

They all sing, but Pops, as his family lovingly calls him, is arguably the best. There's just something about him.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

"Not only is he anointed, but his [life] experience has to do with his being anointed," says Orlando Wright, who placed third in the competition. "All these years, he's been faithful—not perfect—but faithful, and God has to honor that."

McLendon is enjoying a national recognition he had never known before. He's in the midst of a 40-city tour featuring Sunday Best contestants, where he's the headliner. He gets fan mail every day from viewers inspired to go back to church or pursue a passion late in life because of him.

McLendon's only regret is that Ruth, his wife of 59 years, is in the final stages of Alzheimer's disease and cannot enjoy his season with him. He has cared for her since 2003.

"Beautiful high soprano," he says of his wife's voice. "She wrote music, and we used to harmonize all the time. . . . I'm trying to control myself talking about her."

Still, despite personal heartache, there's much to enjoy—and be thankful for.

"It ain't over," he says, "till God says it's over."

LA-Z-BOY SOUTH COMMEMORATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Mr. HARPER. Madam Speaker, on June 16, 2010, employees, retirees and the company leadership of La-Z-Boy South celebrated 50 years of production. La-Z-Boy founders, Edward M. Knabusch and Edwin J. Shoemaker opened the Newton, Mississippi plant in 1960 when they were seeking to expand production. The Newton facility has grown to 800,000 square feet from the original 60,000 when the plant officially opened. The company credits this half century of success to the men and women of the La-Z-Boy family and to the support they have received from the Newton community.

Founded in Monroe, Michigan, Newton, Mississippi was selected as the first out-of-state plant because of the friendly people and the city's access to raw materials. The first recliner was produced on June 6, 1960, and was raffled off during the opening of a local supermarket. Since that time, La-Z-Boy South has celebrated many milestones including the December 9, 1980 production of its three-millionth chair and the September 17, 2003 production of its 10-millionth chair. Now employing 600 Newton-area residents, the Mississippi facility produces over one hundred different styles of furniture and custom-builds 1,100 pieces every day.

This facility has spurred economic growth in Mississippi outside of the Newton community. From manufacturing to shipping to management, the economy has blossomed as La-Z-Boy's business has increased nationally. In appreciation to the community, La-Z-Boy South has made contributions to many local businesses and organizations, as well as numerous charities and youth programs.

In today's struggling economy, La-Z-Boy has maintained a skilled workforce providing optimism for many hard-working Mississippians. As our nation continues to recover from

the economic slide, our state will rely on successful companies like La-Z-Boy to provide work for jobless Mississippians. I congratulate La-Z-Boy for 50 years of manufacturing excellence and for their involvement in the Newton community and the state of Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING WORLD REFUGEE DAY

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize June 20, 2010 as World Refugee Day. There are more than 42 million people in the world—16 million of them refugees—who have fled their homes due to war, political conflict, or persecution in their country. We have the responsibility to support these men, women and children, many of whom have struggled in the face of unfathomable violence. Despite the trauma refugees experience, these are people who remain hopeful that one day their lives will return to normal and they will once again be safe from harm.

Today is not the time to dwell on the daunting number of people who are fleeing from their home country, but rather to celebrate the will to live, demonstrated daily by the millions of refugees who attempt to find a better place to call home. We should learn a lesson from those who have lost or given up so much and we must find that kind of courage to support our refugee communities here at home and abroad.

Although much has been done to assist newly arrived refugees, our challenge is far from over. I would like to thank my community organizations who work directly with newly arrived refugees into Washington State. They are the ones who rise to the occasion and should be commended for the great work they have accomplished. Organizations such as The Lutheran Community Services Northwest, The International Rescue Committee, the Refugee Women's Alliance, the Coalition for Refugees from Burma, and the Southwest Youth and Family Services are only a few of the many whose constant advocacy has been a tremendous asset in the lives of my constituents. Community organizations are not the only ones to be recognized. I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the hard work of community individuals who volunteer their time and resources to assist newly arrived refugees to Washington State, many of whom arrived to the US as refugees themselves.

World Refugee Day is a time to come together and spread the word to the global community about a sometimes forgotten population so that we can ensure that we remember our responsibility to aid those whose spirits have not broken and optimism has never wavered. Let us recognize World Refugee Day and honor the millions of refugees worldwide who must daily persevere through hardship and adversity.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. FRANCES K. KOCHAN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to the professional teaching career of Dr. Frances K. Kochan.

