

## RECOGNIZING RODNEY MORRIS

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Rodney Morris. Mr. Morris is a Corrections Officer with the Monmouth County Sheriff's Department and an active member of the Long Branch, New Jersey community. On October 1, 2010, Mr. Morris retired after dedicating 26 years of service to the Sheriff's Department. I applaud Mr. Morris, as his achievements should serve as an inspiration to us all.

Today we recognize Mr. Morris for contributing 26 years of service to the Monmouth County Sheriff's Department. The 609 officers and employees of the Monmouth County Sheriff's Department are dedicated to serving the needs of the community. Located in Freehold, New Jersey, the Sheriff's Office is comprised of three divisions: Law Enforcement, Corrections, and Communications. Mr. Morris has demonstrated unwavering commitment to protecting and serving the constituents of Monmouth County and remains a tremendously valued member of my district and the County.

Mr. Morris is also a valued and dedicated member of the Long Branch, New Jersey community. Mr. Morris is actively involved in community sports activities and serves as a coach for the tee-ball and basketball teams for Long Branch Recreation Department. Mr. Morris has also served as Head Coach for the Pop Warner Football team. Mr. Morris has served as Chairperson of the Deacon's Ministry at the Second Baptist Church in Long Branch for ten years and continues to serve in this capacity today. He has been happily married to his wife Susie for seventeen years. Together, they have one son, Tyree Rodney Morris, who is 10 years old. Mr. Morris is a positive role model for his family and other members of the community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in leading this body in acknowledging Mr. Morris' 26 years of service with the Monmouth County Sheriff's Department. His dedication and commitment are positive examples of what steadfast determination and allegiance can accomplish.

## HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF UPPER LOUDOUN YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE TO THE TREE OF LIFE FOOD BANK

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF-**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important work of the Upper Loudoun Youth Football League (ULYFL) in collecting nonperishable food donations for the Tree of Life Food Pantry in Purcellville, Virginia.

This fall the Upper Loudoun Youth Football League partnered with Tree of Life Food Pantry to collect food for the individuals and families in the community and stock the food pantry's shelves for the upcoming winter season.

The league divided into 25 teams and worked to collect nonperishable food donations. Team Chargers led the pack and collected 3,532 pounds of food and 54 boxes of cereal, and Team Bucs followed close behind with 3,459 pounds of food and 142 boxes of cereal. The other teams included: The Titans/D Cowboys; Bulldogs/Huskies/Vikings; Team Mustangs; Team Oarsman; Team Packers; Team Bengals; Team Giants; The Gators/D Giants; The Tigers/D Ravens; Team Warriors; Team Trojan; The Raiders/D Redskins; The Eagles/Flag Bengals; Team Vikings; The Wildcats/Flag Panthers; Team Knights; Team Colts; Team Huskies; Team Aztecs; Team Seahawks; The Cougars/Flag Pacers; Team Cheerleaders; and The Bandits/D Eagles. All together the league collected 23,550 pounds of food and 614 boxes of cereal.

I commend all who volunteered for their tireless commitment and service to those in their community who are unable to make ends meet and put food on the table. I also commend the partnership that has grown between the Upper Loudoun Youth Football League and the Tree of Life Food Pantry in Purcellville to make available leftover food to stock the shelves of the food pantry.

In closing, I would like to thank the coaches, the league, the parents, and the players for their dedicated efforts and support for the community.

## RECOGNIZING 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDUCATION FOR ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), a landmark law that asserted the right of all students with disabilities to receive education services appropriate to their needs.

Before IDEA, many individuals with disabilities were relegated to state institutions or misdiagnosed and inappropriately educated. In the 1950s and 1960s, the Federal government began working with advocates to develop best practices for educating children with disabilities and train teachers and specialists to implement them.

In 1975, Congress passed the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, which would later become IDEA. Through early interventions, specialized supports, and placement in the least restrictive environment, the law revolutionized education for children with disabilities. Today, more than 6 million students receive IDEA services.

