

helping Marshall to craft the winning case in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

The landmark *Brown* victory in 1954 would be the capstone of many careers, but for Judge Motley, it was just the beginning. Indeed, her story is a litany of firsts—She was the first African American woman to represent the NAACP in court, and would win nine out of ten cases she argued before the Supreme Court, including the famous case of *James Meredith* against the University of Mississippi. In 1964, she became the first African-American woman elected to the New York State Senate. In 1965, she became the first woman to serve as Manhattan borough president and to sit on the New York Board of Estimate. And in 1966, upon appointment to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, she became the first African-American woman in our history to serve as a federal judge.

In short, Judge Motley, who sadly passed away in 2005, is a historic figure, not just in the life of New Haven but in the life of our nation. And I am very glad to see that she will be inducted on to the New Haven Freedom Trail at the end of this month. Her story is testament not only to the tumultuous struggles for equal rights, freedom, and tolerance that characterized our American story in the 20th century, but a reminder to us all that, in America, one committed woman can make a difference.

I salute Judge Motley's many contributions, and I applaud the Amistad Committee for choosing to honor her this month.

RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE AMERICAN TENNIS ASSO- CIATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of the American Tennis Association, the oldest African American sports organization in the United States.

On November 30, 1916, the ATA was founded by a group of African American businessmen, college professors and physicians, when segregation prohibited them from joining the existing United States Lawn Tennis Association. Though it was founded to help more African American youngsters learn to love tennis, it now welcomes people of all backgrounds. The ATA has produced some of the world's top players, including Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe, the first African Americans to be ranked number one and to win Grand Slam titles.

This proud tradition continues today, in young players such as Pierre Craig III of Dallas. He has placed in several national tennis tournaments, including winning first place doubles at the 2009 ATA Nationals in the Boys 12 division, and second place in the singles. He is supported by his father, Pierre II, who is the Director of Tennis and Head Tennis Professional at the Oakridge Country Club and his mother, Juevette.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to honor the American Tennis Association and its members, and wish them the best for their 2010 National Tournament.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed Rollcall votes on September 22, 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall No. 532: "yea."

Rollcall No. 533: "yea."

REMEMBERING 9/11

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support House Resolution 1610 commemorating the tragic loss of lives on September 11, 2001. I commend Representative HOYER and Representative BOEHNER for taking the initiative on this important bill and I wholeheartedly join in embracing the sentiments contained therein.

The morning of September 11, 2001, is indelibly imprinted in the hearts and minds of all Americans. Nine years later, our country is still mourning the 2752 innocent lives lost.

In the midst of the horrific attacks on American soil, we also witnessed boundless bravery, selfless sacrifice and heartfelt humanity. On September 11 we saw everyday Americans become heroes—ordinary men and women who, under exceptional circumstances, acted extraordinarily. We remember the pedestrians on streets near the Trade Center Towers offering their assistance at extreme peril. We remember the passengers and crew aboard United Airlines Flight 93, saving the lives of countless others at the expense of their own. We remember the acts of support from our allies at home and abroad.

In the aftermath of 9/11, we remain resolute in our commitment to defeating al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Our Armed Forces abroad are at the ready to defend us from further terrorist attacks. Let us be clear—we are not fighting against Islam; we are fighting against extremists who threaten to destroy our lives and freedoms.

We have not and we will not surrender to fear, violence and extremist acts. We have stood up for and will continue to stand up for our American values of liberty, justice and tolerance.

NATIONAL HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS WEEK

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the good work that Hispanic-Serving Institutions are doing both in New York City and across the country. The week of September 19, 2010 was designated as National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week under H. Res. 1611, a resolution of which I was proud to be a cosponsor.

New York City is home to a number of world-class educational institutions, many of which have been designated as Hispanic-Serving Institutions. Over 10,000 students from my district alone attend Hispanic-Serving Institutions in Queens and the Bronx, including Bronx Community College, the College of Mount Saint Vincent, Hostos Community College, LaGuardia Community College, Lehman College, Mercy College and Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology. I have had a chance to visit many of these colleges and know firsthand not only the quality education they provide, but also the valuable services they provide as centers of the community.

