

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. PAUL FOREMAN

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Paul Foreman. Mr. Foreman served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as the Town of Dunkirk Highway Superintendent.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Foreman served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Foreman is one of those people and that is why Madam Speaker I rise to pay tribute to him today.

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF  
VIRGIL MILLER

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Virgil White Miller, who passed away on February 20, 2010 at the age of 68. Virgil spent his life serving his country, his community, his family, and his church, and I am honored to recognize his life of dedication and service.

A native of Texas, Virgil Miller graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1964. In college, Virgil met his wife, Kathryn Rogers, and he served in the Corps of Cadets. Upon graduation, he received a commission in the United States Air Force and moved to Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Virgil worked as a Mechanical Engineer for the Air Force Armament Laboratory at Eglin Air Force Base. He and his wife loved Northwest Florida so much that they decided to stay, and Virgil began his 32 year career as a civil servant with the Air Force Research Laboratory, retiring in 2000.

In addition to his service to our country, Virgil was an active member of our Northwest Florida community. A dedicated member of Fort Walton Beach First Baptist Church, he taught Sunday School, church training, Royal Ambassadors, and was a deacon, serving as chairman of deacons for two terms. Virgil also participated in disaster relief efforts with the Florida Baptist Convention on numerous occasions. In 2007, Virgil was elected to the Fort

Walton Beach City Council, where he served faithfully until his passing.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am humbled to recognize Virgil Miller as a veteran, public servant, community volunteer, and loving father and husband. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his entire family, including his wife, Kathy, his children, Michelle, Kristyn, and Randy, his grandchildren, and entire extended family as we remember and honor the life of Virgil Miller. He will be truly missed by all of us.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
ON RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN  
IRAQ

SPEECH OF

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 944 and thank the Chair and Ranking Member for their efforts to bring this to the floor for consideration at such a pivotal time in Iraq.

A February 6 ABC News story opened with the following observation: "Across the Middle East, where Christianity was born and its followers once made up a sizable portion of the population, Christians are now tiny minorities."

This is perhaps no more true than in Iraq. With the exception of Israel, the Bible contains more references to the cities, regions and nations of ancient Iraq than any other country. The patriarch Abraham came from a city in Iraq called Ur. Isaac's bride, Rebekah, came from northwest Iraq. Jacob spent 20 years in Iraq and his sons (the 12 tribes of Israel) were born in northwest Iraq. A remarkable spiritual revival as told in the book of Jonah occurred in Nineveh. The events of the book of Esther took place in Iraq as did the account of Daniel in the Lion's Den.

Tragically Iraq's ancient Christian community is facing extinction. The U.N. High Commission for Refugees estimates that some 250,000 to 500,000 Christians have left the country since 2003, or about half the Christian population. According to the bipartisan U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), "while Christians and other religious minorities represented only approximately 3 percent of the pre-2003 Iraqi population, they constitute approximately 15 and 20 percent of registered Iraqi refugees in Jordan and Syria, respectively, and Christians account for 35 and 64 percent, respectively, of all registered Iraqi refugees in Lebanon and Turkey."

It is critical to note, as the figures above indicate, that the violence and intimidation that Iraq's Christians and other vulnerable ethnoreligious communities have faced is targeted.

In July 2008, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Migration & Refugee Services said this about the minority religious communities: "These groups, whose home has been what is now Iraq for many centuries, are literally being obliterated—not because they are fleeing generalized violence but because they are being specifically and viciously victimized by Islamic extremists and, in some cases, common criminals."

Reports indicate that since 2003, more than 200 Christians have been killed in Iraq, and since June 2004, 65 churches have been attacked or bombed. The situation facing these minority communities is not improving. In fact there has been a recent uptick in violence in the lead up to the elections in Iraq. A Reuters story last week reported that, "With Iraq's March 7 parliamentary vote looming, a spike in attacks against Christians could be a sign of voter intimidation by factions in the bitter Kurd-Arab dispute, or another attempt by al Qaeda to derail the election."

I have appreciated Ambassador Chris Hill's commitment to this issue. In recent correspondence he indicated that "the security of the Christian community remains one of my paramount concerns, especially in light of attacks directed at Christian churches in Baghdad and Mosul over the past five months."

But there needs to be leadership from the highest levels within the State Department as well. I have long advocated, both during the previous administration and in the current administration, that the U.S. needs to adopt a comprehensive policy to address the unique situation of these defenseless minorities. This resolution includes language urging the Secretary of State to develop just such a strategy.

It is time for this administration to start taking religious freedom seriously. The position of U.S. ambassador for International Religious Freedom has been vacant for more than a year while other more junior posts have been filled. There's a saying in Washington that personnel is policy. When there isn't personnel, the policy inevitably suffers.

The ancient faith communities of Iraq and others enduring religious persecution worldwide deserve a voice. This resolution is a step in the right direction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Monday, February 22, 2010, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 49 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4425) and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 50 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4238).

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

## HONORING HUGH GOODWIN

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Hugh Goodwin upon being honored with the "Trail Blazers Award" by the African American Museum. Mr. Goodwin will be honored at the African American History Month Celebration and Banquet on Saturday, February 6th, 2010 in Fresno, California.

Mr. Hugh Wesley Goodwin, Sr. was born on May 6, 1921 to James and Anna Goodwin. He was the youngest of seven children. The family settled in Steelton, Pennsylvania where his father worked both as a steel worker and a Baptist minister. Mr. Goodwin served in the military during World War II. Upon his discharge he graduated from Harvard Law School and moved to California to practice law.