IDEA also included a promise to states and school districts—by 1982, for every child receiving special education services, the federal government would pay forty percent of the National Average per Pupil Expenditure. Yet Congress has never appropriated even half that amount in regular appropriations. I have introduced bipartisan legislation, the EDUCATE Act, which would put Congress on a fiscally-responsible path to fully fund IDEA within eight years. I urge my colleagues to join me to honor our promise to America's students.

Mr. Speaker, IDEA has made a tremendous difference in the lives of millions of students and their families. We must recommit ourselves to provide the resources necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

## HONORING RUBY BRIDGES

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I join the House of Representatives in recognizing and honoring the 50th anniversary of Ruby Bridges.

In 1960, Ruby Bridges became the first African-American child to attend William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans, Louisiana. As she took her first steps to school, Ruby created a path in education for many to follow.

Ruby's resilience in the face of discrimination was an important moment and contribution to the Civil Rights Movement.

In my congressional district, we are honored to have Ruby's historic journey on display at the Indianapolis Children's Museum for all Americans to witness and experience her honorable journey.

With Ruby's help, the Indianapolis Children's Museum has built a unique exhibit called the "Power of Children," which documents her courageous strides for equality in education.

Her bravery at such a young age paved the way for all African-American children to attend newly integrated schools, and has made her a symbol of tolerance and respect for all Americans.

As we continue to work on reforming our education laws, let us remember the great gift that Ruby Bridges gave to all American children—the gift of equal education for all.

## HONORING DR. AARON R. GRAHAM ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Dr. Aaron R. Graham, who is the Bergen Executive County Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Graham should be congratulated on his retirement for a job well done and celebrated for over 40 years of public service as an educator.

Dr. Graham received his Bachelor of Science in Biology from North Carolina Central University and received his Masters of Science in Education from the University of Akron. He earned his Doctorate of Education in Administration and Supervision from Fordham University. He has also completed post-graduate studies at Montclair State University and the State University of New York.

Dr. Graham began his educational career as a Science Teacher in the National Teachers Corps and Public Schools in Akron, Ohio. He has taught students on every level from preschool through graduate school. In New Jersey, his career experience includes: Science

Teacher in Palisades Park Junior-Senior High School; Educational Specialist and Educational Planner for the New Jersey State Department of Education; District Project Director and Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction at New Jersey City University. He has lectured at several colleges and has presented at the University Council for Educational Administration Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Bergen County is the largest county in New Jersey with over 895,000 residents and more than 135,000 students. As Bergen Executive County Superintendent, Dr. Graham supervises the county's 78 school districts and nearly 300 schools. In this capacity he has provided educational leadership to school leaders and staff members on strategic issues, student achievement, program improvement, fiscal review, curriculum and professional development. He has provided leadership in building positive relationships between and among school boards, administrators, staff, students, parents, and communities.

In 2002, Dr. Graham received a Congressional Citation for Excellence in Educational Reform and Leadership. In 2003, he received the first Bergen County Leadership Award from the Bergen County Association of School Administrators. In 2005, the New Jersey Congress of Parents and Teachers awarded Dr. Graham lifetime membership, and in 2006, he received a 50th Anniversary Honoree Award from Bergen Catholic High School. Dr. Graham serves on the National Faculty of the National Principals Leadership Institute and served as the President of New Jersey Council of Education from 2008 to 2009.

Madam Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join with me in honoring Dr. Aaron Graham for his fourteen years of service to Bergen County, New Jersey and on his retirement as one of America's finest educators.

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**TRIBUTE TO DR. REED L. BUFFINGTON**

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**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Reed L. Buffington. Chabot College in Hayward, California, will dedicate the Reed L. Buffington Visual and Performing Arts Center Building on November 3, 2010. It is a fitting tribute to Dr. Buffington's contributions.

Dr. Buffington held the position of President/ Superintendent of Chabot College from its founding in September of 1961 until his retirement in 1981. When asked by a newspaper reporter to name his chief objective for the new college, Dr. Buffington replied, "Quality . . . quality in everything we do."

