

After arriving at Ramstein Air Base in June 1999, then-Sergeant Hood was promoted to staff sergeant. He conducted explosive ordnance disposal testing on large caliber munitions as part of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe's, USAFE's, Projectile Attack Trials, yielding beneficial data for U.S. military efforts. While at Ramstein Air Base, Master Sergeant Hood won the USAFE Major General Eugene A. Lupia Military Technician of the Year award. Further, the unit he led received three "excellent" ratings on nuclear surety inspections. Following his 4 years at Ramstein Air Base, Master Sergeant Hood was stationed to Fort Dix, New Jersey, to work at the Air Mobility Warfare Center.

After arriving at Fort Dix, Master Sergeant Hood completed degrees in Explosive Ordnance Disposal and in Technology and Military Science. The latter afforded Master Sergeant Hood the opportunity to teach new airmen and prepare them for the rigors of the military.

Twice deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, during his first tour, Master Sergeant Hood safely destroyed and recovered 164 improvised explosive devices, IEDs, unexploded ordnances, and weapons caches. Master Sergeant Hood led five separate missions where his team encountered enemy fire. On one such mission, he and his team were targeted with a rocket-propelled grenade, RPG. The RPG missed Master Sergeant Hood by less than 5 feet, but unfortunately struck a vehicle and injured a member of the Army's Quick Reaction Force. Master Sergeant Hood administered immediate medical care to the injured soldier and after support arrived, Master Sergeant Hood completed his initial mission. For this and other heroic efforts, Master Sergeant Hood received his first Bronze Star Medal.

Master Sergeant Hood was redeployed to Iraq as a Weapons Intelligence Team Leader in 2007. While there, he and his team successfully completed over 90 combat missions including 80 IED responses, recovery of several weapons caches, and serving in four named missions. One of those missions found Master Sergeant Hood and his team in danger of a radio-controlled IED. Through his quick thinking, Master Sergeant Hood immediately cleared the engagement zone from first responders and local citizens. He and his team were successful at rendering the IED safe, protecting local residents, first responders, and American warfighters. Master Sergeant Hood also designed a comprehensive curriculum on proper sensitive sight exploitation and conducted over 10 hours of training for the Iraqi Army Bomb Disposal Unit. His actions during his second deployment earned him his second Bronze Star Medal.

When Master Sergeant Hood returned to the United States, he received a promotion to the rank of Technical Sergeant. After nearly five years at Fort Dix, Master Sergeant Hood was stationed at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Master Sergeant Hood was at Seymour Johnson for less than a year when he deployed to Wardak Province, Afghanistan, to serve as leader for an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team. His third deployment to the region, Master Sergeant Hood again put himself in harm's way, saving the lives of his team and others. While on counter-IED operations, Master Sergeant Hood identified a hidden IED in rough terrain. Unable to remotely inspect

the IED, he approached the device in a bomb suit and successfully disabled the hazard. Master Sergeant Hood and his team were responsible for an area over 6,000 square miles. He was instrumental in safely resolving over 150 emergency response missions including 75 IED incidents as well as 16 weapons caches. For his outstanding and distinguished service, Master Sergeant Hood received his third Bronze Star Medal. When he returned from Afghanistan, then-Technical Sergeant Hood was promoted into the senior non-commissioned officer ranks as a master sergeant.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to share MSgt Vandiver Hood's story. He has bravely and selflessly served the United States for over 16 years. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Master Sergeant Hood for having received three Bronze Star Medals. I also ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Master Sergeant Hood for his meritorious service to the United States.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2010*

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded votes for Rollcall 355, 356, and 357. Had I been present I would have voted yes for these measures.

BILL: H. RES. 1368—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, Rollcall No. 355—Vote "yes," H. RES. 1409—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, Rollcall No. 356—Vote "yes," H.R. 5502—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Rollcall No. 357—Vote "yes."

#### THE PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTION AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

### HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2010*

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 5582, the Private Property Rights Protection and Government Accountability Act of 2010.

Previously, the U.S. Constitution specifically limited government taking of private property through a relatively narrow exception for "public use." Public use has historically referred to roads, schools, firehouses, etc. You may remember the infamous 2005 Supreme Court decision, *Kelo v. City of New London*, where the court broadened the government's ability to take your home, farm, business or place of worship. The negative effects of this far-reaching Supreme Court decision place millions of private property owners nationwide at risk.

Some states are trying to correct this injustice and have enacted restrictions on the use of eminent domain, in this case, when the government seizes private property, with varied effectiveness. However, Congress has not taken action to restore private property rights and the abusive use of eminent domain has continued.