Dr. Kochan received a degree in elementary education from the State University of New York at Fredonia in June 1962, and began teaching English as a second language on the Island of Yap in September of 1963. After returning to the United States, she served as an adult teacher at the Retarded Citizens Center in Medina, New York, then as an elementary school teacher in the Mannford County School District in Oklahoma.

In the summer of 1970, Dr. Kochan resumed her international teaching career in Guam, where she taught for four years. While overseas, Dr. Kochan received a master's degree in reading education from the University of Guam in 1974.

After returning from Guam, Dr. Kochan began her career with Wakulla County Schools in Crawfordville, Florida, where she served as a reading specialist, reading and language arts projects director, principal and finally as assistant superintendent and curriculum director.

In 1985, Dr. Kochan began her work in higher education at Florida State University, and received her Ph.D. in Adult Education and Policy Studies in 1994. She served there nine years before beginning at Auburn University.

In 1994, Dr. Kochan began at Auburn University serving as an associate professor, and then later becoming the Director of the Truman Pierce Institute. She began working as a full professor in November of 1999, served as Associate Dean of Administration and Research and finally became Dean of the School of Education in July of 2005, where she will serve until stepping down this summer.

Dr. Kochan has a received a number of awards throughout her career, including the 2002 Distinguished Educator Award from Florida State University and the Wayne T. Smith Distinguished Professor Award from Auburn University.

A celebration of her teaching career will be held July 22 at Auburn University. I congratulate Dr. Frances Kochan for her 47 years of service as an educator and join her friends and family in honoring her on this special occasion.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TECHNICAL SERGEANT MICHAEL PAUL FLORES

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Air Force Technical Sergeant Michael Paul Flores, who was killed in action on June 9, 2010.

Michael was a decorated 12-year Air Force veteran. During his eight deployments to Iraq

and Afghanistan, he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and twelve Air Medals. He grew up in San Antonio, Texas, where he graduated from John Marshall High School before enlisting in 1997.

A Pararescue Non-Commissioned Officer assigned to the 48th Rescue Squadron at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Michael belonged to a highly regarded and specialized unit known throughout the military for their skills and willingness to risk their lives to save others.

The motto of Pararescue units, "That Others May Live", speaks to the dedication that Michael and his brothers in arms share. He perished doing what he loved alongside other Air Force Rescue personnel, on a mission to save a British Soldier's life.

We remember Tech Sergeant Flores and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his family. My words cannot effectively convey the feeling of great loss, nor can they offer adequate consolation. However, it is my hope that in future days, his family may take some comfort in knowing that Michael made a difference in the lives of many others and serves as an example of a competent and caring leader and friend that will live on in the hearts and minds of all those he touched.

Technical Sergeant Flores is survived by his wife Marisa, daughter Eliana and son Michael.

This body and this country owe Michael and his family our deepest gratitude, and we will today and forevermore honor and remember him and his service to our country.

ONGOING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN KYRGYZSTAN

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight, I wanted to call attention to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Kyrgyzstan.

Since the ousting of former President Kurmanbek Bakiyev's government on April 7, 2010, the southern Kyrgyzstan region along the Uzbekistan border has been plagued with ethnic violence. Instability and waves of violence have continued in Osh and Jalal-Abad, resulting in killings, rapes, beatings, and widespread pillaging and destruction of homes and communities. Moreover, there are reportedly at least 400,000 displaced persons, of which many are ethnic Uzbeks seeking refuge in Uzbekistan. Those remaining in Osh are isolated and living in fear of the next violent clash. Meanwhile, the Kyrgyzstan interim government continues to struggle to stabilize the region.

I am encouraged by recent actions taken by the U.S. Government and the international community in response to the humanitarian crisis. Last week, the State Department announced \$32.267 million in aid programs for humanitarian relief, reconstruction, and community stabilization. I look forward to working with the Administration to help ensure that taxpayer resources are spent efficiently, transparently, and effectively to help those Kyrgyz and Uzbeks most in need and establish lasting stability.

Additionally last week, the UN Human Rights Council condemned the ethnic violence in Kyrgyzstan and called on its interim government to conduct a complete and transparent investigation into the events of April 7 that led to the ouster of the previous government, as well as the ongoing ethnic violence.

