

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.

With the equipment updated and the quality of the broadcast signal enhanced, the city of Rock Hill began to air several programs of public interest and even posted the videos on YouTube to maximize exposure. These changes have met with widespread praise and appreciation across the city of Rock Hill, and are a perfect example of what can happen when people in our community see a problem, set a goal and carry out the arduous work necessary to achieve those goals. I congratulate RH19 for this impressive achievement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EVIDENCE REGISTRY (SAFER) ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce this important bipartisan legislation, the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Registry (SAFER) Act, with my colleagues, Representatives POE, RICHARDSON, and COHEN.

I have been working on the issue of DNA technology since 2001 when I, along with former Representative Steve Horn, held a hearing in the Government Reform Committee where we heard from a courageous rape survivor, Debbie Smith. It was for Debbie, and the thousands of rape survivors like her, that I authored "The Debbie Smith Act" to provide federal funding to process the unconscionable backlog of DNA evidence. This legislation passed as part of the Justice for All Act of 2004, authorizing the necessary funding to start processing the backlog through the creation of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program.

Since 2004, millions of dollars in funding have been appropriated under the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program. Efforts to eliminate the national backlog of rape evidence samples that have not been tested for DNA have been slowed or stymied by the lack of solid data on the extent and nature of the remaining backlog. While there is extensive evidence that we are making progress towards eliminating the backlog, policy makers lack a reliable estimate of the number of kits awaiting testing, or even how many kits remain at each stage of the process (in police custody, at labs awaiting processing, etc.).

This legislation addresses these issues by creating an incentive grant program to provide funding to cover the upfront costs of auditing state and local jurisdictions backlogs of DNA rape evidence samples. The bill would also direct the Justice Department to create the National Rape Kit Registry, a simple database that will track the status of every rape evidence kit waiting to be processed.

As Congress considers legislation to amend the Debbie Smith Act or make other changes to DNA testing policy, it is crucial that we first gather reliable, comprehensive backlog data. DNA evidence does not forget and it cannot be intimidated. By processing this evidence, we can prevent rapists from attacking more innocent victims and ensure that the survivors and their families receive justice.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE SYLVIA POITIER ON THE OCCASION OF HER 75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dear personal friend and dedicated public servant, the Honorable Sylvia Poitier, who will be celebrating her 75th birthday on September 4. Sylvia is currently serving her second consecutive term as District 2 Commissioner of the City of Deerfield Beach, Florida.

Sylvia is a public servant, community leader, educator, philanthropist, and entrepreneur whose commitment to civic duty and the citizens of Deerfield Beach is truly inspiring. A lifelong resident of Deerfield Beach and of District 2, Sylvia has spent her entire career working to improve the lives of children, young people, and all those who live in Deerfield Beach. After opening the Deerfield Beach Cleaners and Laundry in 1956, Sylvia pursued a career in Early Childhood Education and earned a certificate in Early Childhood Development from Broward Community College. Combining her business expertise with her passion for children, she opened Kiddies Kollege Kindergarten and the Children's Cultural Center, Inc.

In 1973, Sylvia was elected to the Deerfield Beach City Commission, where she served from 1973–1985. Furthermore, she served as Vice Mayor in 1975 and as Mayor from 1976–1977. Following her three distinguished terms on the City Commission, Governor Bob Graham appointed her to the Board of Broward County Commissioners in 1985, where she served from 1986–1998. During her tenure as City and County Commissioner, Sylvia provided affordable housing to residents in Broward County, served as a founding Board Member of the Deerfield Beach Boys and Girls Club, and was involved in the development of Westside Park. As Commissioner of District 2 since 2005, she is now engaged with creating economic development along the Dixie Highway corridor and bringing a sense of unity to the City at large.

In addition to her many professional achievements, Sylvia also takes an active role in many public service, social, and community organizations. Currently, she serves as Chairperson for the Community Action Agency and is a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board.

In addition, Sylvia has served on several boards and committees, including Deerfield Beach's Unclassified Civil Service Board. She was also the first African American president of the Broward County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations, an Advisory Board member to the Red Cross, Broward County Chapter, and a member of the Community Service Council and Man Power Planning Association.

Madam Speaker, Sylvia Poitier is truly a friend to me, the City of Deerfield Beach, and to the State of Florida. It is with great honor and joy that I wish her a very happy 75th birthday.

RELIEF EFFORTS TO ASSIST VICTIMS OF THE FLOODS IN PAKISTAN

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims of the floods that began on July 29, 2010 in northwestern Pakistan. Twelve million people have already been affected, and the Pakistani government estimates that millions more could be affected as the floods spread to the lower half of Punjab and the Sindh region. Already, there are counted more than 1600 dead, and the flooded regions have become plagued by water-borne diseases such as cholera and dysentery. The death toll could escalate tragically if major dams, such as the Guddu and Sukkur, fail as a result of the flood waters.

The United States has taken an active role in responding to this disaster in Pakistan. The U.S. military has rescued hundreds of people and delivered tens of thousands of pounds of relief supplies. Hundreds of thousands of halal meals have been provided to victims and relief workers. The U.S. Agency for International Development is coordinating the \$35 million in U.S. assistance funds that will help provide food, health care, water, sanitation, and shelter for those displaced by the floods. I commend the humanitarian efforts of our troops and civilian personnel in the region. We must continue to do all we can to assist the Pakistani people at this terrible time.

LANCE CORPORAL SHANE MARTIN MARINE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and a heavy heart that I pay tribute to an American warrior from the 2nd District of Texas today: United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Shane Martin.

Shane was killed during combat operations on July 29 while conducting a mounted patrol in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

He is the 35th in an honored, sacred roll of American warriors from my district who have given their lives fighting the coward terrorists who attacked America on September 11th.

Shane was 23 years old. He had already served a tour of duty in Iraq with the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion based out of Camp Pendleton.

Shane so loved liberty and freedom and this great melting pot called America.

Born in South Africa, Shane lived his early years there and in Kenya before moving to a ranch in Burton, Texas at age 12. When he was 16 years old, Shane moved with his family to Spring, Texas.

After he graduated from Klein Collins High School, Shane married his high school sweetheart, Lauren. Shane proudly joined the United States Marine Corps defending the country he so loved.

While serving America on the battlefields of Iraq, Shane proudly earned his American citizenship.