

Three staff members working in our office now or who have recently retired from federal service—Judy Counce, Shirlene Mercer and Lou Anne White—started working for the 8th district when Betty Ann and I came to Congress, and we are fortunate that they remained with us.

Six others began their service to the 8th district before that, working alongside my predecessor, Congressman Ed Jones. This truly extraordinary team includes Kathy Becker, Margaret Black Matilla and Betty Hardin, all of whom still work in the 8th district offices today; and Joe Hill, Doug Thompson and Vickie Walling, all of whom recently retired from federal service.

Brad Thompson and Tom Turner are also longtime staff members who have given a great deal of time and energy to our district.

Others on the 8th district team for the 111th Congress include Mary Kate Allen, Mary Arnold, Elizabeth Brown, Christy Bugg, Carling Dinkier IV, Randy Ford, Jon Merlis, Beth Ann Saracco, Debbie Shires, Marilyn Simpson and George Tagg Jr.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate you and our colleagues joining me in a well-deserved expression of appreciation for the women and men who have served alongside Betty Ann and me over the past 22 years, whose selfless, tireless efforts on our behalf have led to meaningful contributions to the 8th district and our country.

#### COMMEMORATING TURKEY ON THEIR REPUBLIC DAY

#### HON. BILL DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2010*

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I recently returned from the Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange's 26th TransAtlantic Conference in Ankara and Istanbul, Turkey.

Joining me for this bipartisan conference were House colleagues JEAN SCHMIDT, FRANK LUCAS, JAMES SENSENBRENNER, and JIM MORAN.

This conference brought together Turkish and European Union government officials, members of the diplomatic community, scholars, and private sector leaders, to find ways to enhance understanding of the global challenges currently facing the U.S. and Turkey. We discussed how vital the bilateral relationship has been to both countries and how the alliance has served our national interest for over 60 years.

The key to our relationship is strengthening collaboration toward shared goals. Only with a renewed sense of trust and understanding will this partnership continue to thrive in the 21st century.

In honor of the deep friendship between the U.S. and Turkey, I come to the House Floor today to congratulate the Turkish people and their government on the 87th anniversary of the founding of their nation by Mustafa Kemal on October 29, 2010.

Mustafa Kemal, who was later given the name Atatürk, meaning "father of the Turks," rejected the crumbling structures and outdated modes of empire and embraced instead a platform of reform and modernization, a legacy that continues in Turkey to this day.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to highlight some of the incredible accomplishments of one of the world's most dynamic nations. Over the past 87 years, Turkey has joined the G20, NATO and the United Nations, becoming a leader on many diplomatic issues in the Middle East, Europe and around the world. She has led humanitarian missions in Afghanistan and Iraq, and taken the lead in the United Nations relating to Somali pirates and North Korea.

Turkey has followed President Atatürk's vision by partnering with the West, and also by building relationships with its neighbors to help stabilize the region.

I speak for the American people in extending our wishes for the continued strength and success of the Republic of Turkey.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANCES LOUISE LASTER HAYES

#### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2010*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Frances Louise Laster Hayes, the owner of T.H. Hayes and Sons Funeral Home in Memphis, Tennessee. She was born to Robert Laster and Maude Blair Laster in Fort Smith, Arkansas on January 9, 1907. Due to her mother's death, Frances and her three siblings, Mary, Clifford and Walter were raised by her father and aunt, Callie.

Frances Laster attended Lemoyne Normal school, now Lemoyne College, in the 1920s. She studied commerce and earned a Bachelor's degree in business administration. After graduation, Frances took a position at her family's lucrative business in Spring Lake, New Jersey. She worked there 8 years before returning to Memphis, where she married Taylor Hayes of Hayes Funeral home, the oldest continuing African-American-owned business in Tennessee.

When Frances Hayes married into the Hayes family at age 23, she had no experience in the funeral home industry. She started as a secretary working side-by-side with her husband and brother-in-law, learning the business of mortuary science. Earning her funeral director's license, Mrs. Hayes became one of the first licensed black female directors. Mrs. Hayes took over the Hayes funeral home with the help of family members when her husband died in 1968.

Mrs. Hayes received several awards and mentions over her lifetime. In 2002, Mrs. Hayes was awarded the President Award of Excellence from the National Funeral Director and Mortician Association Inc. and was also an honorary member of Who's Who of Black Funeral Directors. In recognition of the 100th anniversary of T.H. Hayes and Sons Funeral Home, she was honored by Grace Magazine, the Commercial Appeal and the Tri-State Defender. She was prominent in social and civic realms and was a member of the Memphis Dinner Club, once described as one of the most exclusive black social clubs in America. She was also a member of the 2nd Congregational Church in Memphis, Tennessee.

