

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS  
OF THE YEAR

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 08, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize three Fairfax County Public School Principals for receiving the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's 2009 Environmental Educators of the Year Award.

The honorees for this award were Ms. Debra Lane, principal at Rolling Valley Elementary School, Mr. Sal Rivera, principal at Flint Hill Elementary School, and Mr. Dwayne Young, principal at Centreville Elementary School.

These educators have actively infused environmental education in the curricula of their schools and worked to include more outdoor experiences for their teachers and students. Furthermore, these principals were instrumental in establishing a teacher professional development program called "Chesapeake Classrooms," which focuses on the Chesapeake Bay for county principals and teachers.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Lane, Mr. Rivera, and Mr. Young's hard work have shown their commitment to the community and the importance of educating our young people on the values of environmental stewardship. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this wonderful accomplishment and wish them well in all of their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING ASIAN/PACIFIC  
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 2010*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Asian/Pacific Heritage Month and the contributions of Asian/Pacific Americans to this nation. It is evident that Asian/Pacific Americans are an important source of cultural capital, having become fixtures in literature, film, music, athletics and all other areas of American society. Annual observance each May was designated because of two significant events, the first being the arrival of Japanese immigrants in the United States on May 7, 1843 and the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad on May 10, 1869.

The United States Census Bureau reports that Asian/Pacific Americans are one of the nation's most diverse populations, numbering 15.2 million and encompassing 28 language groups and 47 ethnicities. 80 percent of the Asian/Pacific American community resides in California, Hawaii, New York, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois, Washington, Florida, Virginia, and Massachusetts. The histories of these groups in America are deeply connected to the history of the United States through such events as the designation of the World War II 442nd Regimental Combat team as the highest decorated military unit in U.S. history, the election of Dalip Singh Saund to the U.S. Congress in 1957 and the appointment of three Asian

Americans to the Presidential Cabinet under President Barack Obama.

In addition to the advancements and contributions of Asian/Pacific Americans, we also highlight many of the challenges they have overcome and continue to face today. This legacy includes the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. More recent difficulties comprise post 9/11 profiling, discrimination and hate crimes against Muslim and Sikh communities and income, language and educational discrepancies in access within the Asian/Pacific American population. Acknowledging these hurdles is the first step in overcoming them and learning from past injustices will lead to a more equitable and progressive United States.

The political presence and civic engagement of the Asian/Pacific American community has increased substantially since their arrival in the United States. Currently, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus is composed of a record 30 members. In addition, the Obama administration has made significant efforts to reach out to the Asian/Pacific American community, including the reestablishment of the White House Initiative on Asian and Pacific Islanders to coordinate the work of multiple agencies and ensure more accurate data collection and greater access to services. The United States recognizes the uniqueness of this Asian/Pacific American constituency and the valuable contributions of its members.

I respect and admire the advancements of Asian/Pacific Americans and anticipate their growing political representation and inclusion in all levels of government and American society.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND  
MEMORY OF MR. GERALD A.  
WILLIAMS

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2010*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of and express sadness over the untimely death of lawyer and friend Gerald A. Williams.

Mr. Williams was not only a friend but a brilliant lawyer whose mission was to serve our community in South Florida. He was a humble man and a true role model.

He had served as the chief counsel to the Palm Beach County School Board since November 2005 and was responsible for all legal matters involving the School Board. Prior to serving as Chief Counsel, he served for four years as Chief Negotiator and Chief Officer of Administration for the school district.

In numerous appointments and positions, Mr. Williams also served as general counsel for the Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter of the National Bar Association, as treasurer and executive board member for the Urban League of Palm Beach County, and as co-founder and president of the Suncoast Chamber of Commerce in West Palm Beach.

Mr. Williams became one of the first black graduates of the University of Florida College of Law in 1975. His firm, Haygood & Williams, grew into the largest all-black law firm in the state. Mr. Williams left private practice in 1997

to serve as Chief Labor Counsel, and Chief Officer of Labor and Legislative Relations for Dade County Public Schools.

