

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

the “school of hard knocks” with a Ph.D. from UCLA. That is the “University on the Corner of Lenox Avenue in New York City.” While incarcerated, he would rediscover his love for learning and resume his educational journey. After his release in 1991 he successfully completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at the State Universities of New York in Albany and New Paltz, ultimately acquiring his Ph.D. in Criminal Justice with a major in forensic psychology.

Dr. Pryor is a social scientist who has extensive knowledge and experience in the health and social service fields, having spent over half his career administrating HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, substance abuse and other social service non-profits. He has traveled extensively providing expertise counsel on criminal justice issues to judges, prosecutors and others for the purpose of influencing policy decisions. In addition, he has developed trainings and workshops for professionals that address issues such as anti-gang initiatives, poverty, literacy, unemployment, housing and healthcare. He is a highly sought after technical assistance provider who has helped countless organizations build infrastructure and capacity. He continues to offer his insights in a number of arenas as a consultant to help agencies build capacity and create new innovations in the field of social and criminal justice reform.

In 2001 he was appointed by the Council of State Governors to the National Reentry Policy Council, where he and over 100 national experts produced the most voluminous work in re-entry in the nation. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the National Legal AID & Defender Association and the National Council of Previously Incarcerated Professionals, both based in Washington, DC. He is also Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Community Justice Center of New York and Chair of the Advisory Board for the Developing Justice Project in Brooklyn, New York. Dr. Pryor is also Co-Chair of the Criminal Justice Policy Cluster for the Black Brooklyn Empowerment Coalition. Most recently, Dr. Pryor was appointed by the Majority Leader of the New York State Senate to co-chair the New York State Anti-Gang Violence Reduction Commission. In addition to his leadership roles, he is also an active member of a number of local, regional, and national legislative, social and political advocacy groups whose focus is to effect positive change.

Dr. Pryor is an eloquent public speaker, lecturer, trainer, and overall educational specialist, whose delivery is insightfully powerful, informative, and extremely impacted by the depth of research and analysis he has been engaged in over the years. More recently, he has been traveling outside the United States promoting innovative thinking, alternative leadership concepts and the emergence of this Nu and provocative approach to problem solving. Throughout his life, Dr. Pryor has remained a dedicated student and is honored to be here with us today.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Dr. Divine Pryor.

DAWN AND THE FIGHT AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an organization headquartered in Tukwila, Washington, celebrating its 30th year of being a place of hope for victims of domestic abuse in King County and speaking loudly, boldly, and clearly on their behalf.

The Domestic Abuse Women's Network (DAWN) in Tukwila is much more than a shelter for victims of domestic violence: it is an invaluable resource of specialized information, domestic abuse awareness, and anti-abuse training modules. The professionals at DAWN provide victims of domestic abuse in King County with the education, care, and support they need to take their individual lives back. According to DAWN, 78 percent of its clients are poor or very poor; and 77 percent have children. At a time when our Nation is struggling mightily against wave after wave of poor economic news, DAWN provides a ray of hope to those who need it most.

DAWN values results; the organization is constantly reevaluating itself to meet the needs of its clientele. DAWN values service; its programs and exceptional staff work tirelessly to serve. Finally, DAWN values its resources; much like individuals and families across our country, DAWN is adept at stretching dollars and helping those in need.

Domestic abuse is an unspeakably horrendous scourge, Madam Speaker. It ruins families and communities, churches and schools, and has no economic measure. More and more, Madam Speaker, resources, programs, and dollars must be available to help fight against domestic abuse. DAWN is an organization doing its absolute best to provide normalcy in the face of travesty, and I thank every individual associated with the organization for working tirelessly on behalf of victims of abuse.

Specifically, Madam Speaker, I want to thank Dawn's Executive Director Cheryl Bozarth, President Debra Fiest, the Board of Directors and the staff and volunteers carrying out a vision and providing services that have saved countless lives over the past 30 years. I urge every Member of this House, Madam Speaker, to support in thought, word, and deed any organization fighting against domestic abuse. It effects us all, and we all must work together to eliminate it.

IN MEMORY OF WES SKILES

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Wes Skiles. Wes was a world-renowned photojournalist and underwater photographer. His work appeared in numerous publications, most notably, National Geographic.

Wes, who was a resident of a resident of High Springs, Florida in my congressional dis-

trict, died July 21 off the east coast of Florida. He was 52 years old. Wes died doing what he loved most; exploring the ocean and providing vivid pictures of unusual places. At the time of his death he was filming a project on the behavior of high-speed fish near the Boynton Beach Inlet.

Wes's love of the ocean was a constant throughout his life. As a child growing up in Jacksonville, Wes would often skip school to go surfing and became a certified scuba diver at age 13. He began taking photographs of his underwater explorations off the north Florida coast to share with friends and family. He was hooked and soon his hobby became his profession. He became a hands-on expert on underwater caves and was known as Florida's Jacques Cousteau.

Wes spent 27 years as a photojournalist and was among the first people to set foot on the largest iceberg in Antarctica. He loved adventure. According to a media report, one time, off the coast of South Africa, a shark jammed itself into Wes's protective cage. Wes beat the creature back with his heavy, waterproof camera, taking pictures throughout the episode, and had close-up photos of the great white's jagged teeth as a token of his survival.

Wes founded Karst Productions, a photography and cinematography company that filmed, produced and directed dozens of programs for television, including segments for PBS, Imax and the Discovery Channel.

Wes Skiles lived a passionate life full of adventure and excitement. Although he was taken from us too soon, his work will carry on for many years to come. Our thoughts go out to his wife of 29 years, Terri, and their two children, Nathan and Tessa.

HONORING TADAHISA KURODA

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of Tadahisa Kuroda of Potomac Falls, Virginia, who passed away in August at the age of 69.

Tad was born September 10, 1940, in New York City to the Honorable Otoshiro and Mei Kuroda. He spent his childhood in New York City and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut and later received his master's degree and doctorate from Columbia University in New York.

Tad taught at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York for 36 years and held important positions of leadership at the College, including History Department Chair and Associate Dean of Faculty. A specialist in early American history, Tad received the Ralph Ciancio Award for Teaching Excellence prior to his retirement in 2005. As we celebrate Constitution week, September 17th through 23rd, it should be noted that Tad was an expert on the United States electoral college having written, “The Origins of the Twelfth Amendment: The Electoral College in the Early Republic, 1787–1804”, published in 1994.

During retirement Tad was active with the American Institute for History Education. He visited schools across the country helping