

could understand their significance. He believed passionately that "racial equality in America started in the skies over Europe." He and two other Tuskegee Airmen were featured in the 2006 Documentary "On Freedom's Wings: Bound for Glory, the Legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen" which was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Veterans Museum in Media, PA. He also designed the plaque dedicated in memory of the Tuskegee Airmen in Arlington National Cemetery. In May 1995, he was selected by President Bill Clinton to represent the U.S. Air Force for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of VE Day, and he accompanied President Clinton and Vice-President Gore to Europe.

Captain Smith was a member of a unique group of men who possessed an unabashed devotion to this nation and a belief in the strength of American values, even at a time when their country's laws failed to reflect the values for which they fought.

On Friday, at 9:05 AM, the First Fighter Wing from Langley Air Force Base will offer the ultimate recognition of Captain Smith's service to this nation. Like Captain Smith, throughout its storied history, the U.S. Air Force First Fighter Wing has been a trailblazer—leading the way in bringing new fighters operational. Four F-15 fighter jets will fly over the internment services for Captain Smith. In the words of Captain Smith's son Gordon—"I would like to think that my Dad will be beaming with joy and appreciation."

To Captain Smith's widow, Lois G. Smith, his son Gordon and daughter Deborah, I offer this tribute. As this nation prepares to honor the memory of Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, it is fitting that we also honor the memory of Captain Luther H. Smith, Jr.—like Dr. King, a great American hero who fought to realize America's commitment to freedom for all.

### 31ST ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life, and, unfortunately, his untimely death, reminds us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District will be recognized during the 31st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Saturday, January 16, 2010, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

This year, the Gary Frontiers Service Club will pay tribute to several local individuals who have for decades unselfishly contributed to improving the quality of life for the people of Gary. Those individuals who will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast include: Ms. Ella Bush, Ph.D., Mr. Charles Deggans, Mr. Arthur Hoyle, Reverend R.T. Mitchell, and Mr. Linus Scott. Additionally, our distinguished State Senator Earline Rogers and Ms. Era C. Twyman will be honored with the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award, an award given out annually to outstanding individuals of the Gary community, while Mr. Claude Powers will be recognized as the 2009 Frontier of the Year.

Though very different in nature, the achievement of all these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and faced them with unwavering strength and determination. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." They set goals and work selflessly to make them a reality.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Gary Frontiers Service Club officers: President Oliver J. Gilliam, Vice President James Piggee, Secretary Melvin Ward, Financial Secretary Sam Frazier, and Treasurer/Seventh District Director Floyd Donaldson, as well as Breakfast Chairman Clorius L. Lay, Videographer Otho Lyles, Master of Ceremony Alfred Hammonds, the honorees, and all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to serving the people of Northwest Indiana.

### HONORING MILTON VARDEMAN PADGETT

#### HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Milton Vardeman Padgett on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Vardeman was born January 13, 1910 in the Blackland community in Northeast Mississippi to John and Hulda Padgett.

At a young age, Vardeman fell in love with the game of basketball and played at Jumpertown. To this day, he enjoys watching basketball and has become a devoted fan of the Memphis Grizzlies. Vardeman worked as a carpenter for Fisher Aircraft in Memphis during WWII, but worked as a farmer throughout his life.

Vardeman married Margaret Geno Padgett and was a devoted husband for 65 years until her death in 1996. Mr. and Mrs. Padgett reared two children, Harrell Padgett and Janie Padgett McCall. He also has four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

Vardeman still lives in his home in Jumpertown, Mississippi and is being cared for by his daughter Janie. He says his longevity in life is attributed to always honoring his father and mother. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Vardeman Padgett on his 100th birthday.

### RECOGNIZING STEPHEN LUCAS, DIRECTOR OF JAMES A. HALEY VETERANS' HOSPITAL AND CLINICS

#### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Stephen Lucas, the director of the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital and Clinics in Tampa, Florida, who is retiring after a distinguished 37 years of federal and military service. As the director of Haley Veterans' Hospital, Mr. Lucas oversaw one of the largest veterans' health care systems in the United States, comprised of the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital and the associated outpatient clinics affiliated with the University of South Florida College of Medicine.

Mr. Lucas, a Navy veteran who served on the USS *Iwo Jima* and in Vietnam, began his VA career in 1974 and since has served at multiple VA medical centers across the United States. Mr. Lucas also worked in the private sector, including as the senior hospital consultant with Sun Health, Inc., as the director of management engineering at the Madisonville Regional Health Center in Kentucky, and at the Baton Rouge General Hospital in Louisiana.

During Mr. Lucas's tenure at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, he received awards recognizing his significant achievements and leadership skills, including the 2009 Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence award. Additionally, during his tenure at the Miami VA Medical Center and Clinics, the Medical Center received the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence Award for providing the highest quality of care, as well as the Governor's Sterling Award, which recognizes organizations that have achieved performance superiority within their establishment.

I also would like to recognize the contributions of Mr. Lucas's family, including his wife Sheri, his daughter Amanda and his two sons, Mathew and Thomas. The commitment by Mr. Lucas to the Haley Veterans' Hospital meant sacrifices from his family. Those sacrifices are highly appreciated by the veterans' community served by the hospital.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Lucas is a true American hero who should be recognized for his outstanding military service, as well as his exemplary career. Haley's Veterans' Hospital has truly been blessed to have such a worthy and honorable citizen as its director. I wish him well on his retirement.

