

HONORING ADAM AUKAMP AND ALL STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND STAFF MEMBERS OF WEST CREEK HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR HELPING AFGHANISTAN STUDENTS

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the students, teachers, and staff members of West Creek Hills Elementary School, located in my Congressional District, for a very successful school supply drive for students in Afghanistan. In particular, I want to recognize 4th grader Adam Shea Aukamp for bringing the idea to West Creek Hills' Principal, Steve Yanni, and helping to organize the drive.

Adam came up with the idea for the school supply drive after reading a story in a newspaper for children that focused on U.S. troops serving in Afghanistan. The story highlighted how many Afghan children do not have enough school supplies, such as pencils, pens, crayons, etc. Adam decided he wanted to collect supplies to help Afghan children. Adam's mother, Barbara Sheaffer, contacted the Pennsylvania National Guard and connected with a colonel stationed in Afghanistan. The colonel learned through an interpreter that backpacks were also needed. Adam added this to his list.

Adam wrote a letter to his fellow students asking them to support the project and donate supplies. He and a few friends, including Drew Roman, Wesley Marshall, Jacob Doll, and Nicholas Minnich, created some posters and placed them around the school. They also visited classrooms to promote the project. Adam made announcements over the school's intercom system, first announcing the project, and then providing updates on the donation progress.

The drive lasted from November 8 through November 19, 2010. In the end, the school collected: 12 pencil boxes, 37 backpacks, 113 notebooks and writing tablets, 139 crayon boxes, 343 pens, and, 1,577 pencils.

Once again, congratulations to Adam Aukamp and all members of the West Creek Hills Elementary School community. Their efforts are an inspiration to all Americans and stand as a wonderful testament to the unparalleled generosity of our Nation's citizens, young and old.

A TRIBUTE TO ELISHA ACKIE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Elisha Ackie.

Elisha Ackie is one of those members of our society who has always been committed to our community's needs and dedicated to helping others; she is a songbird of religious verses and music, who celebrates that the Lord is her Shepherd.

Elisha Ackie was born on December 14, 1903 in Carriacou, Grenada, West Indies and

migrated to New York in 1988. She is the proud mother of Jean Ackie, grandmother of two and great-grandmother of eight and great-great grandmother of two. Her long life is a testament to her legacy of family values and inter-generational family commitment. Even on the dawn of her 107th birthday, she continues to bring her family together for occasional dinners and gatherings.

Elisha Ackie is commended for adding joy and flavor to our 10th Congressional District in New York. She is also celebrated for the many stylish hats that adorn her beautiful face. This role model of work ethic, family life and sharing of daily bread will most certainly ensure that upcoming generations of her family, and those whose lives they touch, will continue to be fruitful members of our American society.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Elisha Ackie.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND CARNELL HAMPTON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute a spiritual and community leader as he retires from the ministry. Reverend Carnell Hampton has been a tremendous light in Clarendon County during his 45 years at Melina Presbyterian Church and his daily guidance will be sorely missed.

Reverend Hampton grew up in the Mayesville community of Sumter County, and graduated from the historic Goodwill Paracholal School. He chose to return close to home following his graduation from seminary at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina to serve at Melina Presbyterian Church. He built the church into the center of the Gable community, expanding its membership and its missions. He has lived next door to the church and been an active member of the community throughout his career. Over his more than four decades in the ministry, Reverend Hampton has made innumerable contributions to the community, the state, the Presbytery, the Synod and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

I want to personally thank Reverend Hampton for his friendship and support. Just six weeks after my election to Congress in 1992, he and the Melina Presbyterian Church Family welcomed me into their worship service and congratulated me on behalf of the community. His care and concern for the community extends beyond the church walls, and he let me know he expected me to represent the community well. I have worked hard to meet his expectations.

Reverend Hampton is married to Carrie Edwards a native of Spartanburg, South Carolina and the couple has one son Jermaine Carnell, a daughter-in-law Hollie, and two grandchildren Nathan and August.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Reverend Hampton on his retirement. He has touched countless lives and left an indelible mark on this community. His service to Clarendon County and the Presbyterian Church will be long remembered, and hard to replace. I offer my best wishes as he enters this new phase

of his life, and know that he will continue to be an important part of the community.