In 2009, Mr. Williams was recognized by Florida Trend Magazine as one of Florida's Legal Elite and identified as one of the top government attorneys in the state.

Mr. Williams was a husband, a father, a brother, an uncle, a godfather, a dedicated public service attorney and community leader. I am grateful for Mr. Williams' contributions and dedication to Palm Beach County. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends and to the greater community during this difficult time.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH CARUSO

**HON. JOHN H. ADLER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2010*

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Caruso, a resident of Delanco, New Jersey and dedicated volunteer at Catholic Charities, Emergency and Community Services.

Joe has been volunteering with Emergency and Community Services for the past two years as a trained tax preparer. As one of two tax preparers, Joe has provided free tax preparation for hundreds of seniors and low-income residents of Burlington County.

In addition to his tax services, Joe took on the temporary duties of the Pantry Manager. Through his dedication and commitment to the program's goals, he reorganized the food pantry, handled all food and household donation pick-ups, developed a food inventory tracking system, provided routine maintenance of the pantry's refrigerators and freezers, and advocated with donors to secure additional food items for the pantry program.

Joe does whatever is necessary to make sure that our hungry neighbors do not go without food and quietly goes about his work not expecting or wanting any accolades. He has been a valuable asset to the program and his selfless efforts have to be recognized.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you please join me in congratulating Joe for his outstanding and dedicated service to the less fortunate in our South Jersey communities.

MARYLAND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2010*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the women's lacrosse team of my alma mater, the University of Maryland, on its record tenth national championship. In the March 31st championship game, Maryland defeated Northwestern University, a lacrosse dynasty in its own right, by a score of 13-11.

Congratulations are especially due to Coach Cathy Reese, who was rewarded with success after returning to coach at her alma mater; to senior Caitlyn McFadden, who starred in her last collegiate game with two goals and an assist, and was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player; and to the Maryland fans,

who turned out to support their Terrapins in record numbers. This championship is the product of outstanding athletes and coaches, untold hours of hard work, and the passionate support of the University of Maryland community. The University of Maryland demonstrates excellence in both academics and athletics, and I'm proud of this team for contributing to that legacy.

RECOGNIZING FOREST PARK HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL ERIC BRENT ON RECEIVING THE WASHINGTON POST DISTINGUISHED EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 08, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Principal Eric Brent, the winner of the Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award for Prince William County Schools.

Principal Brent has more than 23 years of educational experience and is currently the principal of Forest Park High School. He has served as a secondary classroom teacher, coach, sponsor, guidance counselor, director of student services, assistant principal, and principal during his career. He is a student body favorite and is known as a devoted mentor who takes a sincere interest in the lives of his students. Teachers and parents cite his administrative style as polite and collaborative. His diverse experience and enthusiasm for education have given him the skills and talent to be a first-class principal.

His work at Forest Park High has produced a long list of results and accolades. In 2008, Newsweek magazine ranked Forest Park High School on its annual list of "America's Top Public High Schools." During his tenure, student scores on the SAT improved from 1511 to 1528 and the number of graduates attending four-year higher education programs increased from 50 percent to 60 percent. In 2009, Principal Brent was recognized for these accomplishments when he was named Principal of the Year in Prince William County.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Principal Eric Brent for receiving the Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award for Prince William County Schools. He is an asset to our local school system, and his work is helping countless children and setting them on the right path for a positive future.

THE GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2010*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, Israel has the right and the duty to defend its citizens from attack, and it is both reasonable and prudent to interdict weapons from being smuggled into Gaza.

Last Monday's confrontation between Israeli naval forces and a group of activists seeking to bring supplies to the Hamas-governed Gaza

Strip was tragic, and I join the worldwide outpouring of grief over the deaths of nine people aboard the *Mavi Marmara*.

In the midst of his tragedy, we must not forget that Israel has been engaged in a protracted struggle with Hamas, a terrorist organization that has repeatedly stated that it will never accept Israel's right to exist, and which has used the 1.4 million people of Gaza as human shields for rocket attacks and other acts of terror against Israeli citizens.

