

dedicated AIDS center for long-term care patients.

It was through her work in healthcare that Rivers began to develop a commitment to volunteerism. Her commitment has continued to grow over the last 15 years, and she has become involved in organizing holiday events for foster children, raising funds through AIDSwalk, the Susan G. Komen Race For the Cure and working with children with cancer and their families at the Ronald McDonald House of NY. She has also coordinated mammography reminders for breast cancer awareness in all Macy's stores in the New York City area in conjunction with the City Council Speaker's Office of New York.

Iasha's passion for children and education has led her to giving presentations for college students on dressing for your success. She has also taught business seminars at the Henry Street Settlement for displaced workers building the skills to get back in the workforce.

Ms. Rivers is currently the 2010 Chair of SOCAP's (Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals International) Conference Board. She has also been named the Chair for United Way's 2011 Women United in Philanthropy—The Power of Women. With her combination of leadership, communication skills and volunteerism, Iasha was recently honored with a national award for the 40 Under Forty Dynamic Achievers in 2010. She has also been recognized by the United Way with the prestigious Rising Star Award in 2009.

Rivers attended Hunter College for a B.S. in Economics and is currently pursuing a degree in International Affairs at Columbia University.

Iasha is a single mom of two children, Andrew and Brianna, and lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Iasha A. Rivers.

**FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT ACT**

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Federal Employees Responsible Investment Act, which would add a socially responsible investment option to the Thrift Savings Plan.

The reckless actions of financial institutions and corporations that contributed to our nation's recession have provided countless illustrations of the need to place a greater emphasis on good corporate governance, as well as social and environmental practices that contribute to safety and sustainability. We must create an environment in which businesses take care of—and are held accountable to—their shareholders, employees and customers. Companies should be encouraged to implement sustainable environmental policies and practices, promote solid workplace relations and produce safe products.

While Federal employees currently have several investment options for their Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) contributions, they are unable to choose one of the fastest-growing categories of investment—socially responsible investment. Investors are increasingly turning to socially responsible investment (SRI) options

because good corporate practices are often an indicator of good management, financial success and long-term stability. In 2009, three out of four large cap SRI mutual funds outperformed the Standard & Poor's (S&P) 500 Index by an average of 6 percentage points, according to data analyzed by the Social Investment Forum, a national association made up of over 400 financial professionals and institutions. A majority of these funds have also outperformed the S&P 500 over three years and over 10 years.

Federal employees deserve the opportunity to invest in companies that embrace the same integrity in their practices that government employees work to uphold. The Federal Employees Responsible Investment Act would direct the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB) to select a "Corporate Responsibility Index" as an option for TSP investment. The index would include companies that meet strict financial criteria, in addition to having strong corporate governance, sustainable environmental policies and practices, solid workplace relations, positive community involvement, safe products, and respect for human rights around the world. Under this bill, the FRTIB would select an index that best meets Federal employees' needs and demonstrates returns comparable to the other investment options available under the TSP.

Making an investment in companies that are committed to corporate responsibility will have a positive impact on our financial system, as well as empower federal employees to reward companies that share their values. I encourage my colleagues to support this measure.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. CHRISTOPHER CERF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Christopher Cerf upon receiving the 2010 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education. Mr. Cerf has dedicated his life to making educational resources more accessible to all children, and enriching children's educational experiences.

Mr. Cerf began his career after graduating from Harvard University, when he spent eight years as a senior editor at Random House, working with such diverse authors as George Plimpton, Andy Warhol, Abbie Hoffman, Ray Bradbury, and Dr. Seuss. Mr. Cerf then took his talents to the acclaimed children's show Sesame Street where he has been a regular contributor of music and lyrics since the show's first season. He won two Grammy and three Emmy awards for his work with Sesame Street. For over forty years, Mr. Cerf has creatively been educating children using music and lyrics as educational tools.

In 2000, Mr. Cerf and his company Sirius Thinking Ltd., started a new highly acclaimed children's educational daily television program, Between the Lions. Mr. Cerf's literacy series Between the Lions has appeared on PBS for nine seasons, and received two Television Critics' Award for Outstanding Children's TV Program and 10 Emmy Awards. Academic studies have shown that Between the Lions,

and its companion literacy instruction resources, is hugely successful in helping children learn to read, especially those who are at a high risk of literacy failure. The literacy series has proven to have particularly strong results in phonics, vocabulary, and reading frequency.