At 103 years old, Frances Hayes was the epitome of a family matriarch. Her life experiences were widespread, including WWI and

WWII, Vietnam, The Gulf, The Great Depression, modernization of the auto, the assassinations of M.L. King, John F. Kennedy, and Robert Kennedy, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Birth of Blues with WC Handy. Just two years ago she said "I can't believe we have a Black president, and she's such a beautiful First Lady."

Frances Hayes passed away Sunday, November 21, 2010 at the age of 103 at Methodist University Hospital. Mrs. Hayes' legacy lives on through her nephew Powers Thornton, Jr., her brother-in-law's daughter, Tommye Kay Armstrong and her Godsons, Antonio Benson, Eddie Brooks, Elbert Webster and her dozens of nieces and nephews. We are honored for her dedication to Memphis, Tennessee and her contributions to the Memphis community. Hers was a life well lived.

#### HONORING TYLER WHITLEY FOR HIS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

#### HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2010*

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tyler Whitley for his 50 years of service at the Richmond Times-Dispatch and the Richmond News Leader.

After graduating from Hampden-Sydney College, Tyler Whitley began his career with the Richmond News Leader as an obituary writer and then served as business editor for about six years before becoming a political reporter in 1980. He continued covering Virginia politics for the Richmond Times-Dispatch when the papers merged in 1992. A constituent of Virginia's Seventh District and a veteran journalist, Tyler Whitley has covered nine governors, 14 national political conventions and four decades of the Virginia General Assembly.

Known as the sage of the Virginia press corps, Tyler Whitley is highly respected by his colleagues for his hard work and dedication to his craft. He is a familiar face at Virginia political events and a household name to his many readers through countless bylines. He is a fair and honest reporter who I've had the pleasure to work with since my days in the Virginia House of Delegates and continue to work with today.

It is often said that reporters write the first version of history. In that case, Tyler Whitley has written more history than most. Please join me in recognizing Tyler Whitley as he marks a significant milestone in his distinguished career after 50 years of service at Richmond's paper of record.

#### CLAIMS RESOLUTION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

#### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 30, 2010*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4783, Claims Resolution Act, as amended by the Senate to resolve claims against the United States government

related to the Pigford class action lawsuit, and the Cobell class action lawsuit. The Claims Resolution Act included several provisions addressing a long-delayed justice for tens of thousands of African-Americans and hundreds of thousands of Native Americans.

In 1999, a federal judge approved a settlement agreement in a class action lawsuit (Pigford v. Glickman) filed by African-Americans farmers against the United States Department of Agriculture, USDA, for denying them federal loans, disaster assistance, and other services. Under this agreement, black farmers, who were eligible and filed a complaint against the USDA by July 1, 1997, were to receive compensation resulting from discrimination practices. However, tens of thousands of black farmers filed after the cutoff date because they reported not receiving or being notified of any information regarding a filing deadline. Therefore, they were not included in this class action to receive compensation. As a result, black farmers and the federal government have been fighting over this issue for years.

H.R. 4783 is a bill that contained a provision to provide some relief to those that were left out of the original class action. This legislative measure provides an estimated \$1.15 billion to resolve the longstanding Pigford case. In addition, other legislative language was included in H.R. 4783 to address an injustice against the Native Americans regarding a long-running class action lawsuit (Cobell v. Salazar).

The Cobell class action lawsuit alleged that the Interior Department mismanaged billions of dollars in grazing land, gas, oil and other royalties owed to hundreds of thousands of American Indians. H.R. 4783 resolves claims against the government regarding the government's management and accounting for over 500,000 individual Indians' trust accounts. This provision is estimated to cost \$3.412 billion.

H.R. 4783 is a bill that is long overdue to address past failures and misjudgments of the United States Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior toward African-American farmers and Native Americans. Moving forward as a Nation, we hope that we can build on the existence of our past to learn from our failures and to move forward without any racial, gender, and religious malice.

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN LEWIS

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2010*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, Congressman JOHN LEWIS of Georgia is an icon of courage, dignity, and perseverance. He risked his life in the struggle for civil rights for all Americans, he stood with Dr. King as one of that movement's most eloquent and inspirational leaders, and he has held steadfast to the principle of equal justice in every part of his public life, from the Freedom Rides to his service in the House. I am proud to call him a dear friend—and I am proud that his leadership has recently been honored with two prestigious awards.

On November 17, President Obama announced Congressman LEWIS as one of the next recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor.

The award citation noted his courage on "Bloody Sunday" in Selma, Alabama, and his contributions to the passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act; it observed that "JOHN LEWIS is an American hero and a giant of the Civil Rights Movement." The medal will be presented early next year.

