

Professor Ronald Banks was born on April 22, 1948 to the late Clifton R. and Annie Lee Banks in Brooklyn, New York. He was educated in the New York City educational system and is a graduate of George Westinghouse Technical High School.

Professor Banks has always had a love for music. At a young age, he would sit and watch Elder Sam Windham play the steel guitar. At the age of five, his mother bought him a steel guitar, his first musical instrument. He received his first piano lesson at age 8, and was inspired to learn the organ at age 12 and the bass guitar at 14.

Professor Banks was blessed with an ear for music and began playing officially for his first choir at the age of 12. He began teaching voices and sections the same year, and started his own ensemble called "The Eastern New York Ensemble" at age 15. The next year, his father founded the "Sensational Twilights" and Professor Banks was one of the lead singers and bass guitarist.

From a very young age, Professor Banks has developed a wealth of knowledge in music. He has passed on his wisdom and knowledge to generations of musicians, singers and choirmasters to further their ministries and for the good of the greater church community. Professor Banks' attention to detail and passion for his craft has made him an icon in the genre of Gospel music known today as the "Brooklyn Sound."

Professor Banks has recorded with the International Radio Choir, the Triboro Mass Choir, the Sensational Twilights, the Clara Ward Singers, and the Eastern New York Mass Choir of the Gospel Music Workshop of America. He has been a member of the Triboro Mass Choir for over thirty years, and currently serves as head musician.

He has earned the endearing title of "Professor" for his ability to bring out the musical talents of any individual. Through his service to his community and his church, he has earned numerous citations.

Professor Banks was a dedicated employee of Con Edison for thirty-six years until his retirement on December 1, 2004.

Professor Banks presently serves as the Minister of Music at Friendship Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, under the leadership of Reverend Craig B. Gaddy, Pastor. He is rooted and forever humble in his craft because of his loyalty and devotion to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Professor Ronald Banks.

RECOGNIZING FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR GRANTEES FROM THE 11TH DISTRICT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. CONNOLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize several young people from my community for being selected as recipients of Fulbright awards to study, lecture, teach or conduct research abroad during the 2010–2011 academic year.

Sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural

Affairs, the Fulbright Program's purpose is to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the international community. Since its establishment in 1946, the Fulbright Program sponsored exchanges for more than a quarter of a million people in more than 155 countries. Recipients are selected based on academic and professional achievement in addition to demonstrated leadership potential in their respective fields. The following residents of the 11th District of Virginia were selected as Fulbright recipients:

Ms. Sarah Argodale, College of William and Mary, English Teaching Assistant, Russia

Ms. Grace Erdmann, Georgetown University, English Teaching Assistant, Egypt

Mr. Kurt Gron, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Archeology, Denmark

Ms. Lauren-Claire Kelley, George Mason University, English Teaching Assistant, Italy

Mr. David Ramsay, Case Western Reserve University, Engineering, Ireland

Ms. Farrah Tek, University of Mary Washington, Law, Cambodia

The Fulbright scholarship is synonymous with excellence in educational exchange. It is one example of the importance of personal interaction at the individual level. The Fulbright Scholars from the 11th District will continue the tradition of citizen diplomacy that runs deeply through our community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing these outstanding young people for this level of achievement in their respective fields.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF MIKE "TRIV" TRIVISONNO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mike "Triv" Trivisonno, devoted family man, radio host and community volunteer. Mr. Trivisonno was born and raised in Greater Cleveland and he continues to call Cleveland his home. He grew up in Mayfield Heights, dropped out of school by the tenth grade and ran with a rough crowd. At the young age of 17, he met the love of his life and future wife, Linda Conforto, whose kindness and integrity became a powerful source of strength in his life.

Mike and Linda married three years later and remained committed to each other and to their children. Mike's family means everything to him and he has worked hard to provide for them. Together, he and Linda started a landscape business and they even managed a golf course along the way. In the 1970's, Mr. Trivisonno's radio popularity grew; he earned the nickname 'Mr. Know It All' as a regular caller to the popular Pete Franklin "SportsLine Show" on radio station WWE in Cleveland. Soon, radio jobs were offered and his career began to skyrocket. Lively, on-air debates that normally included sports talk meandered into the realm of news and politics. His common-man, brash and humorous style, and his raw honesty continue to draw a massive and diverse listening audience. His radio persona elicits strong emotions from his audience and his popularity continues to grow. For nearly twenty years, the Mike Trivisonno Show on

WTAM 1100 has been the one of the most widely-listened to radio programs throughout Ohio.

