

and is sending a clear message: the inclusion of arts in a community will make that community a better place to work, live, and create.

HONORING MRS. JUDITH BERNICE SEEMAN DEL ROSSI AND MR. FRANCIS JOSEPH DEL ROSSI

### HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Judith Bernice Seeman Del Rossi and Mr. Francis Joseph Del Rossi on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Judith and Joseph were married at St. John's Catholic Church in Collingswood, New Jersey, on June 11, 1960. Together, they raised three children: Angeline Rita, Mary Frances, and Francis Joseph. As longtime residents of Pennsauken, New Jersey, Frank taught at Pennsauken High School for 37 years, where he also coached the school's basketball team. Judy served in many Parent Teacher Association leadership roles while her children were young. She recently retired from her job at the Claridge Casino after more than 20 years of service.

Today, Judy and Frank are residing in Marlton, New Jersey. Their 50 years of marriage is a true testament to the loyalty and love they demonstrate in all aspects of their lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me on congratulating Judith and Joseph Del Rossi upon the occasion of their 50th anniversary. For their commitment and generosity to family, friends, and each other, they are to be commended.

HONORING MRS. EGLANTINE MELITA GORDON

### HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Mrs. Eglantine Melita Gordon. It is with both profound sadness but also an enduring sense of gratitude that I recognize her for the tremendous inspiration she provided to both her church and community.

Affectionately known as "Mama G," Mrs. Gordon was born in Riverside, Hanover, Jamaica on November 26, 1916 to the late Jabez Buchanan and Florence Johnson. She attended Riverside All-Age School, Rusea's Comprehensive High School and Bethlehem Teachers College.

Upon graduation, Mrs. Gordon began her professional career as a teacher at Riverside, Wesley, Elletson, and New Providence primary schools in Jamaica and William Gordon Elementary School in the Bahamas. She was also a private tutor.

She was a member of the Meadowbrook United Church in Jamaica and served as an elder, member of the Women's Guild, and participated in the Social Services Outreach Program.

In Miami, Florida, Mrs. Gordon was a member of Bay Shore Lutheran Church. She served as a greeter and member of the Lutheran Women Missionary League. She was the recipient of the Good Samaritan Award of Bay Shore Lutheran Church, which was awarded by the Lutheran Services of Florida.

Mrs. Gordon was married to the late Rupert Carlton Gordon. They had three daughters: Yvonne Elaine Hill, Patricia Evadne Ferdinand and Rose-Marie Gordon-Wallace. She was blessed with a loving family who took pleasure in every aspect of her life and her interests. I offer my heartfelt condolences to her three daughters; sons-in-law, Tyrone Hill, Donald Ferdinand, Frederick Myers, and Roy Anthony Wallace; her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sisters, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all the members of this esteemed legislative body to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Mrs. Eglantine Melita Gordon. I am honored to pay tribute to Mrs. Gordon for her invaluable service and tireless dedication to both her church and local community. She will be missed by all who knew her, and I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to her before the United States House of Representatives.

### FIREARMS EXCISE TAX IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

### HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is long overdue. For years, there have been inconsistencies in the manner in which manufacturers pay their taxes. Under current law, firearm and ammunition manufacturers pay excise taxes into the fund on a bi-weekly basis. All other manufacturers pay on a quarterly basis. This legislation will change this inconsistency and bring a little commonsense into our crazy tax system.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of H.R. 510, to amend the Internal Revenue Code to require that the payment of the manufacturers' excise tax on recreational equipment be paid quarterly. The frequency of tax payments for the firearm and ammunition manufacturers is a burden on the industry. In fact, some manufacturers are forced to secure short-term loans to pay their taxes, thus incurring additional expenses and adding to administrative overhead. The end result is that money is diverted away from core business areas to finance tax payments.

Through this legislation, firearm and ammunition manufacturers will now be able to reinvest more funds into researching and developing new products, purchasing new manufacturing machinery, and increasing marketing and outreach to the hunting and sport shooting community. The federal government will get their taxes, on a quarterly basis as it does from every other manufacturer, so no revenue will be lost.

I urge my colleagues to support the Firearms Excise Tax Improvement Act.

RECOGNIZING THE SALTER FAMILY AS THE 2010 SANTA ROSA COUNTY OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to recognize the Salter family for being named the 2010 Santa Rosa County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year. The hard work and dedication of this family helps not only feed many in the community, but also so many throughout the country. For that reason, Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize their accomplishments.

