of this Nation. The events held at Blue Angels Elementary School and Navy Point Elementary School in Pensacola serve as a model for the entire country. In the 1st Congressional District of Florida, a district that has more veterans than any other in the nation, the events also serve as a reminder of our gratitude and respect.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE  
LATE DORIS POWELL

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker,

Whereas, Doris Powell served honorably in the United States Armed Services; and

Whereas, Doris Powell bravely served on active duty during World War II; and

Whereas, she was a lifelong member of the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Post #4713; and

Whereas, she served on the Morgan County School Board for 22 years; be it

Resolved that along with friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional Dis-

trict, I congratulate the late Doris Powell on her induction to the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

HONORING SECRETARY JOHN  
MCHUGH

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHET EDWARDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 28, 2009*

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our friend and colleague, John McHugh.

After a distinguished 16 year career in Congress, John now embarks on a new phase of his public service as Secretary of the United States Army. For many years, it has been my privilege to work with John as Co-Chair of the House Army Caucus. Together, we have worked to champion the needs of the United States Army in a time of great challenge for our country.

John McHugh's commitment to our service men and women and their families is second to none, and I have great confidence that he will serve them and our nation well as Army Secretary.

John has always earned the respect of his colleagues because he treated others with respect. He set a standard of public service that all of us would do well to follow. While this House is losing a valuable member, the country is gaining a principled advocate for those who wear the uniform.

I wish him all the best in the years ahead.

NATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS  
MEMORIAL DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 28, 2009*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 729, which expresses the sense of Congress that a day be designated to honor America's firefighters who have made enormous sacrifices through loss of life and limb in their service to protect our communities.

There are over 1 million firefighters in the U.S., and each time they respond to an emergency, they risk their own personal safety to help others. Each year, roughly 100 firefighters die in the line of duty.

The City of Houston has one of the largest fire departments in the country with almost 4,000 firefighters and about 100 fire stations. Since the modern-day Houston Fire Department was formed, over 60 firefighters have lost their lives in the line of duty. Two of these died this year alone.

It is therefore imperative that we take this moment to show our appreciation for the services they provide and the sacrifices that so many have made.

As a cosponsor of this resolution, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 729, which calls for the President to formally commemorate these brave men and women by designating a National Firefighters Memorial Day.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information in regards to H.R. 2996, the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

Project Name: City of East Prairie, Missouri Stormwater and Sewer Infrastructure

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Requesting Entity: City of East Prairie, Missouri

Address of Requesting Entity: 219 N. Washington St., East Prairie, Missouri 63845-1141

Description of Request: Provide an earmark in the amount of \$200,000 to rebuild East Prairie, Missouri's wastewater and storm water infrastructure. The existing 84-year-old water infrastructure is crumbling under the streets due to sinkholes which have plagued the community. The sinkholes are destroying box culverts, which is posing a threat to streets and houses in East Prairie. The money procured will pay for the construction of new stormwater sewers. A minimum of 45 percent of the total project cost will come directly from the City of East Prairie, Missouri.

HONORING CENTRE AVENUE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students, faculty and staff of the Centre Avenue Elementary School and congratulate them for having received the prestigious Blue Ribbon School Award. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap or whose students achieve at very high levels.

Centre Avenue Elementary School has been successful in meeting the highest standards of the New York State assessments, with test results consistently meeting the state's expectations by having a high number of students performing at maximum levels. Centre Avenue succeeds in providing an atmosphere where students foster a desire for lifelong learning and are motivated to reach their highest potential academically, creatively, socially, physically and emotionally.

Centre Avenue is committed to providing an educational environment where safety permeates. Students are encouraged to expand their social and emotional development with involvement in groups and participation in any of the numerous clubs offered. A supplemental aspect of their curriculum is to teach the students social responsibility. A school-wide Jump-A-Thon supported the American Heart Association, money was collected to assist Island Harvest in their quest to end hunger on Long Island, the Toys for Tots program helped disadvantaged families have a happier holiday, and the Food Drive helped restock the supplies at the Ronald McDonald House.