Mr. Cerf is currently working on yet another educational television series, Lomax, the Hound of Music, which aims to develop children's musical awareness.

In addition to working tirelessly on his educational series, Mr. Cerf is currently a member of the board of directors of Reading Is Fundamental, First Book and the We Are Family Foundation. He is also a governor of the New York Chapter of the Recording Academy.

I am deeply appreciative for Mr. Cerf's life's work in education. On behalf of the 14th District of New York, I am honored to thank Mr. Cerf and to congratulate him on receiving the prestigious Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education. May it help him with his future endeavors in teaching children. I know we can expect to see more great achievements from Mr. Christopher Cerf.

**EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO
PAKISTANI PEOPLE AFTER
FLOODS**

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, Pakistan is suffering from the worst floods in 80 years. About 20 million people have been affected; 1.2 million homes damaged; infrastructure destroyed; and water-borne diseases, such as cholera, are spreading. Significant resources from abroad are needed to alleviate the suffering and long-term consequences.

The U.S. government has responded quickly and effectively. But we also need to address the long-term recovery. We need to help the Pakistani people get back on their feet, even as the waters subside.

I commend the thousands of American individuals, NGOs and private companies that have responded with contributions. I call on them to continue to make or expand their donations. Coca-Cola, Procter & Gamble, Monsanto, GlaxoSmithKline Pakistan, Western Union, Americares and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are just some of the large donors that have stepped up to the plate. Donations can be made via the State Department's secure web page at www.state.gov/pakistanrelief/index.htm. Donation forms can be downloaded at <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/146290.pdf>. Americans can also donate \$10 by texting "FLOOD" to 27722 (Standard text messaging and data usage rates apply).

A TRIBUTE TO MARTIN JOSEPH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Martin Joseph for his contributions to health care management.

Martin Joseph is the President of Health Vision Partners LLC. He has a successful health care management and consulting practice and also manages a real estate portfolio of commercial properties.

Martin Joseph is a global visionary leader with more than 20 years in investment banking and the financial services arena. He worked for Citigroup as Vice President of Global Marketing, Merrill Lynch, Prudential U.S. and Prudential U.K.

Over the years, Mr. Joseph's investment banking and wealth management background has enabled him to restructure and increase revenue for health care practices, hospitals, and private doctors' practices in the metropolitan area.

Mr. Joseph enjoys reading in his spare time. He is active in local charities, politics and is a Gallon Club blood donor.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Martin Joseph.

HONORING MS. ESSIE "BIG MAMA" REED AS A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Essie "Big Mama" Reed for her outstanding contributions to the Ft. Lauderdale community. Big Mama stands apart as an exemplary citizen and living testimony to compassion and generosity.

Big Mama's impact on Ft. Lauderdale began in 1988. When her youngest son was just a month old, Big Mama's husband abandoned the family, leaving them homeless. For the next three years, Big Mama and her three sons slept on the concrete floor of the fish market she owned. Despite being destitute and unable to provide her sons with such basic things as school supplies, Big Mama and her boys regularly prayed after school at the Royal Assembly Church.

It is her triumph over personal adversity that inspired Big Mama to begin a crusade of personal outreach. Realizing how fortunate she was to have caring neighbors who provided her and her sons with basic needs, Big Mama decided to give back by helping at-risk youth avoid the common street predators of drugs, gangs, and prostitution.

In the early 1990s, Big Mama solidified a values-based approach that, when coupled with her uncommon bravery in the face of long odds, has helped keep over 1,300 area youth on a promising path.

Big Mama's contribution has been particularly meaningful to the Ft. Lauderdale School System. With scores of students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds, Big Mama provides personal afterschool care and guidance for students who might not get the attention they need at home. Big Mama also holds popular "shut-ins" four times a year at her church, where local school children are exposed to a "selfless passion for excellence in education and social advancement" through self-reliance. All this prompted Rhoda Gawlowski, assistant principal at New River Middle School, to say of Big Mama: "I have never, ever met a person like her. She helps

everyone in our school: the children, the parents, members of the community. I don't know how she does it, but she manages to find time to spend with every student who seeks her out."