John, Stacy and their daughter Kailee are fourth generation farmers. The Salter family has been a vital part of the Chumuckla community since the late 1800s. While many things have changed in the field of agricultural science since the 1800s, the Salter family has remained steadfast in their honored tradition of working hard and providing quality goods to market.

In addition to having a determined work ethic that is deeply rooted in the Salter family, they have also begun to sow the seeds of voluntarism in the Northwest Florida community. Mr. John Salter has served as the Chairman of the Blackwater Soil and Conservation District for the past 12 years and is currently Chairman of the Santa Rosa County Farm Service Agency County Committee. Furthermore, Mr. Salter serves as a council member of the Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council. He is also a member of Florida Farm Bureau, Florida Peanut Producers Association and the Southeast Peanut Farmers' Association.

Madam Speaker, our great nation was built by farmers and their families. The Salters serve as an example to all our nation's family farmers. On behalf of the entire United States Congress I applaud their efforts and congratulate them on being named the Santa Rosa County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year. My wife Vicki and I thank them for their work and wish them continued success in the future.

IN MEMORY OF MR. ROBIN WHITLEY HOOD

### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Robin Whitley Hood, who passed away on Sunday, June 27, in Raleigh, NC. Best known for the smile he brought to other's faces and his lifelong community involvement, Whitley will surely be missed.

Robin Whitley Hood was born on January 1, 1932, in Johnston County to parents John Robert and Cleo Wood Hood. He attended Campbell College and graduated from Wake Forest University, where he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. After graduation, Whitley established Robin Hood Enterprises Inc., which still flourishes today. His companies include Whitley Hood Insurance Agency,

Robin Hood Truck Stop and Restaurant, and Robin Hood Oil Company.

In addition to his entrepreneurial endeavors, Mr. Hood served as mayor of the town of Benson from 1971–1979. He was instrumental in the development and growth of Benson, where he was a strong advocate for the community. He played a key role in developing a water line to Benson from the Neuse River and argued strongly for 1–40's current route near Benson over a counterproposal that would have taken it further north. He was named Benson's Citizen of the Year in 1973.

Whitley remained an active member of the community long after his public service. He was a member of the Benson Lions Club, a past patron of Eastern Star, a member of the Benson Stock Club, a member of the Benson GBO, an active member of Benson Baptist Church and a past deacon. He was also a prominent Mason and Shriner.

My best memories of Whitley involve his work as director of the Sudan Clowns for almost 50 years. Whitley loved to bring joy to people's faces and to spread laughs and good cheer to those he met. Many of the Dunn community are familiar with "Happy" the clown and the clown cards he would leave behind; I know that I will never forget the happiness he brought to those around him and I am sure his bright light will not soon be forgotten by others in our community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Mr. Robin Whitley Hood, a beacon of his community and a true exemplar of civic involvement. May he even in passing bring a smile to his loved ones' faces for the wonderful legacy he has left behind.

EXCERPTS FROM TESTIMONY  
GIVEN BY LORNE CRANER

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 1, 2010*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I submit excerpts from the testimony of Lorne Craner, president of the International Republican Institute, IRI, speaking before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on June 10.

Mr. Craner spoke with great clarity about a number of important issues regarding the promotion of human rights and democracy in the context of U.S. foreign policy.

He opened with reflections on President Reagan's conviction that freedom is a birthright—one that ought to be enjoyed by all peoples. Mr. Craner testified:

"President Reagan said 'We must be staunch in our conviction that freedom is not the sole prerogative of a lucky few, but the inalienable and universal right of all human beings. So states the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights . . .'

"But Reagan went beyond simply noting the importance of freedom in the speech. He laid out a strategy to achieve it, stating that 'If the rest of this century is to witness the gradual growth of freedom and democratic ideals, we must take actions to assist the campaign for democracy. While we must be cautious about forcing the pace of change, we must not hesitate to declare our ultimate objectives and to take concrete actions to move towards them.'

"Further, he enunciated a method to help achieve the strategy, saying 'the objective I propose is quite simple . . . to foster the infrastructure of democracy, the system of a free press, unions, political parties, universities, which allows a people to choose their own way to develop their own culture, to reconcile their differences through peaceful means.'