On the same day, Congressman LEWIS was also honored by the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation as the inaugural recipient of the LBJ Liberty and Justice for All Award. The award marks Congressman LEWIS's lifelong commitment to the founding principles that were the watchword of the Civil Rights Movement. It also recognizes the determined legislative leadership that enabled President Johnson to turn the movement's moral vision into political action. The LBJ Foundation honored Congressman LEWIS for "his dedication to the highest ethical standards and moral principles [which] has won him the admiration of many of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the United States Congress."

I am among those colleagues who have taken regular inspiration from the force of JOHN LEWIS's example. He has my sincere congratulations on these recent honors.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT E.  
OLIPHANT

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2010*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I inform the House of the death of Robert E. Oliphant. Mr. Oliphant, who passed away at the age of 88, is survived by his wife Pearl; his two daughters Deborah and Patti; and his two grandchildren, Justin and Emily. The community of Odessa and the State of Missouri will sorely miss this remarkable man's leadership, generosity, and congenial disposition.

Born on June 22, 1922, in Cainsville, MO, he was raised by Glenn and Cordia Oliphant in Princeton, MO. After graduating high school in 1941, he attended Chillicothe Business College for a year before heeding the call to service and entering the United States Army. He began basic training in the spring of 1944 and was shipped off to Europe where he served with the 103rd Infantry Division. During the Battle of the Bulge in late 1944, he suffered injuries to his shoulder and arm and was awarded the Purple Heart.

After recovering from his injuries, Mr. Oliphant began working for Clarence H. Goppert at the People's Bank in Kansas City. In 1948, Mr. Goppert acquired the Bank of Odessa and Mr. Oliphant was named executive vice president of the bank. After being promoted to president in the early 1960s, he became chairman of the board of the Bank of Odessa and remained in that position for more than 40 years. Under his leadership, the Bank of Odessa provided invaluable assistance to area churches, civic groups, and volunteer organizations. This assistance and Mr. Oliphant's personal philanthropy allowed these organizations to thrive, prosper, and serve countless individuals.

Mr. Oliphant's leadership in the Odessa community goes far beyond his work at the Bank of Odessa. Selected in the first Hall of

Fame class of the Odessa R-7 Public School Foundation, he was also a founding member of the Odessa Rotary Club, a longtime member of the Odessa Lions Club, and a lifetime member of the Odessa Veterans of Foreign Wars Post. I have no doubt that he has touched the lives of every person in the Odessa community, and his legacy will remain for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Oliphant has served our Nation well as a dedicated family man, a military veteran, and a community servant. I trust my fellow members of the House will join me in celebrating the life of an American treasure, Robert E. Oliphant.

IN HONOR OF MR. ARMSTER  
HINTON

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2010*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my constituents in celebrating the 124th Anniversary of Greater Saint Mark AME Church in Columbus, Georgia. As part of this celebration, we honor the Church's oldest living member, Mr. Armster Hinton, who is 96 years old and has spent the majority of his life worshipping as a parishioner at Greater Saint Mark AME Church.

Born April 16, 1914 in Hurtsboro, Alabama, where his family owned a horse farm, Mr. Hinton is the son of the late Merion and Daisy Hinton. He was educated at William H. Spencer High School, and graduated from that institution in 1933.

Mr. Hinton sought higher education, and graduated from Albany State College with a degree in business. He went on to honorably serve his country during World War II. While a soldier in the U.S. Army, his company in the Army made dog tags for the troops. He also instructed his fellow soldiers in reading and writing, helping many of them to attain a fourth grade level education.

In 1934, Mr. Hinton was married to the love of his life, the late Mrs. Nell Blanchette Gibson Hinton. They were married for 71 wonderful years and were blessed with a beautiful daughter, Mrs. Beverly Gaynell Hinton Hogle. Mrs. Hogle is married to Mr. Kenneth Hogle, who Mr. Hinton considers a son. Mr. Hinton's family also includes his precocious grandson, Master Destin Hinton Hogle.

Along with his immediate family, Mr. Hinton's great love has impacted countless lives, namely those of his god-children: Mrs. Doris Burton Upshaw; Mrs. Frances Jones Walker; Mrs. Rose Marie Wilson Arnold; Rev. Paul Berry, III; Mrs. Jasper Dawkins, Jr.; and Mrs. Jasmine Dawkins Jones.

A master tailor, he is retired from Tillman's Men's Clothing in Columbus. In his retirement, he has utilized his many talents as an avid cook and a consummate gardener. Mr. Hinton also has been the recipient of numerous recognitions from Greater Saint Mark AME Church, where he has been a life-long member since childhood.

He is known throughout the community for his resplendent appearance. When asked about it, his favorite expression is, "I can't help that; I was born looking good." He attributes his longevity to a powerful faith in