Above and beyond his success in radio, Mr. Trivisonno's willingness to help others and his openness about his personal losses have touched the hearts of our community. For many years, he led the Coats for Kids annual campaign, and he continues to lead charitable events and initiatives, including charity poker events. After Linda Trivisonno lost her battle with cancer in 2009, he began honoring her life and memory with initiatives like the Linda Trivisonno Endowment Fund, which raises funds for cancer research and provides funds for financially struggling patients and their families.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor of Mike Trivisonno, one of the most fascinating and successful voices in the history of Cleveland radio. Beneath the armor of Mike's boisterous, self-deprecating, and sharply opinionated voice is a kind and decent man whose generous heart and desire to help others brings comfort, hope and strength to our entire community.

—
JIM CARTER

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, Jim Carter died in Pueblo, Colorado, on July 28, 2010. Jim was born in Missouri, served in the U.S. Air Force in Germany subsequent to his graduation from college and was employed for many years by A.P. Green Refractories in Pueblo, Colorado. When A.P. Green Refractories decided to leave Pueblo, they offered Jim an opportunity to move to one of their eastern facilities. Having raised his children in Pueblo and having many friends in Pueblo, Jim decided that Pueblo was the home for his family and the right place for them to stay. Jim, along with his son, established Refractories West, Inc. which has continued to be an active employer in Pueblo. A few years ago, Jim turned the refractory operation over to his son but Jim could not completely disengage himself from the business opportunity that had occupied his energies for so many years.

Due to Jim's love of his adopted community, he became active in many local organizations and was a leader in establishing Puebloans for Economic Progress and served as the first Chairman of PEP. Eventually, PEP was part of a consolidation that became the Pueblo Economic Development Corporation; Jim also served as Chairman of PEDCO and was an active board member for many years.

Jim will be remembered as a valued member of the Airport Advisory Board for several years. His diligence, determination and knowledge have served the Pueblo Memorial Airport and the Advisory Board extremely well. Even Jim's illness did not thwart his drive and attentiveness to the best interest of the Pueblo Airport. No matter the obstacle, Jim could find a way over it, around it or through it and was forever zealous in his quest to do his best for the City of Pueblo.

HONORING CODY ALECIA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Cody Alecia, of Denair, California.

What has America come to when a 13-year-old student must be concerned for his safety when he waves the American flag? This past week, Denair Middle School, located in my home district, asked one of their students, Cody Alecia, to remove an American flag he has been proudly displaying on the back of his bicycle for two months. Cody and his family were told that the flag needed to be removed for his own safety, in light of problems that arose during the previous school year when students carried the Mexican flag to the school on Cinco de Mayo. Thankfully, on November 12th, the school district reversed the decision and has informed Cody that he can once again display his flag.

I am pleased that the Denair Unified School District has made the correct decision and is once again allowing Cody to display his flag. However, I am deeply concerned about the circumstances that led to Cody being asked to remove his flag in the first place and want to make every member of the House aware of it. I raise this issue on the floor of the House because I believe what happened to Cody gives us a snapshot of our current national culture. The flag of the United States of America is a symbol of everything that this country stands for—unity, prosperity and freedom. Every morning, in classrooms across America, students of all ages and nationalities pledge their allegiance to the flag and to this country. For an American student to ever be told that displaying the American flag in America may make him a target for violence is a travesty and terrible testament to what is happening in our country.

I am proud of Cody for choosing to display his patriotism, his respect for the men and women who have fought and died for this country, and his love of this country. And I am proud to represent this community, which has displayed such overwhelmingly positive support for Cody. I want to thank “The American Legion Patriot Guard” and the other riders here today, especially the Merced American Legion, Post 83, Patriot Guard, for their organization and passion to the cause. I would also like to thank everyone else who chose to walk and ride to Denair Middle School with Cody this morning and to display their pride in the American flag and the ideals that it represents. I hope many more people will be inspired by Cody’s example and will choose to fly the flag more often.

ASIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION 34TH ANNUAL GALA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSEKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSEKY. Madam Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian American Medical Association, which hosted

its 34th Annual Gala on Saturday, November 6, 2010, at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. Each year, the Asian American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens and organizations for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, these honorees are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award at this annual banquet.