SO BRILLIANT, THIS, IN HONOR OF A FALLEN HERO, SGT. JESSE MICHAEL BALTHASER, 1ST MARINE DIVISION, 3RD MARINE COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION, THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart, at the loss of one of America's and Ohio's best, Sergeant Jesse Balthaser of Hilltop, of The United States Marine Corps, 1st Marine Division, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion. Heroically, Sergeant Balthaser died when he stepped on an IED on September 4th during a fire fight in Helmand province, Afghanistan. This magnificent young man has done several tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He was getting ready to come home in November to witness the birth of his first child, already named Regan Michael, in December to Erin McSweeney his girl friend and future wife. Words can not ease their pain, and of that his parents Richard and Nancy Balthaser who have now lost their only child in service to our country. Our prayers and our thoughts go out to them in this time of such sorrow. Our nation owes a great debt to all the families and their loved ones of the Armed Forces, who teach us, That freedom, surely is not free. Bless them all.

So Brilliant, This

So . . .

So Brilliant This!

As is, as was Jesse's gift!

That Last Full Measure! That Oh So Such Golden Treasure!

As all in his short lifetime defined . . .

Of One's Life, As Is This . . . So Brilliant, in time . . .

While, all in the darkness of war . . .

While, all in a heart and soul . . . of such faith to insure . . .

To insure our freedom, but, bought and paid for!

Yes Jesse, but with your most precious life! Oh yes you Jesse, so shone with your most brilliant light . . .

All in your magnificent shades of green . . .

As there you were, our son so bravely seen!

Oh yes, you United States Marine!

Where Strength In Honor, So Convenes!

As so gallantly, you so ventured forth . . .

All out upon death's course . . .

As for us, you walked through The Valley of Death . . .

With a heart of courage full, and clenched fist!

As America's Son! As on high, as your courage crested!

As all for God and Country, your most courageous heart could not so be stilled!

And your United States Marines, Ohio's Best as you moved onward still!

As our nation with your sacred sacrifice, all of ours lives have so blessed!

As a Mother and a Father cries, as their only son has died . . .

As for them, we now so weep . . . deep down in hearts, so very deep!

As a future wife's, great love has been lost . . .

And their new child to be born out of love, will bare the cost . . .

But, hush little baby don't you cry!

Because, one day up in Heaven you will look into your fine Father's eyes!
 And Jesse, on this night as your loved ones lay their heads down to sleep . . .
 Out across Columbus, but comes a gentle rain . . . that which so weeps . . .
 So Weeps, Our Lords tears . . . falling down from Heaven so very deep . . .
 All in his love for you, and your most brilliant gift . . .
 And for your heartbroken family so very deep!
 To ease their pain . . .
 And in the coming years, we will see you . . . all in our tears . . .
 All in your beautiful child of love, most beautiful face . . . so very dear!
 So Brilliant, This!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded votes for rollcall 608, 609, and 610. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" for these measures:

Rollcall No. 608—H.R. 6400—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass.

Rollcall No. 609—H. Res. 1642—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass.

Rollcall No. 610—H. Res. 1264—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ALLAN W. PURDY

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Allan Purdy who dedicated his life to removing financial barriers to higher education.

His unprecedented devotion and leadership in making college education more affordable to all students will be remembered down through the ages. As a strong supporter of affordable higher education, I applaud Purdy's bold endeavor in ensuring that all students are assisted in achieving their higher education goals.

Purdy was the founding president of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and helped create the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority, spending 20 years serving on MOHELA's board of directors.

He truly believed in putting the best interest of the students first. He worked to implement borrower benefit programs including loan forgiveness and low interest rates. I admire his tenacity and determination in that he played a key role in supporting and organizing student aid programs in which thousands of Missourians benefit.

On October 14th, we lost a great education pioneer. Now is the time that, we must work together to ensure that Allan Purdy's legacy and commitment to serving students continues and that we work toward providing equal opportunities to students.

Purdy will be forever remembered for his unwavering allegiance to building financial aid

programs that would serve all students despite the college they choose.

