

Governor Roy Romer and former City of Denver Mayor Wellington Webb. He helped found the Center for New Politics and Policy at the University of Denver. He has served as the center's executive director since its founding, in addition to working as an attorney in private practice, college lecturer, and satellite radio talk show host. Peter Groff was first elected to the House in 2000 and later was appointed and reelected to the Colorado Senate. He is the highest-ranking African-American elected official in Colorado history and has been called the "Conscience of the Senate."

In a year when America inaugurated its first African-American President, the ascension of Speaker Carroll and President Groff is also a significant tribute to the innumerable individuals who have come before us who strived and sacrificed for civil rights, equal opportunity, and equality for all. It gives me great pleasure as the Senior Member of the Colorado Congressional Delegation to congratulate these two men and recognize their accomplishments, not only in the context of Colorado's history, but the nation's as a whole.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF MERVIN WILLIAMS

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2009*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and acknowledge the life of Mervin Williams upon his passing on February 7, 2009.

A highly decorated veteran of World War II, Mervin served in the 10th Mountain Division's 85th regiment alongside Senator Robert Dole. For his selfless service to America, Mervin received a Bronze Star for his heroism and two Purple Hearts.

After Mr. Williams' return to the United States to recover from shrapnel wounds he received defending our nation, he dedicated himself to improving the lives of his fellow veterans and our entire community. Mervin became engaged in many significant organizations including Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Eagles, the Moose Lodge, and The Knights of Columbus.

Madam Speaker, Mervin Williams is remembered as an American hero who loved and served our country and community in war and peace. Today, as we bid him farewell, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and honoring his life. In league with his comrades who wore America's colors, Mervin Williams was a good man who did great things for the cause of human freedom. We are all diminished by his loss; and inspired by his life.

ACTION IN COMMUNITY THROUGH  
SERVICE

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Ta, a student at Lake Braddock Secondary School in

Burke, VA and recipient of the In Hope Freedom Rings Foundation Scholarship. Mary sets a strong example as a leader among her peers, and is committed to making the most of her gifts and passions.

Mary exhibits a maturity beyond her years. Her father passed away when she was eight years old, forcing her family to relocate. Later, as her older siblings left home, she assumed responsibility for her younger sister. She has learned the flexibility and presence of mind needed to excel under demanding circumstances, coupled with a natural compassion and intellectual curiosity.

Mary has distinguished herself as a leader in the school community, in large part through her commitment to public service. She is the past Secretary and Vice-President of the Lake Braddock Key Club and a member of Key Club International. She serves in the Key Club as the Capital District's Lieutenant Governor, working on a board of trustees from all over the Washington Metro Area and Delaware. Her responsibilities include overseeing 15 high schools in the Capital District and acting as liaison between them.

In addition, Mary has organized and coordinated various service projects with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the American Red Cross, Women's Domestic Shelter, United Nations Children's Fund, and many more.

Mary's strong orientation towards volunteerism has helped make her a leader in the student community. In 2005 she co-founded and is the current Vice-President of the Bruin ESOL Tutoring Association, a tutoring program for middle school students with English as their second language. In addition she has been an officer of the National Honor Society and the Student Government Association, and last year she attended Girls State at Longwood University and was elected to serve as a state Delegate.

Balancing her work in the greater community with more artistic activities, Mary is a serious musician, having played the violin for nine years. She has been a member of the Lake Braddock Orchestra since 2003, and is also a member of the Symphonic Orchestra and Tri-M music Honor Society.

Mary intends to continue challenging herself on many levels. Following college, she hopes to join the Peace Corps and ultimately to become a professor of history.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Mary Ta for her commitment to service and for the vital role she continues to play in her student community.

IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2009*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, in his Inaugural Address, President John F. Kennedy asked the people to ask not what their country could do for them but what they could do for their country.

Last month, as I again stood witness to history, President Barack Obama spoke a similar message, asking the people he had been elected to serve to remember the legacy that

came before and with which many of us are intimately familiar: hard work, faith, and understanding in the face of economic insecurity, international conflict and personal differences.

No one understands this legacy better than African Americans, and it is with that in mind that we come together again this February to celebrate Black History Month.

The theme of Black History Month this year is "The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas." It is a theme we in West Virginia understand to our core. Making our homes in a state born out of the Civil War, we are intimately familiar with the struggle for equality.