That is why I am introducing the Private Property Rights Protection and Government

Accountability Act of 2010. This legislation will restrict certain federal economic development funds for 10 years to any state or locality in which eminent domain is used to take private property for a private purpose. It will also allow private property owners the legal recourse they deserve to fight baseless private property takings by state and local governments.

Examples of eminent domain abuse can be seen across Oklahoma, from Oklahoma City to Muskogee, and throughout this country.

No family, business operator or place of worship is safe if the government decides that their property does not measure up, and that "public purpose" would be better served if it were torn down and replaced by something bigger, glitzier and more taxable. I encourage all my colleagues to support this important legislation.

#### RECOGNIZING TINA WALTER

### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2010*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tina Walter, who has been selected as the Bedford Rotary Club's 2010 Citizen of the Year.

Tina Walter is an exemplary citizen of New Enterprise, Pennsylvania, where she has worked as an Emergency Medical Technician for 26 years. Mrs. Walter is a founding member and manager of the Southern Cove Ambulance Service where she presently serves as an EMT, CPR, and First Responder Instructor. She is also a highly regarded firefighter who serves as the President of the Board of Directors of the Southern Cove Fire Company. Mrs. Walter has helped secure over \$200,000 in state and federal grant funds by serving as the grant writer for the Southern Cove Ambulance and Fire Company.

Mrs. Walter has been married for 29 years to the Chief of the Southern Cove Fire Company, Brian Walter. She has two children, one of whom has a severe handicap and requires twenty-four hour care. Because of her schedule as an EMT and Fire Fighter, Mrs. Walter relies on friends and family to help care for her son.

In her spare time, Tina Walter volunteers in nursing homes, schools, service clubs and churches. She also helped form and is the current director of the Southern Cove Fireman's Choir, which is scheduled to sing the National Anthem during a Pittsburgh Pirates game in August. Furthermore, Mrs. Walter is currently spearheading a Rotary committee to bring the first annual "Bluegrass Festival" to New Enterprise in July of this year to benefit the Fire Company.

Tina's efforts and accomplishments serve to exemplify great service of self, service to family, and service to community. I commend those who have seen fit to honor Tina Walter as this year's Bedford Rotary Club's 2010 Citizen of the Year, and I too recognize and congratulate Tina Walter for all she has done.

HONORING THE NEW JERSEY  
CONSERVATIVE FOUNDATION

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**  
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, June 23, 2010*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, headquartered in Far Hills, New Jersey, which is celebrating fifty years of successful land preservation.

The New Jersey Conservation Foundation, NJCF, began in 1960 with a small group of concerned citizens determined to fight a plan by the Port Authority of New York to build the region's fourth major airport in the middle of the Great Swamp near Morristown, New Jersey. With great determination and perseverance, the group succeeded. In 1964, they turned over 1,400 acres to the Federal government and on May 29th of that same year, the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge was officially dedicated. It became New Jersey's first National Wildlife Refuge and the first federally designated wilderness area east of the Mississippi.

After this triumphant battle, the committee members made the decision to take the environmental health of the entire state as its responsibility. In 1975, the group officially organized as the New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

NJCF has grown from its roots in the Great Swamp to become one of the Nation's foremost land conservation organizations. Through the support of its staff and trustees, they have helped protect over 100,000 acres of New Jersey farmland, forest and natural areas. From the cedar swamps of the Pine Barrens to the urban parks of Newark and Camden, from the forests of the Highlands to the marshland of the Delaware Bay, NJCF has provided New Jersey land with the protection it deserves.

In addition, NJCF has been at the forefront of every key legislative initiative to protect farmland, forests, and water quality throughout the State. The foundation has been a leader in the passage of historic legislation to protect the Pine Barrens and the Highlands—respectively the Pinelands Protection Act and the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act—as well as every Green Acre bond initiative.

Today, NJCF continues their good work across the State: from Cape May to the Highlands, from the Hudson to the Delaware.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the New Jersey Conservation Foundation for its 50 years of dedicated work on behalf of the great State of New Jersey.

HONORING LEE'S SUMMIT, MISSOURI, MAYOR KAREN MESSERLI

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, June 23, 2010*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute to Mayor Karen Messerli, who has graciously served the City of Lee's Summit, Missouri, for twenty-one years as an elected official.

Karen Rose Messerli was elected Mayor on April 4, 1994, becoming the first woman to hold that office in the history of Lee's Summit, a fast-growing community of over 93,000 residents, in the Metropolitan Kansas City Area. This year, Mayor Messerli completed sixteen years of dedicated service as Mayor, a tenure which has been prolific for Lee's Summit as well as Missouri's Fifth Congressional District.