### TRIBUTE TO BUTLER COUNTY ON THEIR 200TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Butler County in the First Congressional District of Kentucky on their 200th Anniversary. This momentous occasion not only celebrates the rich history of Butler County, but the many thousands of residents who

over the years have made it a vibrant and thriving community.

Butler County was formed on January 18, 1810 and was named for General Richard Butler, a Revolutionary War soldier. With the introduction of a navigation system for the Green and Barren Rivers in the 1830's, a new mode of transportation in the area began and brought with it many new people to the area including merchants, miners, loggers, river workers, engineers and carpenters.

The Civil War slowed development of the county. Following the war, former soldiers from both sides joined together to raise funds for a Civil War Monument that was dedicated in May 1907. The monument is believed to be one of the only two existing memorials which honors both Confederate and Union soldiers.

Today, Butler County attracts many tourists who come to visit the historic sites of the area, steamboat era museum, Green River and many other attractions. The county also hosts the Green River Catfish Festival every year. Anglers from around the country travel to Butler County to try and catch one of the numerous tagged catfish released into the river for cash prizes. The top prize is \$50,000.

To commemorate the county's 200th Anniversary, community leaders and residents of Butler County have planned a year's worth of events to educate Kentuckians about the history of Butler County and celebrate its residents and culture. A book entitled Butler County, Kentucky—History and Families is also being compiled which features stories about communities and families in Butler County as written by residents. It is my privilege to represent Butler County in the U.S. House of Representatives and I hope my colleagues in Congress will join me in celebrating this community and its residents.

#### HONORING CHUCK MACK

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chuck Mack of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. On January 15, 2010, the Teamsters Joint Council 7 will host a Testimonial Dinner in San Francisco, California, honoring Chuck's exemplary career in the labor movement.

Chuck joined the Teamsters in the summer of 1960 as a Del Monte seasonal worker, and continued as a loader and driver for Garrett Trucking for four years. In 1966, Chuck was elected business agent at Teamsters Local 70 and was re-elected in 1969. In 1971, at the request of the Teamster leadership, Chuck served as a lobbyist in Sacramento for the California Teamsters Public Affairs Council. He returned to Local 70 the following year and was elected secretary-treasurer and served in that capacity until June 2009.

He became president of Joint Council 7 in 1982 and served in that position until June 2009, making him the second longest-serving Joint Council president. In 1998 he was elected vice president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Western Region. He was re-elected to this office in 2001 and 2006.

Chuck was appointed IBT director of Port Division in 2003 and remained in this position

until June 2009. As port director, he built a powerful coalition of labor, community, environmental and interfaith groups to fight for economic justice for drivers and environmental justice for communities. Since 1981, he has served as a Western Conference of Teamsters Pension Trustee and became co-chair in 2009.

Chuck Mack's commitment to labor and to the welfare of others has earned him the deep respect of his members and others. To quote Chuck, "the most rewarding part of this job has always been the members. Meeting with them one-on-one and listening to what they have to say, providing strong representation so that they have good jobs with good wages, good health care and a strong pension . . . jobs that provide for them and their families."

I join Chuck Mack's colleagues and friends in honoring his contributions and his continuing service.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that due to illness, I missed 30 votes on December 9, 2009 through December 11, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On H. Res. 955, Providing for consideration of H.R. 4213, the Tax Extenders Act, on ordering the previous question, I would have voted yes.

On H. Res. 955, Providing for the consideration of H.R. 4213, the Tax Extenders Act, on agreeing to the resolution, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 3951, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 Louisiana Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the Roy Rondono, Sr. Post Office Building, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4213, Tax Extenders Act of 2009, Table Appealing of the Ruling of the Chair, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4213, Tax Extenders Act of 2009, on passage, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 3603, To rename the Ocmulgee National Monument, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, I would have voted yes.

On H. Res. 956, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives, markets, and for other purposes, on agreeing to the resolution, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 86, To eliminate an unused light-house reservation, provide management consistency by bringing the rocks and small islands along the coast of Orange County, California, and meet the original Congressional intent of preserving Orange County's rocks and small islands, and for other purposes, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, I would have voted yes.

On H. Res. 961, Providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3288) making appropriations for the De-

partments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, on ordering the previous question, I would have voted yes.

On H. Res. 961, Providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3288) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, on agreeing to the resolution, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 3288, Making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, HUD, and related agencies for FY 2010, on agreeing to the conference report, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4017, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 43 Maple Avenue in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, as the Ann Marie Blute Post Office, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, I would have voted yes.

On H. Res. 962, Waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, on agreeing to the resolution, I would have voted yes.

On H. Res. 964, Providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes, on agreeing to the resolution, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4173, Frank of Massachusetts amendment No. 1, as modified, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4173, Sessions of Texas amendment, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted no.

On H.R. 4173, Lynch of Massachusetts amendment, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4173, Murphy of New York amendment No. 6, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted no.

On H.R. 4173, Frank of Massachusetts amendment No. 7, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4174, Stupak of Michigan amendment No. 8, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4173, Stupak of Michigan amendment No. 9, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4173, Kanjorski of Pennsylvania amendment No. 12, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4173, McCarthy of California amendment, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted no.

On H.R. 4173, Peters of Michigan amendment, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4173, Marshall of Georgia amendment, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4173, Schakowsky of Illinois amendment, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted yes.

On H.R. 4173, Minnick of Idaho amendment, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted no.

On H.R. 4173, Bachus of Alabama Substitute Amendment, as Modified, on agreeing to the amendment, I would have voted no.