

HONORING LIEUTENANT JEFF
RACINE ON HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE MICHIGAN STATE PO-
LICE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Detective Lieutenant Jeff Racine on his retirement after 25 years serving in the Michigan State Police. Lt. Racine has carried out his duties with bravery, dedication and enthusiasm for his work, earning the respect of both his colleagues in law enforcement and the communities he has served.

Lt. Racine has dedicated his career to keeping residents in Michigan's Upper Peninsula safe. Early in his career he served as a police officer in the Chocolay Township and Ishpeming Police Departments, later serving as deputy sheriff at the Marquette County Sheriff's Department.

In 1985, Lt. Jeff Racine joined the Michigan State Police, serving his first assignment as a trooper at the Flat Rock Post in Southeast Michigan. Before long, Lt. Racine returned to the Upper Peninsula serving as trooper at both the Munising and Gladstone State Police Posts. His hard work earned him a promotion to Sergeant, serving the Negaunee and Gladstone State Police Posts.

In 2000, Lt. Jeff Racine was promoted to Detective Lieutenant in charge of the Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team (UPSET). He has spent the past decade combating drug trafficking and drug crimes in the Upper Peninsula, a particularly difficult task in a region with vast tracks of rural areas. The UPSET team has investigated more than 520 cases, including 130 federal cases, under Lt. Racine's leadership. He has been particularly effective at fostering working relationships with local law enforcement as well as federal agencies, including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Bureau of Indian Affairs; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the FBI; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and the U.S. Forest Service.

After his years in local law enforcement, and 25 years in the Michigan State Police, Lt. Jeff Racine will retire on August 27, 2010. His departure will be felt by law enforcement across the Upper Peninsula and the state of Michigan, but the impact he has had, especially during his 10 years with UPSET, will remain long after he has gone.

Lt. Racine's wife Crystal has been by his side throughout his career, and in retirement he looks forward to spending more time with her and their children. Lt. Racine is also an avid hunter, and his retirement comes just in time for him to dedicate his full attention to this year's hunting season.

Madam Speaker, Lt. Jeff Racine has devoted his life to enforcing the law and protecting the citizens of Michigan, and his commitment and hard work should be commended. Throughout his career he has touched the lives of countless individuals he has worked with and served. I ask Madam Speaker, that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives, join me in recognizing Lt. Jeff Racine for his courage, his dedication, and his years of service on his retirement from the Michigan State Police.

HONORING PASTOR IRA G.
EDWARDS, SR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pastor Ira G. Edwards, Sr., pastor of Damascus Holy Life Baptist Church. Pastor Edwards is being honored on August 22nd for his work in the Flint community.

Pastor Edwards has been pastor of Damascus Holy Life Baptist Church for the past nine years. He also serves as an instructor for the Great Lake Congress of Christian Education and is an Associate Dean for the Great Lakes Congress of Christian Education. As pastor he has established several programs to help the people of the Flint community. Pastor Edwards started summer feeding programs for youth, established community gardens, and took the lead in the purchasing of a local bar and converting it into a Training Center.

He is a member of Concerned Pastors for Social Action, and cochair of the Flint Area Congregations Together. He is on the National Steering Committee and Clergy Caucus for People Improving Communities through Organizing (PICO) National. He was instrumental in bringing CEASEFIRE/LIFE LINE to Flint. He has devoted his life to assisting with health care, education, financial peace, nutrition, and home foreclosure recovery. Pastor Edwards strives to help the youth of the community to reach their full potential by developing social, economic and academic skills. He works diligently with local, state and federal officials to improve education, housing, and to curb violence and crime.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me today and applaud the work of Pastor Ira G. Edwards, Sr. as he is honored by his congregation and his community. I pray that he will continue to spread the Gospel of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, for many, many years to come.

ACKNOWLEDGING MRS. MARION BUSH LICATA

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mrs. Marion Bush Licata, a remarkable Michigan citizen, upon her ninetieth birthday on August 16, 2010.