"Reagan counseled patience, noting that 'the task I've set forth will long outlive our generation.' He would be characteristically modest about his role, but within eight years, the number of 'free countries' in Freedom House's survey had risen to 76, compared to 51 at the time of his inaugural, 'partly free countries' had risen to 65 from 51, and 'not free' countries had declined from 60 to 42. Most dramatically, the Soviet bloc had disintegrated. While many West Europeans now claim it was engagement—exemplified by 'Ostpolitik'—that ended the Cold War, those who lived under Soviet domination instead give much credit to Pope John Paul II, Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan . . ."

Later in his testimony Mr. Craner remarked on the critical role that Congress plays in pressing the State Department to elevate these issues of human rights and religious freedom . . . issues which often are downplayed in the name of bilateral relations. Craner noted:

"Indeed, for more than 30 years, beyond the inception of NED, Congress has truly been at the forefront on issues of human rights. For example, the State Department Bureau I headed, for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, was also founded by an act of Congress. On many occasions the Congress has actually led on human rights and democracy policy. The annual State Department Country Reports on Human Rights were established over the objections of the then-administration. I referred earlier to Congressional action on human rights early in the Reagan administration. In the 1990s and this decade, a number of the entities within the State Department intended to advance human rights—the Office of International Religious Freedom, the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism—were also established over administration opposition. The recent Advance Democracy Act was opposed by the then-administration. Legislative action regarding human rights in various countries, from China to El Salvador to South Africa, has been taken by Congress despite the administration's wishes. It is especially important to note that passage of such legislation was undertaken by Congresses with Democratic or Republican majorities during both Democratic and Republican administrations."

Lastly, he spoke compellingly of the need for "Strong, consistent, leadership on democracy and human rights from the top of the administration . . ." He gave several reasons:

"First, much attention is paid to the administration's funding levels for democracy programming. This is substantively important, given what democratic foreign leaders point to as the results of America's democracy programming over the past quarter century, from Chile to the Philippines to Poland, Mongolia, Serbia, Georgia, Moldova, and many others. Here in Washington, it is also seen as a symbolic measure of U.S. support for democracy in countries in remaining repressive countries such as Cuba, Belarus, Iran, and Burma. In in-

stances such as these, Congress can exert its influence by earmarking funds certain countries. The implementation of such earmarks can be greatly influenced by the second reason for strong presidential/administration support: the message sent within the bureaucracy.

"Too often it is easy for the career bureaucracy to minimize democracy and human rights because these elements complicate other bilateral issues, such as economic or trade or security relationships. Skilled diplomats know that it is possible to achieve both. But clear statements by the President and Secretary of State on democracy and human rights contribute to the degree to which efforts will be made by U.S. Country Teams to implement programs and seek to garner international support for those seeking to better their conditions under authoritarian regimes. Under President Clinton and Secretary Albright and President Bush and Secretaries Powell and Rice, for example, U.S. diplomats understood that human rights and democracy were strong emphases of U.S. foreign policy.

"Third, and perhaps most important, the degree of administration support for democracy and human rights is watched closely by autocratic and totalitarian foreign leaders. They are trying to discern how to manage relations with the world's most powerful country. When American leaders diminish our emphasis and consistency on democracy and human rights, foreign leaders understand that they don't have to do as much on those issues to maintain good relations with Washington."

Mr. Craner closed by noting that the Obama administration has gotten off to a weak start on these issues, and that this has not gone unnoticed by those to whom U.S. policy in this regard matters most . . . "democrats and dissidents."

Craner remarked, "Commenting on President Obama's delayed meeting with the Dalai Lama, former Czech President Vaclav Havel said of Beijing 'they respect it when someone is standing his ground, when someone is not afraid of them. When someone soils his pants prematurely, then they do not respect you more for it.'

"Cyberdissident Ahed Al-Hendi stated that previously, in Syria 'when a single dissident was arrested . . . at the very least the White House would condemn it. Under the Obama administration, nothing.'

"Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim said 'Our concern is that the Obama administration is perceived to be softening on human rights . . . once you give a perception that you are softening on human rights, then you are strengthening the hands of autocrats to punish dissidents throughout the world.'

"According to Egypt's Saad Eddin Ibrahim, 'George W. Bush is missed by activists in Cairo and elsewhere who—despite possible misgivings about his policies in Iraq and Afghanistan—benefited from his firm stance on democratic progress. During the time he kept up pressure on dictators, there were openings for a democratic opposition to flourish. The current Obama policy seems weak and inconsistent by contrast.'

I share Mr. Craner's concerns and echo his charge to Congress to stand in the gap even in the face of an administration that is struggling to find its voice on matters which ought to be central in American foreign policy.