

HONORING MILFORD POLICE CHIEF  
WAYNE WALLI

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 2010*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Milford Police Chief Wayne Walli, upon his retirement after a distinguished 39 year career in law enforcement.

After graduating from Rochester High School in 1967, Wayne pursued what he thought would be his career path, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering from Oakland University in 1971. During his senior year at Oakland University Wayne discovered that he no longer felt a passion for the vocation he had chosen. Soon after graduation, Mr. Walli took an extended vacation to New York City where by observing the busy police officers of Manhattan he took an interest in police work.

Upon his return to Michigan, Wayne Walli was elated to discover that the City of Pontiac was hiring police officers. Applying for the position, Walli set himself on the career path he would follow for the next four decades. Chief Walli began his career in law enforcement with the City of Pontiac in 1972. He served that city for 11 years as a police officer, 4½ years as a Sergeant and Captain for 6½ years. Leaving a lasting legacy, Walli authored the orientation manual still employed by the Pontiac Police Department for beginning sergeants.

Walli completed training at the FBI National Academy in 1993 and in 1996 became Police Chief of Milford where he was instrumental in initiating a township wide police millage in 1997. In 2004 he was instrumental in the approval of a millage dedicated to converting the former library to house the police department headquarters. Under his leadership the Milford Police Department increased its patrol and investigative abilities, growing the number of sworn officers from 12 to 20 although the number of officers is currently 18.

Chief Wayne Walli is a member of the FBI National Academy Associates, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police and the Oakland County Association of Chiefs of Police.

Wayne Walli has proven to be a man of dedicated and irreproachable service. His loss will be felt by all the citizens of Milford who wish him nothing but happiness.

Madam Speaker, for 39 years Police Chief William Walli has faithfully served the State of Michigan. As he enters the next phase of his life, he leaves behind a legacy of dedication, integrity, and excellence. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Police Chief William Walli upon his retirement and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and country.

RECOGNIZING LAURA HURD, CODY HUDSON, MARCELO SOMOS VALENZUELA, AND RACHEL CHISHOLM FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK IN SANDERSON, TX

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 2010*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize 4 students for their outstanding contributions in my district and their dedication to academic success. University of Texas students Laura Hurd, Cody Hudson, Marcelo Somos Valenzuela, and Rachel Chisholm recently completed and presented their graduate hydrology projects on flooding in Sanderson, Texas. This is especially important because their academic work will directly benefit the people of Sanderson and Terrell County.

In 1965, Sanderson experienced severe flooding, killing 27 people and devastating the town. In response, the Federal government built \$37 million worth of dams and watershed infrastructure to protect the flood-prone area from any future incidents. This infrastructure has prevented similar devastating floods and changed the flood plain forever; however, the FEMA flood plain maps were never updated to reflect this new infrastructure. The old maps still show much of the town and over 200 residents living in a flood plain that no longer exists. By law, residents living in flood zones are required to purchase flood insurance. For many years residents of this tiny, rural town have been unnecessarily paying for flood insurance.

The town of Sanderson in Terrell County, Texas, is a town of just over 1000 people and is larger than the state of Rhode Island. By itself, this community does not possess the capacity or means to remap its flood zones. With the help of the University of Texas and its graduate hydrology students, the town was able to complete much of the technical and complex analysis required in flood zone mapping. At the same time the students were able to gain valuable experience by completing hands-on coursework.

The students traveled to Sanderson during their Spring Break to begin their work. The community of Sanderson is very appreciative and I am proud to acknowledge their work. I want to again thank Laura Hurd, Cody Hudson, Marcelo Somos Valenzuela, and Rachel Chisholm as well as Mr. David Maidment the Director of the UT Center for Research in Water Resources and other administrators that made this possible.

As a former educator myself, I am always impressed when we can use academic enrichment exercises to improve local communities. This will leave a lasting effect on this community and we are grateful for your work.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JUDY CHU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 2010*

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, on July 26, 2010, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall votes 467, 468 and 469.