Marion Bush was born on August 16, 1920, in Highland Park, Michigan to James and Evelyn Bush. Growing up with two older brothers, Irving and J.V. Richard, Marion attended Cooley High School in Detroit graduating in 1938. While working at Bell Telephone, she went on to attend Wayne State University where she met Anthony Licata.

Marion and Anthony married in August of 1940, celebrating their love for more than fifty-nine years while raising their beloved daughter Susan who was born in 1943. With Anthony Licata serving in the United States Navy, Marion and Susan traveled by train to Virginia Beach, VA and Norman, Oklahoma to be near him.

Marion Bush Licata was actively involved during Susan's elementary school years as she became part of the "Mother Singers" choral group at Cadillac Elementary School in Detroit. She sang in various other choirs, as well. A great proponent of education, Marion returned to Wayne State and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Library Science. She dedicated more than ten years to the Detroit Public School system as an elementary school librarian, passing on a love of reading to the children under her tutelage.

Marion Bush Licata has enjoyed singing in musical groups, painting, using both oil and water color, creating stained glass, embroidery, making dolls, sewing, reading and listening to music. Marion also was very involved in her late husband Anthony's political activities. She actively supported Anthony's successful campaign to be seated in the Michigan House of Representatives during a special election in 1967. Marion Bush Licata maintained her interest in politics by attending local and state Republican Conventions for many years.

Marion Bush Licata finds great joy in her granddaughter Krista and continues to be a supportive and influential part of Krista's life. Mrs. Licata has continued to care for her immediate family and has always been a source of strength to the extended Bush and Licata families.

Madam Speaker, for ninety years Marion Bush Licata has graced the world with her kindness, hard work, and community spirit. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Marion Bush Licata upon reaching her ninetieth birthday and to honor her commitment to her community and her country.

RECLAIMING POLITICS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following.

Rick Levin, the President of Yale University, recently delivered this year's commencement address, "Reclaiming Politics."

While his comments were directed to graduating seniors, they speak more broadly to all those interested in public service and in improving our political system.

I hope my colleagues and others will appreciate a reasoned and articulate discussion of such a timely subject.

BACCALAUREATE ADDRESS: RECLAIMING
POLITICS

(By President Richard C. Levin)

What a journey you have had! Four years of exploring a place so rich with treasure: courses taught by some of the world's most brilliant and creative scholars and scientists, a library with few peers, museums that expose you to the full variety of nature and human cultures, musical and theatrical performances of the highest quality, vigorous intercollegiate and intramural athletic programs, and classmates whose excellence never ceases to astonish—and all this set within the imposing and inspiring architecture of a campus that is itself a museum. You have had the chance to interact with classmates from 50 states and 50 nations, and the great majority of you have taken advantage of Yale's abundant international programs to spend a semester or a summer abroad.

In the classroom, you were encouraged to engage thoroughly and rigorously in thinking independently about the subjects you studied. You were challenged to develop the powers of critical reasoning fundamental to success in any life endeavor. Outside the classroom, as you worked productively in the hundreds of organizations you joined or founded, you exercised the skills of teamwork and leadership. In your overseas experiences, you deepened your capacity for understanding those whose values and cultures differ from your own—preparing you for citizenship in a globally interconnected world. You may not recognize this in yourselves, but you are ready for what is next.

Understandably, you may be uncertain and a bit anxious about what lies ahead. But, if history is to be trusted, you will find many paths open to you. Because of the talent you possessed before you came here, as well as the intellectual and personal growth you have experienced here, you will find, with high likelihood, success in your chosen endeavors. And we expect you to stay connected. The vibrant life of this university is greatly enriched by the deep commitment and active participation of its graduates—think of all the master's teas and guest lectures and college seminars offered by our alumni. And keep in mind that when you thanked your parents a few moments ago, you might also have been thanking the generations of Yale graduates whose gifts past and present supported half the total cost of your education.