Mr. Goodwin was the first African American lawyer and judge in Fresno County. He opened his law practice in Fresno during the early 1950's. In 1957 Mr. Goodwin married Frances Jones. Together they raised four children; Hugh, Paul, Anna and Tom.

Over the next fifty years, Mr. Goodwin continuously advocated for disadvantaged people and challenged the racial boundaries at the time. Through his perseverance and advocacy, he earned a wide range of respect from his peers, as well as members of the community. Mr. Goodwin was very active in the community. He was a member of the Equal Opportunities Commission Legal Council and volunteered at the Fresno Rescue Mission. Mr. Goodwin served as President of the Fresno Black Caucus and President of the West Fresno Little League. After the little league games, Mr. Goodwin would take the scores and highlights to The Fresno Bee to be published in the paper the next day. He was a devout Christian; he attended Second Baptist Church and served many years as a deacon and a Sunday school teacher.

In 1976, Mr. Goodwin was appointed to the municipal court bench in Fresno County. While serving on the bench, he gained national attention when he sentenced convicted defendants to church rather than serving jail time or paying fines. Throughout the controversy, he remained committed to his beliefs. Mr. Goodwin returned to private practice in 1978 and remained practicing until 1996. Mr. Goodwin passed away in 2004.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Hugh Goodwin. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

HONORING SUSANNE SCHOLZ OF  
LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Susanne Scholz on the occasion of her retirement as executive director of the Lake County Land

Trust. Susanne is a tireless advocate for the environmental protection of Lake County who will be missed by everyone in the conservation community.

Mrs. Scholz grew up in Alberta, Canada and received her B.A. with honors in liberal arts from Sonoma State University. She was a founding member of the Lake County Land Trust in 1993 and became executive director in 2000. Mrs. Scholz is an accomplished writer as well; she is a popular local nature columnist who also authored an anthology of poems and short stories. Suzanne is an avid birder and a knowledgeable naturalist whose keen skills of observation have enhanced her connection to the land and ability to serve in her position.

Mrs. Scholz has not only dedicated her professional skills to the conservation movement but her personal time as well. She serves as the membership chair for Redbud Audubon Society and is a member of the Lake County Grading Ordinance Committee, Lake County Resource Advisory Committee for the Secure Rural Schools Program, and she is a former board member of the Anderson Marsh Interpretative Association.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Susanne Scholz for her years of dedication and service on behalf of Lake County. She has been an exceedingly intelligent, reliable and professional executive director of the Land Trust who oversaw a vast expansion of conservation in Lake County. I join her husband Jim in thanking Susanne and wishing her a lifetime of fulfillment.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL VARNER  
AS THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael Varner upon receiving the Escambia County, Florida Teacher of the Year Award. For thirty-five years, Mr. Varner has been an inspiration to his students, his colleagues, and his community, and I am honored to recognize his achievements.

After receiving his Bachelor of Science Education Degree and from the University of West Florida, Mr. Varner began his teaching career at J.M. Tate High School in 1975. For thirty-five years, Mr. Varner has been at the vanguard of teaching at Tate. He taught anatomy and physiology for eleven years, botany for ten years, and biology for thirty-five years. He has also worked as a Dual-Enrolled instructor with Pensacola Junior College for fourteen years. Since 2004, he has served as an adjunct professor at PJC. Mr. Varner is a member and a leader of the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA).

Mr. Varner has been widely recognized and honored for his years of teaching the students at Tate High School. He received the Tate Teacher of the Year Award in 1976, 1990, and 2010 and has been nominated twice for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Program. From 1998 to

2004, he was a top ten finalist for the NABT Outstanding Biology Teacher in Florida, and in 2005, Mr. Varner earned the NABT Florida Outstanding Biology Teacher Award.

Beyond the awards and the achievements, Mr. Varner is a top-notch teacher and a dedicated public servant. He goes above and beyond the call of duty to serve his students, utilizing real-world techniques to teach them concepts beyond the classroom. His students sign contracts, receive job orders, and earn paychecks for work completed. When the Tate administration was faced with canceling a dual-enrollment biology class because of low enrollment, Mr. Varner volunteered to sacrifice one of his planning periods to teach the class in spite of the cutback. His innovative methods of teaching have been adapted and utilized by dozens of other faculty members.

Mr. Varner's tremendous efforts extend well outside of his biology classroom. He served as the Senior Executive Board Advisor for nine years, teaching students to lead others and inspiring them to achieve success. He has also served as a scoutmaster, youth and music minister, and a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and Relay for Life. Mr. Varner is also known as the voice of Tate's band, the Showband of the South, and is commonly viewed as the custodian of the cultural history of Tate High School.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Michael Varner as the Escambia Teacher of the Year. He is a dedicated teacher, an inspiration to his students, and an honorable public servant. Vicki and I wish Mr. Varner, his wife Kathleen, and his sons, Jason and Brian, all the best for the future.

HONORING AMANDA PRUNTY,  
SAMANTHA O'ROURKE, CEDRIC  
WILSON, AND ALLISON  
MENDITTO FOR WINNING THE  
HONORING OUR FUTURE LEADERS  
COMPETITION**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge four students in my district, Amanda Prunty, Samantha O'Rourke, Cedric Wilson, and Allison Menditto, from Bay Shore High School.

These students will receive the Honoring Our Future Leaders Award on February 27, 2010. To win this award, they wrote their own rendition of the "I Have a Dream" speech delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am proud to honor Amanda, Samantha, Cedric, and Allison for their academic and personal achievements and congratulate them upon the receipt of this prestigious award.

## HONORING WAYNE WERTS

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of