Big Mama's commitment to service, however, is not limited to Ft. Lauderdale Schools. After Hurricane Wilma devastated Florida in 2005, leaving residents without power and food, Big Mama made sure everybody had something to eat. And I mean everybody. Working together with local leaders, Big Mama was able to secure enough donations to personally cook for 1,000 low-income residents in a week. All of this from a woman who recently faced her second bout with homelessness because her house—what people in Ft. Lauderdale refer to as a sanctuary—did not meet local code with its leaky roof covered, in some parts, with a plastic tarp.

Big Mama also founded the Team of Life, a Ft. Lauderdale nonprofit, to allow her personal outreach efforts to reach even more people in her community. The organization regularly organizes charitable drives during the holiday and back-to-school seasons with great success. In addition to an annual turkey drive that collects turkeys for needy families—20,000 in 2009 alone—so that they may enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday, Big Mama organizes an annual health drive to immunize local children whose families otherwise could not afford such vital care.

Through it all, Big Mama has never asked for recognition. All she wants is for Ft. Lauderdale children to experience the reality of a better tomorrow. Because of such uncommon grace, compassion, and generosity, I stand before you, Madam Speaker, to recognize Ms. Essie "Big Mama" Reed as a true American hero.

HONORING THE 99TH NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a special day in history. Many people around the world recognize that October 10, 2010 will be remembered as 10/10/10. In the Republic of China (Taiwan), however, 23 million people in Taiwan will be celebrating National Day. They remember October 10, 1911 as the birth of their country, and this year Taiwan will be celebrating the 99th anniversary of the Republic of China's National Day.

Taiwan has developed into a strong democracy that continues to promote the freedom of its people. The ingenuity and hard work of the Taiwanese helps to establish Taiwan as a leader on the yearly Index of Economic Freedom. They serve as a model for those across the world who aspire for the freedom and individualism that Taiwan protects for its citizens. As a leader of free people, I commend the Taiwanese government for serving as a beacon of light to people around the world.

The United States and Taiwan have a long history of mutual trade, leadership and friendship. I am proud that Taiwan remains a close friend of the United States. I am also pleased

to call many of my counterparts in the Legislative Yuan my friends. As they celebrate their 99th National Day on October 10, 2010, my friends and the Taiwanese people have my warmest wishes.

HONORING PETE KENNEMER'S SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional career and legacy of B.R. "Pete" Kennemer.

Kennemer served as CEO and president of the Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center for more than 37 years. Under his leadership which began at the infancy of Community Behavioral Health Centers, he opened the old Sparks Nursing School with the help of a Federal Staffing Grant. Since that time the center has expanded to include clinics in Fort Smith, Van Buren, Ozark, Paris, Boonville, Waldron and Mena along with a number of programs and facilities in Western Arkansas.

Pete served twice as a member of the Mental Health Council (MHCA) of Arkansas where he was dedicated to improving mental health treatment not only in western Arkansas but throughout the state. Additionally he served as a member of The National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare (NCCBH) and made frequent trips to Washington for the Council National Hill day in order to advocate for people with mental illness and addictive disorders.

I am honored to recognize Pete who leaves an important legacy that has helped countless Arkansans and has greatly improved their quality of life through his tireless dedication to improved mental health care. Pete was beloved by his staff. His leadership and dedication will be thoroughly missed. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. DIVINE PRYOR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements and contributions of Dr. Divine Pryor.

Dr. Pryor is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Nu Leadership on Urban Solutions, the world's first and only academic center and problem solving public policy think tank created, developed, and administered by formerly incarcerated professionals, representing every discipline from law to medicine. One of the many goals of the Center, located at the City University of New York's historic Medgar Evers College, is to offer an alternative voice in the analysis of criminal and social justice issues by including the combined lived and academic experiences and expertise of people who have had firsthand knowledge of the social, judicial, and economic systems that scar so many communities.

Before ever attending a formal institution, Dr. Pryor acquired his very first degree from