

HONORING MORTON BLACKWELL

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true champion of the conservative movement, Morton Blackwell, who just celebrated his 70th birthday.

I have known Morton since the days when he attended meetings in my parents' living room, planning how we would advance the conservative cause in Virginia. We realized the fruits of those talks during the Reagan Revolution in the 1980s, when Virginia—and Morton Blackwell—led the way.

Morton's life thus far has been a testament to the kind of man he is. There is a list of rules that Morton has developed, entitled the Laws of the Public Policy Process, which I always keep close at hand. One of my favorites is number 10, which simply states: "Sound doctrine is sound politics." Morton lives and teaches by this rule. He has dedicated his adult life to serving on the front lines of all the major battles in our nation to ensure that faith, family, and freedom always prevail. I would venture to say that much of Morton's success is due to the fact that he has had a key partner in these efforts in his wife Helen, the president of the Virginia chapter of the Eagle Forum.

In addition to his birthday, Morton also celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the Leadership Institute. Morton founded LI in 1979 for the sole purpose of teaching conservatives to win. His approach wasn't to sit on the sidelines and analyze policy, as important as that may be. Instead, his strategy was to train people to actually influence that very policy by directly participating in it, through activism and leadership. The more than 76,000 students who have been mentored by Morton are now spread throughout the country, in arenas ranging from grassroots organizations to campaigns at every level to elected office. I don't believe there's a doubt in anyone's mind that Morton has trained more political activists than any other conservative.

This outreach didn't start with the founding of LI, though. Decades before that, Morton worked with fellow Republicans as a leader of College Republicans, and then of local and state Republican party chapters. In a role that any conservative would envy, Morton's hard work and dedication earned him a job as Special Assistant to President Reagan. At nearly 70 years old, Morton still demonstrates the energy and activity of a young man, serving the boards of at least six major conservative organizations, and frequently writes widely published pieces on a variety of conservative issues.

As in the times when I first met Morton, conservatives have recently had plenty of reasons to feel discouraged. Morton's rules, however, also tell us to "remember it's a long ball game." Keeping in mind that the game is not yet over, we continue to fight. I was proud to stand next to Morton on the stage one month ago, as we celebrated Bob McDonnell's election as the next governor of the state we call home. As I said on that same stage, the conservative resurgence begins now, and it begins in Virginia. Americans everywhere can thank Morton Blackwell for that.

RECOGNIZING VITAL BRIDGES FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AND FOR PROVIDING ITS 10 MILLIONTH MEAL

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate VITAL BRIDGES on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. VITAL BRIDGES, originally known as Open Hand Chicago, is a not-for-profit community organization providing food and social services to low-income people with HIV and AIDS in Chicago and Cook County.

On Christmas Eve 1988, a small group of concerned volunteers came together to deliver hot meals to AIDS patients who were too sick or too poor to prepare their own food. From this initial act of charity, Open Hand Chicago was born in January 1989.

For the last two decades and without interruption, Open Hand and its successor VITAL BRIDGES has provided food and social services to men, women and children living with HIV and AIDS.

Today, VITAL BRIDGES provides its services through five grocery centers located on the north, south and west sides of Chicago and in Oak Park and Elk Grove Village in suburban Cook County. Nearly 2,000 people receive services every month.

In addition to food services, VITAL BRIDGES provides nutrition counseling, housing assistance, case management and educational and vocational services.

On October 29, 2009, VITAL BRIDGES reached a milestone: it provided its 10 millionth meal.

Without VITAL BRIDGES, thousands of people in Chicago and Cook County would go without the healthy, balanced meals and the social services that are needed when a person is struggling to live with HIV and AIDS, especially in these economically difficult times.

So, Madam Speaker, I wish to thank Executive Director Debbie Hinde, the staff, board of directors and especially the many dedicated volunteers for 20 years of creating vital bridges of help and hope for thousands of people in our community.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. CERISA HOWARD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Cerisa Howard, a native of New York born to William E. Clark and the late Lela F. Clark.

Ms. Howard has worked with St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corporation for 13 years in various positions. She started as a Youth Coordinator working with at-risk youth in the community where she found jobs, scholarships, facilitated college enrollment, initiated educational trips and acquired funding resources to aid youth. Additionally, Ms. Howard has helped youth with everyday life issues and has always been available to lend a listening ear.

