

99th anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. This organization, which was incorporated on February 8th, 1910, under the laws of the District of Columbia, has long been the largest youth organization in the nation and has done well in producing responsible citizens of strong character.

The Boy Scouts of America was rapid in its initial growth; only two years after its founding, Boy Scout troops were established in every state. Time and time again the Boy Scouts of America has proven its commitment to our nation, with initiatives such as, "Every Scout Feed a Soldier" and "A Good Turn for America". The past 99 years have seen more than 112 million youth bear the traditions of excellence rooted in the history of the Boy Scouts of America.

In the Chicagoland Area, Scouting is as prevalent of a force as it has always been. Currently, nearly 10,000 youth are actively involved in the Scouting program of our local council. In addition, through the Chicago Area Council's involvement in Learning for Life Programs, over 35,000 additional youth are immersed as well in the principles of scouting. Combining the two programs, nearly one in every seven youth in Chicago is in some way involved in the Scouting program.

I am sure that the spirit of Scouting is present in this very body, as it has been in the past. A survey conducted by the Boy Scouts of America revealed that nearly 60 percent of the membership of the 110th Congress had at some point participated in Scouting.

I am grateful that the twin pillars of the Scout Oath and Scout Law have served to shape the character of both young men and women of all ages, colors, codes, and creeds. With the continued contributions of the Boy Scouts of America and organizations like it, we can be sure that our youth are developing into good citizens.

IN SUPPORT OF RESTORING THE
WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF CON-
SUMER AFFAIRS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, over the past eight years, American consumer safety has taken a back seat to the special interests. As a result, many Americans have been exposed to dangerous toys for their children, hazardous household products for their families and even contaminated food, resulting in illness. Now is the time to support consumer advocates across the country by encouraging the new administration to restore the White House Office of Consumer Affairs.

Our country gave the government a clear mandate for change in November. Without question, a new focus on consumer safety should be part of this change. Under President Clinton, consumers had an effective advocate with a long record of commitment to protecting consumers in Ann Brown, former Chairwoman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Unfortunately, staff cutbacks suffered by the Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission have undermined effective efforts to protect consumers.

While bipartisan legislation has attempted to address these challenges, it is clear that more progress is required. We must act now. Americans should have confidence that the products they use are safe and will not pose any dangers to them or their families. The new Administration can make significant progress toward this goal by restoring the Office of Consumer Affairs to its rightful place in the Executive Branch. I strongly encourage President Obama's administration to do so, and I echo the New York Times and their call to action.

The editorial follows.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 4, 2009]

A VOICE FOR THE CONSUMER

The time has come to give the American consumer a much stronger voice in Washington. President-elect Barack Obama has already named what amounts to an energy and environmental czar in the White House, and America's beleaguered consumers deserve no less.

Mr. Obama should restore the White House Office of Consumer Affairs, which vanished during the Clinton years, and appoint a director who has both the president's ear and the authority to rebuild the consumer protection agencies that were undercut or hollowed out by the fiercely anti-regulatory Bush administration.

There is no shortage of agencies ostensibly designed to protect consumers. But without an emergency like killer spinach or lead in children's toys, the Bush administration has mostly failed to hear customers' complaints. The consumer safety net is simply far too weak.

The Food and Drug Administration has suffered cutbacks in expert personnel, and still relies too heavily on industry to police itself. Credit-card holders who have been subject to all kinds of Dickensian tricks and traps were finally told by the Federal Reserve that relief is in sight—in 2011. Not so long ago, there was only one official toy tester at the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and oversight generally was so weak that Congress was forced to step in with new protections, which still could be strengthened.

It will be up to the Obama administration to bring these agencies back to life. In part this means restoring the morale of government workers who have too often been stymied by the anti-regulators at the top. It will also mean stronger consumer protection policies and hiring more skilled people. It will mean giving one official responsibility for coordinating the entire apparatus.

Presidents Johnson and Carter both recognized the need for a strong person to do that job. Both chose Esther Peterson, who during about eight years in office pushed for then-radical ideas like nutritional labeling on food and truth in advertising. As the Reagan anti-government era began, the consumer protection job steadily lost clout until it was shuttered in the late 1990s.