Perhaps I am overconfident about your prospects for personal fulfillment and professional success, but I don't think so. If you will concede my point for the sake of argument, let's ask the next question, one so deeply rooted in Yale's mission and tradition that for most of you, fortunately, it has become ingrained. And that question is: how can I serve? How can I contribute to the wellbeing of those around me, much as we all have done in building communities within the residential colleges and volunteering in so many valuable roles in the city of New Haven? Now is an important time to be asking this question. Let me suggest why, and then let me suggest an answer.

Aristotle tells us that we are by nature political animals. But one wonders whether he would recognize the species that we have become. Eighteen months ago, the United States elected a new president who was prepared to address, intelligently and collaboratively, the most pressing problems confronting the nation—education, health care, climate change, and improving America's image in the rest of the world. Late in the election campaign, the financial crisis intervened, and economic recovery and financial sector reform were added to this ambitious agenda.

What has happened since does not inspire great confidence in the capacity of our system to deal intelligently with important problems. We legislated a stimulus package that was less effective than it should have been, and far less effective than the corresponding measures undertaken in China. Fifteen months later, unemployment in the United States is still 9.9%. After months of stalemate, Congress enacted a health care bill that extends care to millions of uncovered individuals and families, but takes only the most tentative steps toward containing the escalating costs that will create an unsustainable burden of public debt within the next decade or two. We failed to address climate change in time to achieve a meaningful global agreement in Copenhagen. And, although financial sector reform now seems

to be a possibility, the debate has been replete with misunderstanding of what actually went wrong and a misplaced desire for revenge.

Why is this happening? Let me make two observations, and then trace their implications for how you might conduct yourselves as citizens and participants in political life. First, contemporary political discussion is too often dominated by oversimplified ideologies with superficial appeal to voters. And, second, political actors in the United States give too much weight to the interests of groups with the resources to influence their re-election, and too little attention to the costs and benefits of their actions on the wider public.

In *The Federalist* (No. 10), James Madison addresses the second of these observations, in the context of the fledgling republic established by the U.S. Constitution. He notes that the tendency to pursue self-interest can never be entirely suppressed, but it can be mitigated by the proper design of political institutions. In contrast to a direct democracy where individuals would tend to vote their own interests, a republican form of government, Madison argues, will have a greater tendency to select representatives who attend to the broader interests of the whole. And, he further argues, representatives in a large republic constituted of a wide range of divergent interests will find it easier to rise above parochialism than those in a smaller republic comprised of a small number of competing factions.

The protections that our form of government offers against ideology and faction have attenuated greatly since Madison's time, for at least two reasons. First, mass communication increases the opportunity to sway voters by appeal to simple formulations. Of course, the rise of mass communication could be a tool for raising the level of discourse through more effective education of the electorate. But it interacts with the second attenuating factor: that the money required to win elections through the media has created a dependence on funding from special interest groups. And it is these interest groups who distort reasoned dialogue by sponsoring oversimplified messages.

It is easy to see how these developments have thwarted recent efforts to shape responsible public policy. For example, the interest groups opposing health care reform defeated efforts to contain costs by labeling them "death panels," and they defeated the creation of a new public vehicle for providing health insurance by insisting that we must "keep government out of the health care business," when in fact Medicare, Medicaid, and the Veterans Administration already pay nearly 40 per cent of the nation's health care bill. I am not taking sides here, only pointing to the fact that intelligent debate on these subjects was crowded out by ideological distortion.

How can we create a national and global dialogue that transcends such oversimplification and parochialism? Let me suggest that we need each of you to raise the level of debate. You came here to develop your powers of critical thinking, to separate what makes sense from what is superficial, misleading, and seductive. Whether you have studied literature, philosophy, history, politics, economics, biology, physics, chemistry, or engineering, you have been challenged to think deeply, to identify the inconsistent and illogical, and to reason your way to intelligent conclusions. You can apply these powers of critical discernment not simply to fulfill personal aspirations, but to make a contribution to public life.