HONORING FRANK HOWARD ALLEN REALTORS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Frank Howard Allen Realtors, which this year is celebrating its 100th anniversary of service in the San Francisco Bay Area. For a century now, Frank Howard Allen has remained a family-owned, locally operated brokerage characterized by a unique commitment to the people in our region. We have all been fortunate to benefit from its long history of economic and community development.

Frank Howard Allen Realtors, the namesake of its founder, was established in Marin County in 1910 as a small company focused on local service. By the 1960s, the company had expanded to four offices and over forty salespeople, and ownership was transferred to another family with strong local ties. It has remained in that family's care ever since and is now owned by CEO Larry Brackett and his wife Brennie Brackett. Under the Bracketts' leadership, Frank Howard Allen has continued its steady growth into Marin County's largest brokerage by market share, and it has expanded its strong presence in Sonoma and Napa Counties. From a small, independent company, Frank Howard Allen has become one of our major employers, with over 600 agents in more than 20 offices across the North Bay.

But even as it has grown into an important regional player, Frank Howard Allen has remained invested in our communities and deeply rooted in its origins. Because of the Bracketts' efforts, the company has been instrumental in developing the Marin Workforce Housing Trust, a unique public-private partnership that provides funding for critically necessary low-income and special-needs housing. Frank Howard Allen has also played an active and conscientious role in our public life, providing assistance to organizations serving our population in countless ways. By matching its agents' donations from closed escrows, Frank Howard Allen has been a consistent supporter of our North Bay schools, clinics, parks, museums, food banks, and other nonprofit organizations serving local people and our natural environment. Most recently, the brokerage sponsored its own giving programs aimed at providing food and clothing to those in need over the holiday season.

Frank Howard Allen has also been the recipient of a number of business awards, not only for its approach to clients and the community, but also for its treatment of workers. In 2010, Frank Howard Allen was honored by the North Bay Business Journal as one of the region's best places to work, and readers of the Pacific Sun voted it the region's best real estate brokerage. Frank Howard Allen also carried its category in NorthBay Biz, making this the eighth consecutive year it has won that magazine's highest accolades.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Frank Howard Allen Realtors for its

long standing work in our region, and in wishing it every success in its second century. The company's economic and philanthropic contributions to our communities are a model of the kind of business that makes the North Bay a vibrant and unique place to live.

A TRIBUTE TO LAUREN HAMMOND

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sacramento City Councilwoman Lauren Hammond, as she steps down from the Sacramento City Council after 14 years of honorable service. As her colleagues, friends and family gather to commemorate her many years of service to the people of Sacramento, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Councilwoman Hammond's leadership and lasting impact on the City of Sacramento.

Councilwoman Hammond is a Sacramento native; she grew up in Land Park and attended McClatchy High School, the same high school as my late husband Robert Matsui. After high school, she continued her higher education in Sacramento, graduating from Sacramento City College and the California State University, Sacramento where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Government.

After graduation from Sacramento State, Lauren began her distinguished career in public service by working 22 years for the California State Senate. While with the Senate, she has served as a Telecommunications Contract Administrator and as the Senate's Coordinator for the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In 1997, Lauren ran for Sacramento's City Council. She won the special election in to become the first African-American woman elected to the City Council. As a City Councilwoman, she put her skills as a long-time community leader and neighborhood activist to work, focusing on working families and ensuring that the City of Sacramento is run efficiently. In her work, she concentrated on improving her district by ensuring safe walkways to schools and expanding youth services. She tackled citywide concerns such as youth empowerment, accessible health care for all, predatory lending and implementing smart growth policies. She has also helped revitalize Sacramento's Oak Park neighborhood, as well as lead the efforts to improve the Broadway, Stockton Boulevard and Franklin Boulevard corridors in order to make those areas more business friendly. She has worked tirelessly to make Sacramento a better place to live and do business.

Councilwoman Hammond's duties kept her busy, as she served on numerous boards of local government agencies. Some of these include the governing bodies of the Sacramento Area Sewer District, the Sacramento Transportation Authority, the Downtown Sacramento Revitalization Corporation, the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, the Sacramento Regional Solid Waste Authority Board, the Regional Transit District and Paratransit Inc. She also served as the Chairwoman of the City's Law and Legislation Committee.

Madam Speaker, as Councilwoman Hammond's family, friends and colleagues gather