During his campaign, Mr. Obama promised consumers that he would help them get a fairer deal. As the victims of lead toys and predatory lenders can attest, they certainly need one. Restoring the Office of Consumer Affairs and appointing a director as strong and capable as Mrs. Peterson would be an encouraging first step.

LONG-TERM SOLUTION FOR LONG-
TERM CARE

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, with an ever aging population, most families at one point or another are forced to make a decision regarding the future of a loved one who needs assistance with everyday living. These decisions are made upon few available options and are very costly—many find themselves struggling between the high price of nursing homes or informal family care. The financial and emotional burden on families is vast and action such as the "Long-term Care Retirement and Security Act of 2009" must be taken.

Long-term care is a variety of services that includes medical and non-medical care to people who have a chronic disability or illness. This form of care may be provided at home, in the community, in assisted living or in nursing homes. While long-term care is often used for the elderly, it is important to remember that it could be needed at any age.

It is important to note that families who choose to care for their loved ones are left responsible for otherwise costly services because Medicare does not pay for long-term care. Adult children or grandchildren are cited as the main care givers to the elderly population. According to research conducted by the American Association of Retired People (AARP), two-thirds of older people with disabilities relied solely on "informal" help; approximately 75% of which was unpaid care from friends and family. The AARP Public Policy Institute reported that the annual economic value of unpaid long-term care in the United States is approximately \$354 billion, based upon an estimation that 34 million adults provided some type of long-term care in 2006.

It is time to address the growing needs of our aging population and motivate younger generations to take the necessary steps toward insuring their long-term care needs. For this reason, I have reintroduced the Long-term Care and Retirement Security Act, H.R. 897.

This legislation would encourage individuals to plan for their own long-term care needs by amending the Internal Revenue Code to allow a tax deduction for eligible long-term care insurance premiums for a taxpayer and the taxpayer's spouse and dependents. This legislation would also establish an applicable tax credit for eligible caregivers caring for individuals with long-term care needs, multiplied by the number of individuals receiving care. The Long-term Care and Retirement Security Act would also permit long-term care insurance to be included in employee benefit cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements, resulting in more active employees participating in long-term care policies. Finally, this long overdue measure would establish consumer protections based on the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' recommendations for qualified long-term care policies.

It is my hope that this legislation will encourage more Americans to take personal responsibility for their long-term care needs through these incentives and help families afford long-term care insurance.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA PUTNEY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the life and legacy of Martha S. Putney, of Washington D.C. Mrs. Putney passed away December 11, 2008, at age 92.

Mrs. Putney was one of the first black women to serve in the Women's Army Corps during World War II. She is also a renowned historian and made strong contributions to the African American history literature.

Martha Settle was born in Norristown, Pa. She attended Howard University in Washington D.C. from which she earned a bachelor's degree in 1939 and a master's degree in history in 1940.

Martha encountered racial barriers when trying to start a teaching career. Unable to find a job, she entered the government's War Manpower Commission as a statistical clerk. In 1943 she was one of the first black women to join the Women's Army Corps, then less than a year old. In the Army, she experienced segregation and racial discrimination.

In 1946, Martha Putney left the women's Army Corps with the rank of first lieutenant. She married William M. Putney in 1948. She eventually began her dreamed teaching career after earning a doctorate in European history from the University of Pennsylvania in 1955. She became a history teacher at Bowie State College in Maryland, where she chaired the history and geography department until 1974. She then taught at Howard University in Washington D.C. until 1983.

Dr. Putney wrote "Black Sailors: Afro-American Merchant Seamen and Whalemens Prior to the Civil War," in 1987 and "When the Nation Was in Need: Blacks in the Women's Army Corps During World War II" in 1992. She also published a number of scholarly articles on African American history.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Putney was an outstanding mother, soldier, teacher and author. I know the Members of the House will join me in expressing our sincere condolences to Mrs. Putney's son, William M. Putney Jr. On behalf of Congress, I thank Mrs. Putney for her great contributions to our nation and for her role in educating our children.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE
MR. ROBERT C. PETTY SR.**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Robert C. Petty Sr. was a musical legend in Mobile.