Every signal you have received in this nurturing community has been unwavering in its message that the growth of your competencies is not to benefit you alone. You have learned in your residential colleges that building a successful community has required you to respect and value one another, and, when appropriate, to moderate your own desires for the benefit of the whole. And so it should be in your lives after Yale. If you are to help to solve this nation's problems—or work across national boundaries to address global problems such as climate, terrorism, and nuclear proliferation—you will need to draw upon both these fruits of a Yale education: the capacity to reason and the ethical imperative to think beyond your own self-interest.

I know that many of you are taking advantage of these first years after graduation to take up public service, and I hope that even more of you will consider this path. There are plenty of jobs in the public sector for enterprising recent graduates; many are short-term but others may lead to careers. Many of you have signed up to be teachers. Others will enter business or the professions. But whatever choice you make, you can help to strengthen the nation and the world—by treating political choices not as triggers for an ideological reflex and not as opportunities to maximize self-interest. To combat reflexive ideologies, you must use the powers of reason that you have developed here to sift through the issues to reach thoughtful, intelligent conclusions. To combat parochialism, you must draw upon the ethical imperative that Yale has imbued in you—an imperative that begins with the golden rule. Whether you serve in government directly or simply exercise your responsibilities as a citizen and voter, recognize that we will all be best served if we take account not merely of our own self-interest, but the broader interests of humanity. To move beyond ideology and faction, we need to raise the level of political discourse. You, as the emerging leaders of your generation, must rise to this challenge.

In first paragraph of *The Federalist* (No. 1), writing about the infant republic whose constitution he was endeavoring to defend, Alexander Hamilton asserts:

It has frequently been remarked, that it seems to have been reserved to the people of this country, by their conduct and example, to decide the important question, whether societies . . . are really capable or not, of establishing good government from reflection and choice . . .

There is much in America's history of the past two and a quarter centuries that would incline us to conclude that Hamilton's question has been answered in the affirmative. Our institutions of representative government have proven themselves to be durable; the rule of law has prevailed, and the scope of personal liberty has expanded far beyond what the founders envisioned. But today, in the face of oversimplified ideology and the dominance of narrow interests, we must wonder again whether Hamilton's question is still open.

Women and men of the Yale College class of 2010: It falls to you, the superbly educated leaders of your generation, to rise above ideology and faction, to bring to bear your intelligence and powers of critical thinking to elevate public discourse, to participate as citizens and to answer the call to service. Only with your commitment can we be certain that our future will be decided by "reflection and choice" in the broad best interest of humanity. You can do it. Yes you can.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING DEBORAH OBERLIN ON BEING NAMED "TOYS FOR TOTS" NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program collects toys every year for distribution to underprivileged children during the holiday season;

Whereas, since its founding, the Toys for Tots Program has distributed more than 400 million toys to more than 188 million children;

Whereas, the Carroll, Harrison, and Jefferson County Toys for Tots Organization served 2,656 children in 2009 under the leadership of Deborah Oberlin;

Whereas, the Toys for Tots Program considers a number of factors in selecting a National Coordinator of the Year, including the number of children reached relative to the community population and the spirit of teamwork demonstrated by the organization;

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Deborah Oberlin on being selected as the National Coordinator of the Year for the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program for 2009, and for her hard work serving the children of Ohio through this outstanding organization.

GERARD PLACIDE

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, The Caribbean community is a vital part of our Nation and its members are known worldwide; and

Whereas, Gerard Placide, not only talks the talk, but he walks the walk as it relates to our elected officials and our community working together to strengthen the relationships between the Caribbean community and citizens throughout our country; and

Whereas, Gerard Placide has served our nation honorably in the United States Army for six and a half years, he is a Goodwill Ambassador for not only the citizens in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, Trinidad and Tobago, the Cayman Islands, and all of the Caribbean Nations; and

Whereas, this wise psalmist and man of God has shared his time and talents for the betterment of his community and his nation through his tireless works, inspirational singing and words of encouragement and motivation that have and continues to be a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Caribbean community and Gerard Placide on this day and for outstanding leadership and service to our District:

Now, therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim June 18, 2010 as

Gerard Placide Day, in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 18th day of June, 2010.

