

HONORING FRANK HAYES

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, today it is my privilege to rise during Black History Month, a time when we remember the important contributions African Americans have made to our nation. I want to especially honor the extraordinary people who continue to help shape my community and our great nation. I represent thousands of successful and talented African Americans in the Second Congressional District of Nebraska. Today I would like to pay special tribute to Frank Hayes.

Mr. Hayes is a CPA in Omaha. He was the first African American in the state of Nebraska to receive his license to practice public accountancy. He owns his own business, dealing with individual and corporate tax. He began his business in 1983 and now has more than 20 employees serving more than 100 clients in 15 states. He is also a founding member and was the first president of the 100 Black Men organization, which is dedicated to improving the lives of youth. He has worked tirelessly to help minorities start their own businesses and is currently the executive vice president for finance for the 100 Black Men of America National Board of Directors. In 2009, Mr. Hayes was inducted into the Omaha Business Hall of Fame and the Omaha Technical High School Hall of Fame for outstanding accomplishments in business and community service.

Thank you Frank Hayes for everything you have done in your long and distinguished career, making a difference in the lives of thousands of people, especially our young people.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
MCLEAN COUNTY COMMUNITY
COMPACT

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 20th Anniversary of the McLean County Community COMPACT (Collaborating on Meaningful Partnerships and Careers for Tomorrow). The COMPACT, through a coalition of business, education, community, and government volunteers, offers support to school-aged youth in McLean County, Illinois. The COMPACT helps youth become self-sufficient, contributing citizens, through an effective transition from formal schooling to the world of work.

The COMPACT offers a variety of supportive special programs and services for students, teachers, and educational entities through a collaborative effort among business and community leaders. The COMPACT promotes active exchange of resources among businesses and educational entities, including the participation of students in research projects.

The McLean County Community COMPACT was born in 1989 when a small group of local leaders met to address the high school dropout rate and the number of children in McLean

County living in poverty. From these leaders came invitations to colleagues to join the effort and a volunteer organization named the COMPACT was born. Since 1990, thousands of students have participated in the COMPACT's projects and from those projects created awareness, motivation, and direction for many young people.

In November of 1994, the COMPACT entered into a partnership with the University of Illinois Extension in McLean County. The organization continued to move forward, hiring an executive director who coordinates among the COMPACT's 250 members. In its 20th year, the COMPACT focuses on 8 project areas including the original Sixth Grade Business Education Partnerships, Principal for a Day, and Career Preparation Realities. It also serves at-risk youth through Achieving Competence in Education and brings technology to homes of students without it through the Clearinghouse Project. More recently, the COMPACT has developed youth leadership activities through Teens in Prevention and YouthLEADS, offering opportunities for youth to help their peers find the correct path.

I would like to commend the McLean County Community COMPACT staff, volunteers and board of directors for their commitment and innovative collaborative efforts in preparing the youth of McLean County for the world of work. I wish them many more years of continued success.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS
OF SERGEANT JOSEPH
MATTEONI AND FIREFIGHTERS
GARY DUNNE AND JEFF JOHN-
STON DURING THE 309 MILL
STREET APARTMENT FIRE OF
AUGUST 30, 2009

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic actions of Sergeant Joseph Matteoni of the Grass Valley Police Department and Firefighters Gary Dunne and Jeff Johnston of the Grass Valley Fire Department, Engine 1, during the 309 Mill Street Apartment Fire.

On the morning of August 30, 2009, fire and police units were dispatched to an apartment building fire at 309 Mill Street in Grass Valley, California. Upon arriving at the scene of the fire, responders were informed by local citizens that residents were trapped inside the building.

Sergeant Matteoni heard faint cries for help emanating from the backside of the second story of the building. Without hesitation, and disregarding his own personal safety, Sergeant Matteoni rushed into the smoke-filled building. Battling extreme heat and smoke, Sergeant Matteoni carried a woman out of the building and with the assistance of Officer Dan Kimbrough, moved her to safety.

Meanwhile, Firefighters Dunne and Johnston entered from the front of the building. Forced to crawl on their bellies because of the thick smoke and extreme heat, the firefighters pushed through the burning building toward cries for help, finding a second woman standing disoriented in the hallway. As they ap-

proached, the woman retreated further into her smoke-filled apartment where she collapsed. Pushing into the apartment, Firefighters Dunne and Johnston carried the woman out of the building and to safety.

The brave actions of Sergeant Joseph Matteoni and Firefighters Gary Dunne and Jeff Johnston are a testament to the finest traditions of the Grass Valley Police and Fire Departments. It is my honor to recognize and thank them for their commitment to going well above and beyond the call of duty in service to our community.

IN SUPPORT OF KFEO 99.1 FM
"CLASSIC99"

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I stand today on behalf of my constituents and with my friend and colleague Congressman JOHN SHIMKUS to raise further concern about the pending sale and format change of Classic99. As St. Louis's only classical radio station, Classic99 is a true asset to our city.

As Congressman SHIMKUS noted, the sale of KFEO 99.1 FM by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is currently under review by both the Media Bureau and the FCC. While we certainly do not wish to exact undue influence on either of these agencies, our constituents have made clear to us their concerns, and we agree that this loss will be a blow to the wealth of our region's culture and economy. We hope that these negative impacts will be considered while reviewing this sale.