As the senior member of Mobile's Excelsior Band, Mr. Petty spent more than 50 years with the band, performing its Dixieland and conventional jazz in local Mardi Gras parades, at many Mobile weddings, and other special city events.

Anyone who knew Mr. Petty knew he loved playing the trombone. In addition to the Excelsior Band, which has marched the streets of downtown Mobile for over 100 years, he had been the lead trombonist with the E.B. Coleman Orchestra and the C.T. Jazz Ensemble. He was a longtime member and former president of the Musicians Federation Union as well as a veteran of the U.S. Army, where he also played in the band.

Mr. Petty was a 1937 graduate of Dunbar High School and received his Bachelor of Science degree in history from Morehouse College in 1950. While he was at Morehouse, he played the trombone and was awarded the Morehouse Service "M" in band for his outstanding performance. Mr. Petty was also a retiree of the U.S. Postal Service.

Madam Speaker, the Excelsior Band—and Mobile Mardi Gras—will not be the same, and I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this talented man. Robert C. Petty Sr. will be deeply missed by his family—his wife of more than 50 years, Gloria; his seven children, Phyllis McArthur, Robert Petty Jr., Cynthia Taylor, Sharon Kuttner, Minda "Carol" Petty, Kenneth Petty, and Wendell Petty; his 14 grandchildren, and his two great-grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

HONORING MAJOR SHELIA FLOWERS FOR HER PROMOTION TO
LIEUTENANT COLONEL IN THE
UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow Georgian, Major Shelia Flowers. Major Flowers hails from Robersonville, North Carolina. In 1987, she graduated from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. After graduating, she was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and attended the Adjutant General Officer Basic Course at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana.

Major Flowers has held numerous challenging positions throughout her 21 years of service in the Army Reserve. Her assignments as a drilling reservist have included: (1) Serving as a Civil Affairs Officer with the 407th Civil Affairs Company at Fort Snelling, Minnesota; (2) Platoon Leader with the 342nd Adjutant General Postal Company in Rome, Georgia; (3) and a Lanes Training Observer Controller with the 1st Battalion of the 347th Regiment located at Fort Gillem, Georgia. While in her last drilling assignment, Major Flowers earned a Master of Science degree in Conflict Resolution from Kennesaw State University.

In 2003, she was mobilized in support of Operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom and has spent the last six years of her career on active duty. Her parent command is the U.S. Army Reserve Command Headquarters at Ft. McPherson, Georgia. While mobilized to active duty, she served in the G-1 Directorate in support of Operation Noble Eagle as a Crisis

Action Team Leader, Equal Opportunity Officer, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Manager, and Staff Action Officer.

Major Flowers was assigned to directly support Operation Enduring Freedom upon her transfer to OARDEC in November 2007. She has performed myriad tasks with ease including ARB Case Research Officer, CFO, Lead Case Research Officer, and Tribunal Recorder.

Major Flowers' professional military education includes the Adjutant General Officer Advance Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, and Command and General Staff College. She has applied to the Naval War College. Her military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

In keeping with one of the tenets that sustains the Reserve Component, Major Flowers serves her community as a member of a 100 year old service organization, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She is an 18-year employee of Lockheed Martin Corporation. She is married to LTC Eric Flowers, who is currently deployed to the Horn of Africa, and they have one daughter.

Major Shelia Flowers is being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel today, and I would like to extend her my congratulations on the floor of the United States Congress and thank her for an exemplary record of service to our nation. The United States—and my home state of Georgia—are proud of Lieutenant Colonel Flowers' commendable professional competence, sound judgment, and total dedication to duty. She has reflected great credit upon herself and upholds the highest traditions of the United States Army Reserve. I wish Shelia and her husband all the best in their future endeavors, and I thank them once again for their leadership in serving our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 57, I was absent from the House. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ALA-
BAMA STATE SENATOR W.H.
"PAT" LINDSEY**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Alabama State Senator W.H. "Pat" Lindsey and pay tribute to his memory.

Considered by many to be a living legend in Alabama politics, Sen. Lindsey was one of the most powerful members of the Alabama Senate. At the time of this death, he held the second longest active tenure in the state Senate.

Born in Meridian, Mississippi, Sen. Lindsey graduated from Choctaw County High School, where he was a five-year letterman in football,