IN HONOR OF 16 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE BY THE NOVA-ANNANDALE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2010 AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra for providing our community with outstanding performances for the past 16 years and to recognize its 2010 Award Recipients.

In 1994, Dr. Claiborne Richardson of the Reunion Music Society (RMS) and Dr. Gladys Watkins of the Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), Annandale Campus, formed a partnership between to create the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra combines the talents of local professional and amateur musicians and college students to develop their skills by performing the music of different cultures and heritages.

On April 16, 2010, during the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra's "Colors of Spring" concert the RMS announced award recipients in two special categories: The Richardson-Watkins Founders Awards, which recognize persons or businesses from the community that have made significant contributions to the success of the RMS' programs, and The Orchestra/Players Awards, for which musicians are recognized by their peers for making significant contributions to the success and development of the symphony orchestra over several years.

The 2010 recipients of The Richardson-Watkins Founders Awards are:

Campbell & Ferrara Nurseries in Annandale, Va., and its Garden Manager, Karen Stay, for many years of providing complimentary flower arrangements displayed in the lobby of the NOVA Theater during the orchestra's concerts and for helping to promote concerts at its store. Ms. Stay always makes sure the floral arrangements are delivered on time.

Mr. Steven Metzger, owner of "Expert Software Design," who has hosted the RMS' website for many years, making timely changes, and absorbing all expenses. His diligence in maintaining the website is particularly noteworthy since he commutes between his home in Fairfax, Va., and his full-time job in Frederick, Md. Mr. Metzger has been instrumental in converting the website (www.reunionmusic.org) to a new, exciting design.

Dr. Barbara Saperstone, Provost of NOVA's Annandale Campus, who has supported RMS programs over a decade, including needed resources for the orchestra such as acoustical enhancements in the college theater. Through her leadership the college has provided at no cost to the orchestra or the RMS use of rehearsal rooms and the theater, purchase of music scores and printing of "playbills" for concerts.

The recipients of The Orchestra/Players Awards are:

Mrs. Nancy McKinless, who has served for many years as the orchestra's librarian and plays the violin at concerts. Mrs. McKinless ensures that the musicians have appropriate music scores for rehearsals and concerts. This involves dealing with music libraries for renting or purchasing music.

Mr. Rolland ("Bucky") Roup, who plays the violin. Mr. Roup devotes many hours to carefully coordinate logistical matters with the orchestra's music director and with the NOVA theater technical staff, and he has trained a cadre of other orchestra members to assist in stage management.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra for continuing to offer outstanding concerts in collaboration with the RMS and NOVA, and I also ask that we commend the 2010 recipients of The Richardson-Watkins Founders Awards and of The Orchestra/Players Choice Awards.

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF ROCK HILL FOR WINNING THE "EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS AWARD" FROM THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the city of Rock Hill, South Carolina for receiving a Municipal Achievement Award from the Municipal Association of South Carolina for excellence in communications. MASC established these awards in 1987 in an effort to encourage innovations and excellence in local government.

The city of Rock Hill won this year's award for RH19, the city's government access channel, which not too long ago was in a dire state. With no upgrades since the 1980s, malfunctioning cameras, a signal that did not meet broadcast specifications, and inadequate audio capabilities, the result was an unimpressive broadcast that was not taken seriously.

What RH19 did have, however, is a dedicated staff that responded with urgency when the Rock Hill City Council decided in 2008 that one of its strategic goals would be to provide "open and effective communication" to the citizens of that community.

After doing an inventory of the city's existing means of communication, the staff decided that the public access station was the most deficient and in need of modernizing. According to the Municipal Association of South Carolina, RH19 staff took a "modest budget and a rebate from a terminated franchise agreement with the local cable provider" and went to work, fixing existing equipment and buying new software and equipment to replace those items beyond repair. Moreover, they developed a "branded" look for the channel and established standardized production schedules, opting for "short, well-executed messages" to ensure the most current information was aired to the public. RH19 also recruited students from local colleges and universities to work as interns, providing them a significant and lasting experience in media production and journalism.