Had I been present for vote 468, on H.R. 1320, the Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for vote 469, on H. Res. 1504, recognizing and honoring the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for vote 470, H.R. 3101, the Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING MR. BRIAN TOUPS FOR  
EARNING THE GOLD CONGRESSIONAL AWARD

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 2010*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Brian Toups for earning the Gold Congressional Award. Mr. Toups has proven himself to be an achiever and an exceptionally capable young man. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize him for being awarded with such a distinct and coveted honor.

The Gold Congressional Award is the only congressionally recognized award given to youth. The recipient must meet a rigorous set of requirements. These requirements include a minimum of four hundred community service hours, two hundred hours of personal development and physical fitness activities, and the planning, preparation, and execution of a four night expedition. Not only has Mr. Toups successfully met each requirement, he has surpassed every expectation.

To fulfill the four hundred hours of community service, Mr. Brian Toups spent time working at a program for underprivileged children. While working with these children, Mr. Toups was a shining example of the virtue of volunteerism as he worked to provide a positive influence and make a lasting impact in their lives. Additionally, Mr. Toups pushed his physical limits by enrolling in a competitive gymnastics program. Indeed, this was no easy task. However, focusing his ambition and remaining steadfast in his commitment, he prevailed.

Mr. Brian Toups, spent many hours penning literary works ranging from short stories to novels. Honing his skills as a writer, he has submitted at least 500 pages of stories to a local publisher. In his final effort to earn the Gold Congressional Award, Mr. Toups prepared a journey to Northern Alaska. During this trip, he was faced with numerous challenges as he traversed the rugged road known as the James W. Dalton Highway.

Madam Speaker, throughout the course of his journey, Mr. Brian Toups had an incredible opportunity to develop character and integrity by taking an active role in his community. It is a real privilege to recognize Mr. Toups, and on behalf of the entire United States Congress I congratulate him on his amazing accomplishment.

IN HONOR OF CAROL HARTUNIAN  
GIRVETZ

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 2010*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Carol Hartunian Girvetz of Santa Cruz, California. Carol Hartunian Girvetz passed away on July 4th, 2010. Carol will be remembered always as a loving mother, loyal wife, and dedicated citizen committed to her community.

Carol Hartunian Girvetz was born in Hollywood in 1946 to Armenian immigrant parents. She spent her early years as a young adult studying Art and English at UC Santa Barbara. After college, she began her career as a teacher and quickly changed paths upon taking a job with Pan American as a flight attendant. During this time, she worked on many R&R flights tending to soldiers from the Vietnam War as they traveled to meet their loved ones back at home, and then returning them back to the battlefield.

After her days of traveling with Pan American, Carol returned to California to begin her new life as a wife and mother. Carol and her husband George raised their two children, Evan and Shyla in the small town of Freedom in Santa Cruz County. Her connection with the community was immediate as she became enmeshed in the community's needs. She served on the Women's Commission and along with several women, started the first shelter for female victims of domestic violence. This achievement would be the first of many in her thirty years of service to Santa Cruz County. Carol most recently retired from the position of Assistant County Administrative Officer, where I had worked with her for years. Carol was known by her colleagues for her strong work ethic, great sense of humor, and devotion to public service. She was an extraordinary person and public employee who will always be remembered and missed by her colleagues.

In addition to her work in public service, Carol was also heavily involved in local fine arts in Santa Cruz. She played a large role in the development of the McPherson Center for Art and History. She also served as a board member for such organizations as United Way of Santa Cruz County and Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, among others. Her hard work has given the community and future generations the opportunity to be immersed in fine arts. Her life is a testament to how the commitment of public service can leave a lasting impact on a community.

Madam Speaker, I ask members of the House to join me in honoring the life of Carol Hartunian Girvetz, and extend our nation's deepest gratitude to her thirty years of service to her community. Carol lived sixty-four years of life filled with the love of her family, passion for public service and the arts, and will be greatly missed.

ON THE BIRTH OF CAMERON ROSE  
DONAHUE

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 2010*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Brian Donahue and his wife Julie on the birth of their new daughter Cameron Rose Donahue. Cameron was born on Monday, July 26, 2010, at 3:34 in the afternoon at Arlington, Virginia, with a full head of gorgeous red hair.