Hispanics are the youngest and fastest-growing ethnic population group in the nation, and play a major role in maintaining our country's global competitiveness and contributing to our national culture. However, nationally, Hispanic students graduate at lower rates than non-Hispanic students with similar academic backgrounds. We need a strong education system to prepare Hispanic students to enter the workforce, and Hispanic-Serving Institutions are ideally suited to address the needs of this population.

We particularly need to ensure further involvement of Hispanic students in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields, where they have been historically underrepresented. During consideration of the original America COMPETES Act in 2007, I was proud to champion the creation of a grant program for Hispanic-Serving Institutions to strengthen and develop their undergraduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics degree programs.

This program will help educate and train a new generation of experts in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics areas. By engaging Hispanic-Serving Institutions, who serve the majority of the two million Hispanic students enrolled in college today, we are able to reach out to and involve more of the Hispanic educational community.

This Congress has enacted legislation to make college more accessible by improving the way our student loan system works for students and families. However, there is much more we need to do to ensure all students have a chance to achieve the American Dream. We need to continue supporting Hispanic-Serving Institutions and encouraging the vital work they are doing for millions of American students. I am pleased to join Representative GRIJALVA and the rest of my colleagues in this fight.

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF DOMINIC DIFRANCESCO, II

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. HOLDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dominic "Nick" DiFrancesco, II, a constituent and friend, who, on August 25, 2010, held his last public meeting as a Dauphin County Commissioner. That public meeting marked the end of a lifetime of public service.

Nick's political career began in 1992, when he was elected as the youngest council president in the history of Highspire Borough. In

this capacity, Nick's priorities included improving roadways and rehabilitating the municipal buildings and public facilities. In 1996, Nick was elected as a Lower Swatara Township Commissioner, serving as the Chairman of the Lower Swatara Police Committee and as Secretary and Treasurer of the State Association of Township Commissioners. During this time Nick played an instrumental role in the formation of the Modern Transit Partnership.

Nick's service with the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners began with his election in November of 2003. He was overwhelmingly reelected to a second term four years later. As Vice-Chairman of the Board, Nick served as the oversight commissioner for many of the county's important functions. He successfully guided the complicated sale of the Spring Creek Health Care Rehabilitation Center, and directed the county's emergency response during numerous tragedies. During his tenure, Nick led the Wellness Committee, spearheaded the annual Ride to Work Day, and partnered with the Salvation Army to host their Red Kettle campaign during the holidays.

His leadership earned him and his fellow board members the "Government Leader of the Year" Award in 2006 from the Harrisburg Regional Chamber and CREDC. Nick also won the "People's Choice" for Public Servant of the Year by Harrisburg Magazine in 2008. I consider myself fortunate to have been able to collaborate with Nick on projects such as the Family Group Conferencing Center for the Dauphin County Social Services, modernizing the Harrisburg International Airport, and making improvements and upgrades to crucial roads and bridges throughout Dauphin County.

I would like to congratulate Nick DiFrancesco on his lifetime of public service and thank him for his outstanding citizenship in the community.

COMMEMORATING HUNGER ACTION MONTH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Hunger Action Month and to honor the Arlington Food Assistance Center, which is located in my Congressional District.

Hunger Action Month was established to help inform individuals, communities, corporations and policy makers that hunger is a severe domestic issue and deserves our critical attention. The Arlington Food Assistance Center's sole mission is to feed the hungry. This important action allows their clients to make other necessary purchases, such as paying for rent and utilities, without having to sacrifice their health and nutritional needs.

Despite the fact that Arlington County is one of the wealthiest areas in the country, many of our local residents do not have enough to eat. The Arlington Food Assistance Center seeks to remedy this problem by distributing bread, vegetables, meat, milk, eggs, and other food items to those in Arlington who are in need. AFAC obtains surplus food at no cost from local bakeries, supermarkets, farmer's markets, food drives and private donors. Each

week, families with one to three members receive one bag of food and families of four members or more receive two bags of food—amounts that are expected to supplement a week's meals.

