

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

the problems ailing their industry. A total of 22 Black publications from 16 cities, including Detroit, Philadelphia and Chicago, were represented. This gathering was the birth of what is now known as the National Newspaper Publishers Association, which even today is widely considered as the most powerful and influential Black organization in the United States.

For seven decades, the NNPA has succeeded in championing the concerns, dreams, and triumphs of African Americans in this country. While there have been many successes, there is much work to be done. We need the Black press today as much as ever. They remain our champions in the fight for economic opportunity, affordable health care, quality education, and political representation.

Madam Speaker, I recognize the contributions of the NNPA, which represents over 200 publishers in the United States and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The NNPA has made an important contribution to democracy by ensuring that the voices of African Americans are heard. I invite my colleagues to honor the legacy of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and their enduring contributions to this country's publishing industry, the African American community, and to the nation.

#### HONORING STEVE SCHMIDT

#### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2010*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Steve Schmidt for being a 2010 inductee into the National Junior College Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Coach Schmidt serves as the Head Men's Basketball Coach at Mott Community College in Flint, Michigan. There will be a salute to his achievements at the college tomorrow.

Steve Schmidt became the Men's Head Basketball Coach at Mott Community College in 1991 and over the past 19 years he has led his team to 3 national championships in 2003, 2007, and 2008. During this time they have never posted a losing record and have won 25 or more games in the last 15 seasons. Under Coach Schmidt's leadership his teams have won 12 conference titles, 7 state championships, and 6 regional championships. At the end of the 2009–2010 season Coach Schmidt's career record is 504–119. He has been named the National Junior College Athletic Association Coach of the Year 3 times, has coached 3 NJCAA Players of the Year and 15 All-Americans.

Coach Schmidt began his coaching career at Lansing Waverly High School and Lansing Community College working without pay. At the age of 28 he was given the job as Men's Head Basketball Coach at Mott Community College and his success with the team has been recognized throughout the community. Three years ago he was inducted into the Greater Flint Sports Hall of Fame and a year ago the gymnasium at Ballenger Fieldhouse was named in his honor.

He credits teamwork as an integral part of his success and has said, "The fact of the matter is I've not won a single game by myself. I've been part of a team. All of this is

possible because of the efforts of all these players. That's a perspective I've never lost."

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding the work of Coach Steve Schmidt's work and dedication to his players. I commend him for his skill, his enthusiasm, and his respect for the players. I wish him continued success in his career coaching men's basketball.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE ELM SPRING BAPTIST CHURCH

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2010*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate the Elm Spring Baptist Church of Holden, Missouri, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

The Elm Spring Baptist Church has undergone many changes since the church's first pastor, George Minton, led the 15 founding members in worship for the first time in July of 1860. Pastor Minton led the congregation until the Civil War disrupted their worship services for six years. After this brief disruption, the church resumed services and constructed the first building on land graciously donated by the Jonathan Newman family. As the congregation has grown, so too has the church's campus; today, the original building is joined by an educational building, a baptistery, and a parsonage. The newest structure is a Fellowship Hall built in 2000.

In recent years, members of the church have focused on serving communities across the United States and the world. To this end, the congregation has led mission trips to Pittsburgh, Orlando, Greenville, and Palissa, Uganda. For 150 years, the Elm Spring Baptist Church has been "Growing the Family of God," and they show no sign of stopping.

Madam Speaker, I trust my fellow Members of the House will join me in congratulating the Elm Spring Baptist Church on the occasion of its 150th anniversary and in wishing its members the best of luck in all future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING 235TH BIRTHDAY OF U.S. ARMY

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 2010*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 286, recognizing the 235th birthday of the United States Army. I rise today to commemorate the birthday of the Army, and the service of every man and woman who has served our country and kept its citizens safe. From the twenty-thousand-man Army first authorized in June of 1775 to the more than half a million in the Army today, millions of soldiers have sacrificed for our Nation. In addition to recognizing this birthday of the Army, I rise to thank and salute all of those in uniform, whether in the active forces, the Reserves, or the National Guard, and the civilian support staff that makes their missions possible. I thank their families as well for the sacrifices they have made.

For more than two centuries, the U.S. Army has protected our borders, responded to threats to our homeland, and helped the people of America in times of need. I am honored to have served in the U.S. Army, and I am proud to represent Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base and their surrounding communities.

Born fully twelve years before the Constitution was written, the Army has proven to be our Nation's most enduring institution. North Carolina's tradition of military service, patriotism, and respect for the military goes back to those earliest days. In fact, the Second District's first Representative was an Army veteran, Hugh Williamson. I am honored to continue that tradition.

Even better than "Happy Birthday" is "Welcome Home". We rejoice every time our soldiers return home from their service safely. This fall, we anticipate that the entire 82nd Airborne will be home in North Carolina for the first time in many years. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating these daily individual returns while we celebrate the institution and its history as a whole.

As we honor this U.S. Army at this significant milestone, we cannot forget that there is a greater need for commitments than for congratulations. I call on my colleagues who join me today in support of this Joint Resolution to also commit to continued support for the funding the Army needs for its ongoing missions, and to support for TRICARE, mental health care, higher education, and military family needs as these heroes return home.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and in celebration of the continued success of America's Army.

#### THE FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINIS- TRATION REFORM ACT OF 2010

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2010*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Federal Housing Administration Reform Act of 2010 (H.R. 5072). This legislation will help ensure the availability of affordable home loans while safeguarding the interests of the American taxpayer.

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) has played a crucial role in stabilizing the nation's housing market during the current recession. Since the financial crisis and credit crisis that followed, nearly 40 million qualified Americans became homeowners and arne insurance through the FHA. The FHA was critical to keeping mortgage loans flowing to credit-worthy home buyers during the foreclosure crisis. As private lenders fled the housing market, the insurance provided by the FHA helped prevent the housing decline from becoming even more severe.

The FHA Reform Act of 2010 will strengthen the FHA loan insurance program and help keep credit available and affordable to responsible homebuyers. Over the last year, the FHA implemented a number of policy changes aimed at curbing risk and increasing its capital reserves. This legislation builds on these reforms and helps reduce risk by increasing net worth requirements for FHA loan originators