Ms. Howard, also, has worked as a clerical supervisor in the Human Support Department of St. Nicholas High School. In this capacity she managed clients' files, supervised the clerical staff and assisted the nurses with home visit documentation.

Presently, she is the Senior Property Manager of the St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corporation, now known as the St. Nicks Alliance, Where Opportunity Grows. She manages 275 housing units with a maintenance crew that administers repairs, upkeep, and security.

Ms. Howard is a member of Berean Baptist Church, under the Pastor of Rev. Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr. She is the Vice Servant Leader of the Pastoral Support Ministry and serves as the coordinator of the annual Thanksgiving Dinner that is served for the homeless and shut-ins on Thanksgiving Day.

Ms. Howard is a loving mother of two sons, William and Raymond, and the proud grandmother of twin grandsons, Ryan and Tylan.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Cerisa Howard.

THE BIG THICKET NATIONAL RESERVE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the Big Thicket National Preserve consists of 100,000 acres of dense pines, hardwoods, and swampland. The area occupies seven counties including Liberty County and Jefferson County, bounded by the San Jacinto River and Neches River.

In 1964 the mayor of Liberty, Dempsey Henley, and local naturalist Lance Rosier founded the Big Thicket Association; their efforts to push for national park status gained the attention of U.S. Senator Ralph Yarborough. After many years of fighting to preserve the Big Thicket a bill by U.S. Representative Charles Wilson to establish the Big Thicket National Preserve was passed by Congress in 1974. The creation of the Big Thicket National Preserve was established to protect the numerous and diverse population of plant and animal species; it was the first preserve established in the National Park System.

The communities that border the Big Thicket National Preserve remain passionate about preserving one of Texas' unique land treasures. Like many true Texans, I remember growing up surrounded by the wild, free piney woods. Many summer days were spent wading in the area creeks, fishing for perch, blazing new trails, or quietly watching turtles sunbathe on logs. The Big Thicket National Preserve continues to play an important role in the lives of the people and families of the Second District of Texas.

Madam Speaker, the Second District of Texas pays tribute to the foresight of our early Texas leaders and their commitment to the preservation of the Big Thicket. I love and appreciate this preserve, and will continue to help protect its natural beauty.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. MARIAN JACKSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Marian Jackson a resident of Staten Island, NY for over thirty years and an innovative entrepreneur.

Ms. Jackson is currently the President of MJ Kreative specializing in personal shopping and unique gifts. In addition, Ms. Jackson is a travel consultant with the Our Gang Travel Agency. She is well versed in cruise group venues and has a following of over one hundred dedicated travelers.

Ms. Jackson's businesses have contributed to numerous community organizations including the Universal Temple which supports youth development and education in the arts and heritage awareness on Staten Island.

Prior to starting her own businesses, Ms. Jackson was associated with several entertainment firms such as ARISTA Records, ABC Television, Columbia pictures, and Night Fall Productions as an Associate Producer.

Ms. Jackson has served as Public Relations Chairperson for the National Association of Market Developers and was active in the Democratic political community working with the Obama campaign and other Democratic Party endeavors.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Marian Jackson.

A TRIBUTE TO AL AND VALERIE BISHOP, NORWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Al and Valerie Bishop who are being recognized by the Friends of St. Nick organization in Norwood, Massachusetts, for their generosity in helping those in need for over 25 years. The Bishops' planes have been on call 24/7 to assist with organ transplants and charitable flights that would not have been possible otherwise.

Norwood is not in the Second Congressional District, but I feel I must add my congratulations to this fine couple, as their good deeds certainly affect people throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In May of 2007, Carol and Vincent Pietroniro of Feeding Hills, Massachusetts, were trying to help their terminally ill son Michael find a way to realize one of his lifelong wishes—to come to Washington, DC, and see the White House. When contacted about this special request, Al and Valerie Bishop did not hesitate; they supplied the private jet and pilots for Michael and his parents, as well as for 3 physicians and an ICU nurse to make the trip.

Needless to say, the trip was so special for young Michael. Sadly, Michael passed away a few short weeks later. I know that the kindness and generosity of Al and Valerie Bishop will forever be in the hearts and minds of Michael's parents, family and friends. Knowing

that their son did get to realize his dream is so comforting to both them.