It is no surprise that we've seen significant moments in history celebrated right here in our hills and hollows. Carter G. Woodson, the "father of Black History" hailed from Huntington, a son of slaves who worked in the coal mines to earn money for an education at West Virginia State College and then Howard University in Washington, DC.

Booker T. Washington, perhaps our most famous African American, walked from Virginia to Kanawha County, 'free at last,' to have a better life for his family. He also worked hard to obtain the education he felt in his heart was his right to pursue, working in the coal mines until he was 16. He walked 200 miles on foot to study at the Hampton Institute in Virginia and then came right back to West Virginia to teach the children of Appalachia.

Minnie Buckingham Harper of Keystone, the first African American woman to become a member of a legislative body in the United States, broke ground for countless women in 1928 when she was appointed to fill the term of her late husband.

Leon Sullivan, born in Charleston, was brought up in a dirty alley in one of the city's most poverty-stricken sections, worked in a steel mill to pay his tuition at West Virginia State College, and rose from poverty to found the Opportunity Industrialization Center, a job-training organization with branches around the world.

Helen Dobson was from Raleigh County, well-known throughout West Virginia for her beautiful voice, performed at the inauguration of two of West Virginia's governors and served as public school teacher for many years. Her spirit is still strong in southern West Virginia and it was with Ms. Dobson in mind that I signed on as a cosponsor of a bill that designates the African American spiritual as a national treasure. This bill passed the House of Representatives earlier this month.

Countless men and women have worked long hours for less pay to provide for a better future for their children. They have fought, and continue to fight, for our liberties in the armed forces. Through their compassion and quiet strength, these men and women are role models by which we all can live.

With change and the spirit of unity sweeping the Nation, we have come together again to celebrate Black History month. I can think of no more fitting honorees this month than the African American men and women of West Virginia who have done so much to serve our Nation.

Today, southern West Virginians remain deeply indebted to our African American educators who work hard to make sure the children of the Mountain State are ready to take part in an ever more challenging and modern economy. Folks like Bluefield State President

Albert Walker; Maurice Cooley, Director of African American Programs at Marshall University; Dr. Shari Williams-Clarke, Vice President for Marshall University Multicultural Affairs; Loretta Young, Vice President for Development at Concord University; and Roslyn Clark-Artis, Executive Vice President at Mountain State University, are an inspiration to us all.

Too often, the history of black Americans is not fully taught or remembered. With the indomitable spirit of Dr. Carter G. Woodson and new leaders such as President Barack Obama, African Americans in southern West Virginia and across the country are making great progress. Let us take this Black History Month to celebrate the African American contributions to the greatness of West Virginia and to commend those carrying on this proud tradition of service today.

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HONORING MR. ERNIE CHAMBERS

**HON. LEE TERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2009*

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to honor a great constituent in my district, Mr. Ernie Chambers.

Ernie Chambers is a former Nebraska State Senator and current member of the Omaha Learning Community.

As a member of the Nebraska legislature, he served longer than any other member had and up until this year, he was the Legislature's lone African-American member. As a State Senator, he was a voice for the residents of north Omaha and he always asked the tough questions. While some of his colleagues might have disagreed with him from time to time, he earned their respect and demonstrated a great passion in his work.

Mr. Chambers is a graduate of Omaha Central High School and Creighton University School of Law. It is my pleasure to recognize State Senator Ernie Chambers and thank him for his years of service to the great city of Omaha.

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TRIBUTE TO COACH JIM CALHOUN

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2009*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the most recent achievement of one of college basketball's premier coaches. On February 25, 2009, the University of Connecticut's Men's Basketball program celebrated a 93-82 win over Marquette University. Not just a typical victory in another impressive season for the Huskies, this victory was also the 800th in the career of Coach Jim Calhoun. Coach Calhoun is just the seventh coach in men's college basketball to reach this historic milestone, joining legends such as Bobby Knight, Dean Smith and Adolph Rupp.

Coach Calhoun's career as a basketball coach began in 1966 when he served as an assistant at his alma mater, American International College in Springfield, MA. Calhoun stayed at AIC until 1968 when he became a high school basketball coach in Old Lyme,

Connecticut. He stayed in the high school ranks for a brief period until 1972, when he assumed the role of head coach at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. Calhoun's squad came to dominate the Eastern College Athletic Conference, leading those Huskies to a 248-137 record in 14 seasons that included 5 league tournament championships and 4 outright regular season championships.