I would like to commend the staff and volunteers of the Arlington Food Assistance Center who work hard to provide needy families in Arlington with groceries each week.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF IRVING'S SUCCESSFUL USE OF THE LEAN SIX SIGMA PROGRAM

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Irving for its successful use and implementation of the Lean Six Sigma Program.

Understanding the need for a more responsive and efficient government, the city of Irving became the first municipality in the State of Texas, and second in the country, to holistically utilize the Lean Six Sigma Program citywide. Irving initiated this program in October 2007 and expanded it citywide in its efforts to streamline and improve the efficiencies of city operations and staffing structures. The city's emphasis to improve overall customer satisfaction underscores their attentiveness to the concerns of Irving residents and businesses and working diligently to address those issues, making the great city of Irving a better place to live and work.

I commend the city of Irving for its innovative thinking and actively seeking new ways to better serve the needs of residents, visitors, and businesses. Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in recognizing the city of Irving for its successful implementation of the Lean Six Sigma Program.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LT. VERNON J. BAKER, U.S. ARMY CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, it brings me sadness and honor to pay final tribute to LT Vernon J. Baker, United States Army. He passed away on Tuesday, July 13, 2010, at the age of 90, due to complications of brain cancer at his home near St. Manes, Idaho. He will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on September 24, 2010.

Vernon Baker, a black U.S. soldier, belatedly received the Medal of Honor for his World War II battlefield valor after historians concluded he had been wrongly denied the military's top award because of racial prejudice.

Baker, who was born in 1919 in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and orphaned as a small child, was raised by his grandparents in Cheyenne. While working as a railroad porter, he decided to join the U.S. Army in mid-1941, a few months before Pearl Harbor. At his first attempt to enlist, in April 1941, he was turned

away, the recruiter stating "We don't have any quotas for you people." Undaunted, he tried again weeks later with a different recruiter and was accepted. He requested to become a quartermaster but was instead assigned to the infantry.

In 1944, Second Lieutenant Baker was sent to Italy with a full platoon of 54 men, assigned to the all-black 92nd Infantry Division. Despite being wounded in the arm in October of that year and hospitalized near Pisa, he rejoined his unit in reserve along the Gothic Line in December.

On April 5, during his company's attack against a strongly entrenched enemy in mountainous terrain near Viareggio, Italy, his company was stopped by the concentration of fire from several machine gun emplacements. He crawled to one position and destroyed it, killing three Germans. Continuing forward, he attacked an enemy observation post and killed two occupants. With the aid of one of his men, Lieutenant Baker attacked two more machine gun nests, killing or wounding the four enemy soldiers occupying these positions. He then covered the evacuation of the wounded personnel of his company by occupying an exposed position and drawing the enemy's fire. In all, Baker and his platoon killed 26 Germans and destroyed six machine gun nests, two observer posts, and four dugouts.

After the end of the war, Baker remained in Europe with the Allied occupation forces until 1947. He later joined the Army Airborne forces and left the military in 1968 as a first lieutenant. It was after these years of service that Baker returned to his northern Idaho home.

President Bill Clinton presented the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for battlefield valor, to Baker in 1997. He was one of just seven black soldiers to receive it and the only living recipient. The other six soldiers received their awards posthumously.

Due to the racial and social strife prevalent in the 1940s, no black soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during World War II, although, Baker did receive the Purple Heart, a Bronze Star and Distinguished Service Cross. Reflecting on life in a segregated Army unit, Baker told The Washington Post, "I was an angry young man. We were all angry. But we had a job to do, and we did it." He added that he "knew things would get better, and I'm glad to say that I'm here to see it."

Baker's actions on the front line demonstrated better than words can describe why discrimination and segregation in the military was both unfair and absolutely inconsistent with an effective fighting force. He demonstrated a degree of courage few people have. "He was prepared to give his life for his country—a country in which he was considered a second-class citizen," said U.S. Representative WALT MINNICK.

Vernon J. Baker was a great American hero who will forever be remembered as someone who overcame unfair barriers and prejudice to change the course of history. He will be greatly missed; however, his legacy will live on as a source of inspiration for generations to come. I extend my sincere condolences to his family in the wake of this tremendous loss and share their enormous pride in all that he accomplished.