Cameron Rose Donahue is 6 pounds of pride and joy to her grandparents, R. Scott and Claudia Horner of New Jersey and Marilyn and Francis Donahue of Florida and New Jersey.

I am so excited for this new blessing to the Donahue family and wish them all the best.

**HONORING GEORGE B. VASHON**

**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 2010*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor George B. Vashon, a 19th century Pennsylvanian who distinguished himself as an African-American educator, abolitionist, poet, and activist, and who earlier this year was posthumously admitted to the bar 163 years after he first tried to break this barrier. Vashon was born in Carlisle, PA in 1824 and raised in Pittsburgh, the son of John B. Vashon, a leading anti-slavery crusader, businessman, and veteran of the War of 1812. Both John and George Vashon were active in the western Pennsylvania abolitionist efforts of the time, helping escaped slaves on the Underground Railroad and organizing Pittsburgh's black community in several anti-slavery gatherings. Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, and Martin Delany were among the Vashons' closest associates and family friends.

Growing up as a student of the abolitionist crusade, George B. Vashon became the first black American to graduate from Oberlin College and soon turned his focus toward the law as the means by which he would effect change. In 1847, after studying under the Honorable Judge Walter Forward, later a U.S. Treasury Secretary, George Vashon applied for admission to the Pennsylvania bar but was denied because of his race. In 1838, a revision of Pennsylvania's constitution restricted the practice of law to white men. Shortly after he was turned down in Pennsylvania, Vashon applied for and passed the New York bar and became the first black lawyer in that state, where he later went on to become the first black person to run for office in New York. Vashon would later also be admitted to the bar of the U.S. Supreme Court. After he gained this achievement, he again sought admission to the Pennsylvania bar, but was denied for a second time.

George B. Vashon's career was mostly spent in education: as one of the first black college professors in this country, an official in Pittsburgh's public school system, a founder and the first black professor at Howard Univer-

sity, and the President of Avery College in Pennsylvania. He helped lead many anti-slavery conventions, was active in the lobbying efforts to pass the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution, and was a contributor to Frederick Douglass' newspaper, *The North Star*.

Madam Speaker, George Vashon's life was dedicated to bringing equality to African Americans and he broke many barriers in trying to do so. Not surprisingly, however, he also faced significant discrimination and his being denied admission to the Pennsylvania bar thwarted his hopes of practicing law in his home state. His many accomplishments and lifework are inspiring and continue to stand as impressive for a person of any color.

In an attempt to remedy what was denied George B. Vashon in his lifetime, his great grandson Nolan Atkinson, a prominent Philadelphia attorney and constituent of mine, was joined by his nephew and Vashon's great, great grandson, Paul Thornell, in petitioning the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on behalf of their ancestor. On May 4, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court righted a wrong in the history books when it posthumously admitted Vashon to the Pennsylvania bar. In doing so, the Court issued the following order: "In acknowledgement of Mr. Vashon's credentials and achievements, this Court hereby admits George B. Vashon to the practice of law in the Courts of this Commonwealth posthumously."

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to share this notable achievement of an outstanding, if lesser-known American—George B. Vashon. It is also a privilege to recognize the important efforts that resulted in his becoming the first African American to gain admission to legal practice in Pennsylvania.

**HONORING THE CROSS PLAINS  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 2010*

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Cross Plains Fire Department.

Since 1910, the Cross Plains area has been under the responsive and watchful eye of the Cross Plains Fire Department. Fire departments play an essential role in any community, and the Cross Plains Fire Department is no exception. Their steadfast vigilance of the area is a reflection of the tight-knit community which they safeguard and the outstanding bravery of the men and women of the Cross Plains Fire Department over the last 100 years is praiseworthy.

The establishment of the Cross Plains Fire Department in 1910 actually predates the incorporation of the Village of Cross Plains. Today, Fire Chief Dale Lochner and his staff operate out of a single fire station, protecting over 41 square miles and almost 4,000 residents. In addition to providing service to the Village of Cross Plains, the station also serves the Townships of Cross Plains and Berry. Whether it is fighting fires, search and rescue, or saving lives as first responders, firefighters are essential to our communities.

Volunteer firefighters risk their lives everyday for the people of their communities and