I commend the Friends of St. Nick on selecting Al and Valerie Bishop as their Couple of the Year for 2009, and I add my congratulations, best wishes and appreciation for all that they do.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. BETTIE L. JONES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Bettie L. Jones who has retired after devoting over 25 years as an Associate Director and Human Resources Business Partner for Global Operations, Foreign Exchange Sales & Trading and Fixed Income Trade Support for a leading Investment Banking and Securities firm on Wall Street.

Mrs. Jones was responsible for administrative management, staffing, coaching and employee relations. In this capacity, she delivered, facilitated, and conducted motivational presentations about in-person job readiness workshops, seminars and panels.

During her professional career Mrs. Jones was an active member of several Business Advisory boards such as the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Department of Education Virtual Enterprise Program, JOB, Inc., National Business Disability Council, the New York Academy of Finance, and a member of the Urban Financial Services Coalition.

She was commissioned to facilitate multiple workshops, panel discussions, seminars and focus groups with diversity organizations, including CUNY Graduate Center, Baruch College of Economics and Finance, Academy of Finance, Hunter College, Mission Society Hope Program, National Mentoring Program, Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the New York City Department of Education.

Mrs. Jones partnered and maintained relationships with several non-profit organizations including the Mayor's and Governor's offices resulting in receiving the "NYS NDEAM Regional Employment Alliance" award and the "Governor's VESID Placement Consortium" award in recognition of her dedication and commitment to hiring individuals with disabilities. In addition, Mrs. Jones was awarded the New York City Department of Education Virtual Enterprise "Partner in Leadership Award" in recognition of assisting High School students in career development.

Currently Mrs. Jones is a volunteer consultant with the Workforce 1 Center in Harlem conducting career-readiness workshops for the community training and Employment Resources program.

Mrs. Jones is married to Robert Jones and they have one daughter, Kenya, and two grandchildren, Ejaaz and Amani.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Bettie L. Jones.

HONORING CALVIN BRIGHT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Calvin Bright for his tremendous contributions to promoting housing and development in the Central Valley. Mr. Bright is being honored at the Greater Yosemite Council Boy Scouts of America's Annual Distinguished Citizens Dinner on October 28, 2009, in Modesto, California.

Calvin Bright was born on September 17, 1920, in Beggs, Oklahoma, to Ed and Cora Bright. He was raised on the family farm with his three siblings and a cousin. He spent his childhood in school or working on his family's farm where they raised farm animals, grew row crops, and farmed a large family garden. He graduated from Beggs High School having lettered in football and participated in the 4H Club. He joined the National Guard when he was 14, but due to a hip injury, he was unable to go overseas and fight in the war. Instead, Mr. Bright attended Oklahoma A&M and graduated with a degree in horticulture.

In 1940, Mr. Bright married his high school sweetheart, Marjorie Hensley. They attended Oklahoma A&M together and moved to California in 1942. Upon arriving in California, Mr. Bright built and managed a five-unit apartment complex in Hayward. This was his first California building project. In 1956 Mr. and Mrs. Bright founded Bright Foods in Turlock, which manufactured pre-prepared frozen foods, such as pies and TV dinners. Bright Foods was the first pre-prepared food processing plant of its type west of the Rockies. Bright Foods operated 24 hours a day and employed approximately 400 full-time employees.

Mr. Bright established Western Fruit Packers in Brigham City, Utah, in 1959. The company was a cherry packing plant and provided fruit for his cherry pies manufactured in Turlock, California. The following year he founded C.S.C. Refrigeration, a company that froze and stored the product, and Mistletoe Express, a trucking company that delivered the finished frozen product to 11 western States. In 1966, Bright Foods and FM Stamper Company merged to create a national distribution system. The new company was named Banquet Foods and was sold to RCA in 1969. When Banquet Foods sold, Mr. Bright left the food processing industry and entered the housing industry, full time.

In 1968, Mr. Bright founded B&H Manufacturing, an international company that designs and manufactures high-speed, roll-fed labeling machines that place labels on containers for major companies, such as Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Clorox, and other household products. In 1971, he incorporated Bright Development in Modesto and began to build single family homes, townhomes, and apartment projects throughout the Central Valley. Bright Development has also been active in the construction of commercial office buildings. Woodside Management Group was also established in 1971 by Mr. Bright to professionally manage the apartment projects built by Bright Development. Mr. Bright has been named "Builder of the Year" by the Building Association of Central California, twice. He has been a member of the Building Industry Association of Central