The Hayward community continues to benefit from his legacy and from his eponymous awards for alumni, students, and faculty. Upon his retirement, Dr. Buffington created an endowment for the prestigious Buffington Award, annually awarded for excellence in a teaching career. Dr. Buffington began his own career in education as a political science instructor. He earned A.B. and M.A. degrees in political science from the University of Chicago and a Doctorate in Education from Stanford University.

During his tenure at Chabot College, Dr. Buffington made innumerable contributions to higher education in California and to local civic organizations. A passage from the book Chabot College: The First Twenty Years aptly reflects Dr. Buffington's enduring legacy of excellence and service to Chabot College, and the community: "From the very beginning, this has been Reed Buffington's college, dedicated in its every thought, deed, and act to the fulfillment of the educational and cultural needs, hopes, and desires of the people of South County."

I join the community in welcoming the Reed L. Buffington Visual and Performing Arts Center. I also join Dr. Buffington's colleagues in expressing appreciation for his extraordinary leadership.

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**HONORING CHRISTOPHER ADAM MERSHON**

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**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Adam Mershon. Chris is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 98, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Chris has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Chris has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Chris has earned the rank of Patrol Leader in his troop and is a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Chris has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Adam Mershon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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**RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM BLAKE**

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**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. William Blake, a World War II veteran and resident of Edison, New Jersey. Mr. Blake will be honored with the Medal of Chevalier in the French Legion of Honor by the Consul General of France, Mr. Philippe Lalliot for his brave actions during combat. Mr. Blake's courageous actions in combat are deserving of this body's recognition.

Mr. Blake served as a corporal with the United States Army from April 14, 1944 to June 11, 1945. During this time, Mr. Blake displayed valor and bravery. He began as a tank driver with the 2nd Armored Division. As tensions in the region began to grow, in June 1944, Mr. Blake's division was deeply entrenched in the Battle of Normandy, specifically fighting in the Cotentin Peninsula. His heroic actions resulted in the liberation of Carentan. By July 1944, Mr. Blake and his brothers in arms were heavily engaged in Operation Cobra. Subsequent combat missions included the Battle of the Bulge, before his unit was finally stationed in Schonebeck, Germany until July 1945. Mr. Blake's valiant efforts to defend our nation during World War II are noble and highly commendable.

As a result of his courageous efforts, Mr. Blake was awarded the Silver Star Medal. This honor is the third-highest military decoration for valor awarded to a member of any branch of the Armed Forces. Mr. Blake is also the recipient of a Purple Heart. Today he is being honored with the Medal of Chevalier in the French Legion of Honor. His nomination to the position of Chevalier in the Legion d'Honneur was approved by French President Nicolas Sarkozy. The Chevalier of the Legion of Honor is the highest military distinction awarded by France.

Madam Speaker, please join me in leading this body in congratulating Mr. William Blake as he receives this prestigious award. His dedication to this country serves as a shining example of what bravery and determination can accomplish.

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**HONORING SIKH AMERICAN AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION MONTH**

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**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sikh American community on the occasion of Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month which is celebrated in November.

For over a century, California's Central Valley has boasted a flourishing concentration of Sikh Americans, sharing a rich history, mutual understanding, and shared principles. In 1912, the first Sikh Gudwara in the United States was established in Stockton, California as Sikh Americans settled in the region, coming to labor in agricultural and railroad pursuits. Over the years, Sikh Americans have found many successes as over 700,000 have made their homes across our nation.

From serving as Members of Congress, such as Dalip Singh Saund did for three terms, to Mayors of California cities such as San Joaquin, Sikh Americans have quickly become an active force in American public policy. When leading industry positions in agriculture, small business, and medicine, Sikh Americans bring a distinctive pride to many endeavors, and an unparalleled work ethic.

On the first Sunday of each November Sikh Americans throughout our nation celebrate the coronation day of Sikh Scripture as Guru Gaddi Divas with parades and festivals. As we strive to appreciate the vibrant diversity and contributions of all religions and cultures in our nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Sikh American community as they celebrate Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month this November.