The Turkish group that organized the flotilla, the IHH, must accept responsibility for the loss of life aboard the ship by deliberately provoking a confrontation with Israeli Navy personnel enforcing a legal blockade of Gaza. Rather than accepting Israel's offer to offload its cargo in Israel for subsequent transport via the land crossings into Gaza, the *Mavi Marmara* chose to try to run the blockade and then resisted the Israeli boarding party, beating Israeli troops with metal pipes and other weapons. In the days since the incident, it has been revealed some of those aboard the ship were jihadist provocateurs seeking a clash with the Israeli military. And regrettably in this, they were successful.

The international community must show greater resolve in forcing Hamas to renounce terror, accept Israel's right to exist, and abide by prior agreements. We must work together with Israel to meet the urgent needs of the people of Gaza, but Hamas bears ultimate responsibility for the continued suffering of the people of that region.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Chair, several months ago I received a letter from a soldier who lives in New York. The letter was very similar to those that many members of Congress receive from brave servicemen and women who reside in their districts. The letter spoke of multiple tours through Iraq and Afghanistan, of volunteering for more service even after completing enough tours to retire, and of the pride of a soldier who loves his country and is willing to sacrifice so much to defend it.

But this letter was not quite the same as those that many of us here in the Capitol receive from time to time. You see, despite serving his country for more than 20 years, despite volunteering to serve in a combat zone to defend America's principles of freedom from tyranny and from persecution, and despite receiving two bronze stars for meritorious service to his country, the gay soldier who wrote this letter is required by United States law to lie about who he is or face being discharged from the military.

For 16 years, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" has placed an unthinkable and immoral burden on

gay and lesbian servicemen and women, who, under United States law and unlike their heterosexual counterparts, must hide their sexual orientation and their partners from the military. Their partners are not eligible for the military spousal benefits to which the partners of heterosexual servicemen and women are entitled, including health care and better housing. Madam Speaker, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is, by definition, a discriminatory policy.

In the course of tonight's debate, several members have characterized the House of Representatives' impending vote to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" as a step forward for morality and equality. And it is. But, before we collectively pat ourselves on the back for a job well done, I would remind my colleagues that tonight's step forward is only a result of the giant leap backwards we took when we instituted the policy in the first place. Years from now, when our children read about "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in their history books, what will they think of a government that so shamefully turned its back on gay servicemen and women in the interest of a political compromise?

Madam Chair, politics is a business of grays. Seldom do we have the opportunity to vote on legislation that is black or white, moral or immoral, right or wrong. Tonight is the rare exception.

For the thousands of gay servicemen and women who so bravely serve our country everyday but who live in constant fear of being discovered for who they are, for the principles of freedom and equality upon which the United States of America was founded, and in the interest of righting a wrong that has persisted for far too long, I rise in support of the amendment before us and for the patriotic soldier whose letter I enclose for the record; a letter in which he implores me: "If and when this issue ever comes up for debate, and even for a vote in Congress, I respectfully ask you to remember all the gay military personnel who are right now risking our lives to defend the U.S. and its values."

Madam Chair, that moment has come.

Hon. GARY ACKERMAN,

*Member of the House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ACKERMAN: I am a captain in the United States Army Reserve, and am presently deployed to Afghanistan. I am writing to you with regard to the military's so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy. As you may know, there is currently a strong push in Congress to overturn DADT—under which otherwise qualified gay men and women are still being involuntarily dismissed from service—and replace it with a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. I strongly support this proposed policy change. I would like to explain the basis for my judgment.

I am a veteran of both the U. S. Navy Reserve and the U. S. Army Reserve. In the latter I have served as both a sergeant and as a commissioned officer. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 I have completed tours of duty in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kuwait. I was informed that I had completed twenty good years of Reserve military service, and had thus earned the right to retire. But I did not want to retire with my country still at war. So I volunteered for another combat zone deployment, and am serving once again in Afghanistan. I have been at my current duty station—. I recite this brief resume to let you know that I am no mere observer of the military, but rather someone who has dedicated much of my life to our national defense.