The Asian American Medical Association has always been a great asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have selflessly dedicated themselves to providing quality medical services to the residents of Indiana’s First Congressional District, and have always demonstrated exemplary service through their many cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year’s Annual Gala, the Asian American Medical Association will present the Crystal Globe Award to one of Northwest Indiana’s finest citizens, Dr. M. Nabil Shabeb, M.D., FACS.

A successful General Surgeon who runs his private practice in Northwest Indiana, Dr. Shabeb has dedicated his life to medicine. His practice specializes in thyroid and parathyroid surgery, breast cancer surgery, and laparoscopic surgery, as well as cancer support group programs. In addition to his busy medical practice, Dr. Shabeb has committed himself to many organizations and foundations that positively impact the medical community and the people of Northwest Indiana.

In 1977, Dr. Shabeb graduated from the College of Human Medicine at Damascus University. He went on to complete his five-year residency at the University of Illinois Metropolitan Group Hospital in 1984. Soon after, he established his private practice in Northwest Indiana. Throughout his tenure, Dr. Shabeb has gone above and beyond his medical duties as a General Surgeon, serving on numerous medical boards and dedicating much of his time to countless organizations. He has been a member of the Lake County Medical Society since 1984, and has served as a delegate and board member since 1992. At Community Hospital in Munster, Dr. Shabeb served as Chairman of Surgery from 1992 to 1997, and President of Medical Staff from 1997 to 2001. Currently, Dr. Shabeb serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Munster Medical Research Foundation, the Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana, and the Community Cancer Research Foundation. He is also a founding member and Chairman of the Advisory Board for the Cancer Resource Center, a program of the Community Cancer Research Foundation. The Cancer Resource Center is an exceptional program that provides support, counseling, and education to cancer patients and their family and friends free of charge. To date, visits to the center have totaled more than 19,000. For his outstanding commitment to medicine and his many community efforts, in April, 2010, Dr. Shabeb received the “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the Syrian American Medical Society—Midwest Chapter, an educational and humanitarian medical organization.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commanding the Asian American Medical Association, as well as this year’s Crystal Globe Award recipient, Dr. Nabil Shabeb, for their outstanding contributions to their communities and beyond. Their unwavering commitment to

improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the United States is truly inspirational. For these reasons, the Asian American Medical Association, its members, and Dr. Shabeb are to be recognized, and I am proud to serve as their representative in Washington, DC.

HONORING STEVE CROPPER

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Steve Cropper. On October 17, 2010, Steve was inducted into the Nashville Songwriter’s Hall of Fame.

He has been listed as one of the Top 100 guitarists of all time by Rolling Stone Magazine, and for good reason. Being raised in Memphis, Steve bought his first guitar at age 14. Since then, he has led a musically charged life of which most could only dream.

He has played and co-written with the Blues Brothers, Wilson Pickett, Otis Redding and Eric Clapton, just to name a few. “Sittin’ On the Dock of the Bay”, which he co-wrote with Redding is the 6th most-played song of all time.

Steve is a friend and a true asset to our great state of Tennessee and it is a privilege to recognize him here today.

HONORING THE BENZIGER FAMILY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Rep. LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor the Benziger Family, whose economic, environmental, and philanthropic contributions in the Sonoma Valley have earned its businesses due recognition as 2010 Sonoma Valley Business of the Year. Both Benziger Family Winery and Imagery Estate Winery have pioneered a sustainable approach to agriculture and a humanitarian approach to business. Their active presence continues to strengthen and enrich Sonoma Valley communities.

Starting in the mid-1990s, Benziger Family Winery began its transition into biodynamic agriculture. They eliminated chemicals and other artificial elements in favor of a more holistic and organic method that capitalizes on the vitality of a vineyard that is allowed to thrive in a natural state. Benziger Family Winery has even been recognized by the National Resources Defense Council for its water conservation strategies. Imagery Estate Winery was founded in the same tradition, and the result is not only a greener footprint, but richer and more distinctive products that embody their unique places of origin. Indeed, Benziger Family Winery and Imagery Estate Winery have earned reputations as producers of exceptional quality not only in California, but worldwide.

The Benziger Family has brought the same care and commitment to its active role in Sonoma Valley communities, supporting local