Mayor Messerli is widely recognized as an active leader in the metropolitan area on a variety of regional issues. She was a founding member of the Tri City Mayors Coalition, a coalition of mayors from three major cities in Eastern Jackson County. She also served as a member of the Eastern Jackson County Betterment Council, and worked on the successful campaign for the Bi-State Cultural Tax to renovate Kansas City's Union Station. In October 2000, Mayor Messerli was elected as President of the Missouri Municipal League, an organization of over 610 municipalities in Missouri. Prior to this, she served as Vice President and on the Board of Directors. She has also been extremely active in her support of Hope House, an organization serving battered women, as a member of the Board of Directors and serving as co-chair for the Capital Campaign to build a domestic violence shelter in Lee's Summit.

Mayor Messerli has received numerous awards, including being named the Woman of the Year by the State of Missouri Business and Professional Women Organization in 1998. In 2002, she was one of sixty women featured in the book, "A Power of Her Own" by Kathryn Sommer, a collection of stories about women from the Kansas City area who were the first to make significant strides for women. She was also the recipient of the 2004 Missouri Parks and Recreation Association Public Official Achievement Award. In 2009, she received the Dick King Award from the Missouri Economic Development Financing Association to honor her commitment to economic development and community betterment.

The citizens of Lee's Summit know Mayor Messerli as a respected leader whose integrity has brought trust to the city government. To her family, she is a loving wife, a caring mother of two, and an adoring grandmother of three. In addition to her achievements as a public official, Mayor Messerli is also an accomplished equestrian and has won many awards showing Arabian and national show horses in local, regional, and national circuits.

I first met Karen when I was serving as Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, and we developed a friendship that has lasted long past my mayoral terms. One of my greatest memories is attending a concert that featured musical legends such as Smokey Robinson and Stevie Wonder with Mayor Messerli while she was visiting Washington, D.C.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues in the House join me in saluting the former Mayor of Lee's Summit, Karen Messerli, for her leadership and many accomplishments for the City of Lee's Summit, Missouri. We wish her the very best as she leaves public office and pursues other endeavors. Thank you to Karen Messerli for choosing to serve. Her time as Mayor not only enriched the community and residents of Lee's Summit, Missouri, but also the entire Fifth Congressional District.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER  
PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, June 23, 2010*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the monumental contributions of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) on its 70th anniversary. Founded in 1940 by John H. Sengstacke, the NNPA has served as the voice and advocate of African-Americans, highlighting the historical challenges facing their communities. For several decades, the NNPA has been on the frontlines of the struggle for justice and defense of the rights of African Americans. Its impact has extended beyond publishing to affect the lives and livelihoods of African Americans and the history of the nation.

On June 18th, I was humbled to be honored by the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) at its 70th Annual Convention in New York City. Alongside Berry Gordy, the iconic founder of Motown Records and a long-time leader in the entertainment industry, I was presented with the Legacy of Excellence Award.

I would like to thank Danny Bakewell, Sr., Chairman of the NNPA and publisher of the Los Angeles Sentinel, the oldest and largest African American newspaper on the West Coast. Under Mr. Bakewell's leadership, the NNPA has thrived as an organization, which he has headed since July of 2009.

I also wish to recognize two stalwart publishers in the New York City NNPA family: Walter Smith, president of the Northeast Publishers Association and publisher of the New York Beacon; and Elinor Tatum, publisher of The New York Amsterdam News, who took over for her father, the great Wilbert A. Tatum, who passed away in February of 2009.

The history of the Black press in the United States dates back to the early 19th century. The first African-American newspaper, Freedom's Journal, was founded in March of 1827 in New York City. Two of its founders, Reverend Samuel Cornish and John B. Russwurm, proclaimed in the very first issue, "Too long have others spoken for us . . . We wish to plead our own cause." The goals of the Black press were to create their own channels of communication for African Americans, expressing their views on social, political, and economic issues of their time.

The existential mission of the Black press was to fiercely oppose, condemn and agitate against the institution of slavery, the atrocities of lynching, the insults of racial segregation and the brutal injustices against African Americans that denied them their civil and political rights, not to mention their humanity. Freedom's Journal and the African American newspapers that followed laid the foundation for Black publishers, editors, journalists, columnists and cartoonists.

Years later, in March of 1940, John H. Sengstacke of the Chicago Defender organized many of this nation's Black publishers at the first annual convention of what was then the National Negro Publishers Association in Chicago. The objective was to provide a venue for Black publishers to acquaint themselves with each other and to jointly address