In May of 1986, Coach Calhoun assumed the role of head basketball coach at the University of Connecticut. Since that time, UConn has become the Big East Conference's premier basketball program. Just two years later, Coach Calhoun won his first national title when UConn defeated Ohio State in the 1988 National Invitational Tournament with Phil Gamble and future NBA all star Clifford Robinson leading the way.

During his 22+ seasons at the University of Connecticut, Coach Calhoun has led the Huskies to ten Big East regular season titles, six Big East tournament titles, an NIT title and 2 NCAA titles in 1999 and 2004. During his tenure, Calhoun has coached more than two dozen players who have moved onto the NBA, including perennial stars such as Ray Allen, Richard Hamilton and Emeka Okafor.

Coach Calhoun has received countless awards and has been consistently recognized for his remarkable career. In 2005, Coach Calhoun's career came full circle as he returned to Springfield, Massachusetts, where he started his basketball career. There, Coach Calhoun joined the ranks of basketball's greats when he was enshrined in the Dr. James Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. Coach Calhoun is also a member of the American International College and Northeastern University Hall of Fame and has been awarded the John Wooden "Legends of Coaching Award" for his lifetime of service.

Coach Calhoun's positive contributions to Connecticut are not limited to the basketball court. He has contributed huge sums of personal wealth to hospitals, charities and civic causes—often times with little fanfare. He is a strong voice for "Coaches Against Cancer", advocating for a stronger national effort to cure cancer and raising private funds for research and treatment.

The most impressive contribution I believe was his willingness to publicly share his personal battle against three bouts of cancer—educating and inspiring patients and families all across America to fight this illness and continue with their regular lives.

For more than two decades, Coach Calhoun's coaching prowess has been well known to the people of eastern Connecticut. For those of us who have the honor of calling him our friend, and for the scores of Husky hoops fans across the state and the country, we congratulate Coach Jim Calhoun on this historic achievement and wish him well as he continues his leadership of our beloved Huskies.

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TRIBUTE TO MRS. JERIS LAMPKIN SMITH

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2009*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Mrs. Jeris

Lampkin Smith on the occasion of her retirement from the United States District Court, Southern District of Florida's Probation Office after 32 years of service and dedication. Mrs. Lampkin Smith will retire from the position of Supervising United States Probation Officer in the State of Florida, and can look back on a proud career of service and distinction in community leadership.

A native Floridian, Mrs. Lampkin Smith graduated from Middleton High School in Tampa, and in order to further her education, she attended Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University and received a Bachelor of Science degree. On April 25, 1977, Mrs. Lampkin Smith was appointed the first African-American female probation officer by Chief United States District Judge C. Clyde Atkins. Ultimately, Mrs. Lampkin Smith became the first person of color to be promoted to the position of Supervising United States Probation Officer in the State of Florida. She was not joined by any other African-American officer until 1983.

Mrs. Lampkin Smith had a distinguished 32 year career working for the Southern District of Florida Probation Office. The United States Probation Office in the Southern District of Florida is one of 94 federal judicial districts nationwide. U.S. Probation officers play an integral role in the administration of justice by protecting our communities by monitoring offenders and enforcing Court Orders, as well as promoting positive individual change by addressing offenders' needs through effective use of community resources.

In an effort to compliment her professional achievements, Mrs. Lampkin Smith is involved with various organizations such as a charter member and former president of the Dade County Chapter of The Links, Incorporated; life member and Regional Foundational Member at Large for Jack & Jill of America, Foundation, Washington, DC; member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated; and life member of the Black United States Probation and Pretrial Services Association and NAACP.

This public servant is married to Herbert B. Smith and has one daughter, Courtney Smith. In retirement, Mrs. Lampkin Smith plans to continue to develop her new career as an event planner, travel the world and play golf with her husband.

Mrs. Lampkin Smith is an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation. It is with deep respect and admiration that I commend Mrs. Jeris Lampkin for her 32 years of service to the South Florida area, and wish her and her family the very best in retirement.

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THE STUDENT PROTECTION ACT

**HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2009*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on January 28, 2009, I reintroduced the Student Protection Act, a measure aimed at protecting our Nation's classrooms from repeat sexual predators within our school systems.

The Student Protection Act requires uniform reporting requirements for eligible school system employees accused of sexual misconduct against a student, consistent with established guidelines for reporting child abuse; it requires