Healing the wounds of ethnic violence and achieving long-term stability will not be easy in a region with such burgeoning ethnic tensions. It is important that the international community, including the United States, remains committed to addressing the humanitarian needs and achieving meaningful and sustainable progress in Kyrgyzstan.

TRIBUTE TO MILDRED DAVIS OF KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a resident of Kansas' Third Congressional District who will shortly celebrate her hundredth birthday—a goal that many aspire to, but few achieve. Mildred Davis of Kansas City, Kansas, will celebrate her hundredth birthday on June 30th. I know that you and all House Members join with me in wishing Mildred Davis many happy returns of the day, and I am pleased to place in the RECORD a short biography of her, which was written by her friend, Joyce Dickens:

Ava Mildred Finnie Davis was born June 30, 1910, to Lillie Dedman Finnie and Lewis Finnie in Commerce, Texas. She was the youngest of five children—three brothers and a sister. Her parents and all brothers and sister have preceded her in death. Though her given name is Ava, she soon became known to all as Mildred.

She accepted Christ at an early age and was united with the New Hope Baptist Church of Greenville, Texas, before moving to Kansas City, Kansas, and uniting with Olivet Institutional Baptist Church where she has been a faithful and loyal member and worker for over 50 years. She served dutifully in the Women's Missionary Department, Baptist Training Union and the Sunday School for many years. She has encouraged and counseled many young people spiritually.

Mildred attended prep school and two years of college at Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma. In those days you could teach school in Texas with two years of college and she taught school at a small country school. She married Grady L. Davis (now deceased) in Paris, Texas, and they moved to Kansas City in the early 1940s. She worked at the old munitions plant in the Fairfax Industrial District during the war and after the war she began to work for well-to-do families in Johnson County cleaning and cooking. They soon discovered she was a superior cook and began to use her skills in the kitchen for their entertaining. In 1945 she and Grady bought their first home, at 615 Freeman Avenue, where she resided for over 60 years. She was childless and when my large family moved next door to her in 1954 she befriended me and took me under her wings making me clothes and encouraging me in my endeavors. I was only 12 years old and I loved going next door where she would regale me with stories of her youth and life. She was not only a fun person but also a wise mentor.

In the late 1950s Mildred began to work for the Internal Revenue Service during tax season. Eventually she was hired full time at the Social Security Administration where she retired after over 20 years of service.

She belonged to several community organizations including the Turtle Hill Homeowners Association, which was organized in her living room. This organization was instrumental in the redevelopment of the Turtle Hill area, which now has many new homes. She was also a long-time member of the now inactive L'Esprit Social Club and when meetings were held in her home, all members attended mainly because they knew the food and company would be excellent.

Mildred Davis is now a resident at Medicalodge Post Acute Care and continues to be loved and admired by many friends, associates and a foster daughter.

RECOGNIZING THE 145TH ANNIVERSARY OF JUNETEENTH AND THE 17TH CELEBRATION OF THE JUNETEENTH FREEDOM & HERITAGE FESTIVAL IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize June 19, 2010 as the 145th anniversary of the observance of Juneteenth in the United States and the 17th celebration in Memphis, Tennessee. While the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Abraham Lincoln in September 1862, it was not until June 19, 1865 that Union Soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger proclaimed freedom to the last slaves in the far corners of the South in Galveston, Texas. To commemorate this day in our history and the political contributions of many African-Americans to our nation, the Memphis Juneteenth Freedom and Heritage Festival has chosen the theme, "A Tribute to African-Americans in Politics from Reconstruction to Present."

Hiram R. Revels of Mississippi, the first African-American to serve by appointment in the U.S. Senate in 1870 and Joseph Hayne Rainey of South Carolina, the first African-American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1871, made tremendous political strides by paving the way for other African-Americans. Jefferson Long, although the shortest serving African-American in the U.S. House of Representatives, was the first to speak on the floor in 1870. Blanche Bruce of Mississippi was the first African American and only former slave to preside over the U.S. Senate in 1979 and William Dawson of Illinois was the first to chair a standing Congressional committee in 1949. Shirley Chisholm of New York was the first African-American woman elected to Congress in 1968. From my home of Memphis, Harold Ford, Sr. was the first African-American from Tennessee to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. His son, Harold Ford, Jr., was the first African-American Member to succeed his father. Today, we all have our first African-American President, Barack Obama.

From Reconstruction to the Sanitation Workers Union Strike in 1968, Memphis has been