We have seen that losing the arts can wreak havoc on a community, and the Metro East region will be no different. If Classic99 is converted to a different music format, the cultural and economic consequences will be dismal. The world-renowned St. Louis Symphony Orchestra will lose airtime and its chief advertising venue, forcing gifted musicians and staff to suffer even more pay cuts and freezes. Losing Classic99 will result in a cultural deficit as well. 94% of readers polled by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch feel that the loss of Classic99 "takes away a vital voice for the arts in this community," and will detrimentally affect their ability to support local artists.

Arts education organizations throughout my district, like the Opera Theater of St. Louis, the St. Louis Art Museum, and the Touhill Performing Arts Center, will lose their only major arena for audience-building, live broadcasts, and fund-raising. The loss of revenue will hinder arts and music education in the district, further impairing opportunities for our young people to be enriched through the arts. We know that arts education gives youths self-confidence and increases academic achievement. We simply cannot afford to sacrifice these opportunities, and I am deeply troubled by the idea that more educational outlets for our children will be put in jeopardy by this move.

I firmly agree with my colleague that the negative impact these cultural and economic changes will have on the local community should play a role in determining the sale of 99.1.

COMMENDING JOHN ANTON OF
HAVERHILL

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to John Anton, the National Down Syndrome Society 2010 Advocate of the Year. Mr. Anton is a resident of Haverhill, Massachusetts in my congressional district. Throughout his life, Mr. Anton has been a leader and advocate for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. His work has touched thousands of lives, and his efforts should be recognized and emulated.

The National Down Syndrome Society is the national advocate for the value, acceptance and inclusion of people with Down Syndrome. The Advocate of the Year honor commends Mr. Anton's work to enhance the quality of life for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, while helping them to realize their life aspirations and become valued members of their communities.

Mr. Anton certainly deserves this award. He has committed his life to helping individuals adapt to their disabilities, achieve their greatest potential, and work toward productive, independent lives.

In Massachusetts, Mr. Anton was heavily involved in efforts to change the name of the state Department of Mental Retardation to the Department of Developmental Services. He was determined to bring awareness to this cause, and was successful in his endeavor. Massachusetts adopted the new name in 2009. He is to be congratulated on this achievement.

Mr. Anton served as the Chairman of Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong. He spent time as a legislative intern with State Representative Tom Sannicandro and also worked for the Arc of Greater Haverhill-Newburyport. Throughout his life, he has mentored others with disabilities and has been a great inspiration to many. We in Massachusetts are grateful for his service to the Commonwealth.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me today in congratulating John Anton for receiving the National Down Syndrome Society 2010 Advocate of the Year, and for his efforts and dedication to a cause for which he is so passionate.

We thank you, Mr. Anton, for your ongoing service to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities and look forward hearing of your continued successes.

HONORING DR. DAVID BENKE

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. David Benke, a math teacher at Deer Creek Middle School in Littleton, Colorado.

Dr. Benke is an ordinary American—husband, father, teacher and coach—but his actions this week in the face of grave danger were nothing short of extraordinary.

As school was letting out on Tuesday, a gunman approached and opened fire on students.

Upon seeing the suspect, Dr. Benke, in a moment of extreme bravery, rushed towards the shooter, wrestled him to the ground, and held on as his colleagues helped subdue the shooter.

He broke up a potentially deadly school shooting, and if it were not for the rapid and selfless actions of Dr. Benke and his colleagues it could have been a much more violent and tragic encounter.

When asked about his actions, Dr. Benke modestly remarked, "If something happens and there's something I can do about it, I want to try and do something about it."

He did more than just "something."

There are many heroes in our midst, and sometimes it takes an extraordinary moment of danger to bring out their true valor.

The people of the Sixth District are fortunate to have Dr. Benke in our community. It is ordinary people like him who do extraordinary things that keeps our community safe.

RECOGNIZING GREG FIRST OF
DADE CITY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Greg First of Dade City, FL. for most of his life, Greg has been a faithful servant to his community; volunteering himself to many causes which have helped to enrich the lives of many.

Born to Jimmy and Mary First in Bedford, Ohio, Mr. First moved to Zephyrhills with his family at the age of 10. After graduating from Zephyrhills High School, he attended the University of Maryland and served in the United States Air Force from 1968 to 1972.

Mr. First has volunteered himself, quite literally, having donated a total of 16 gallons of blood while director of public relations for Blood Net, in addition to volunteering for Meals on Wheels, Relay for Life, and a local Hospice. He has kept up the spirits of Zephyrhills residents as an announcer for Main Street Parades and high school football games. A three-time president of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. First has been a Christian Radio DJ, a lifetime Am Vet Member, and he even started his own local news website, "What's Up Zephyrhills?"

Madam Speaker, on February 26, the Conservative Club of East Pasco will honor Greg's achievements with the Lincoln Heritage Award. I ask you to join me today to honor him on the floor of this house. May we all give back to our communities as much as Mr. First has.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF MEDGAR EVARS AND CELEBRATING THE UNITED STATES NAVY FOR NAMING A SUPPLY SHIP AFTER MEDGAR EVARS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1022, which hon-

ors the life and sacrifice of Medgar Evars, recognizes the important role he played in progressing the cause of civil rights, and congratulates the United States Navy for honoring him with the naming of the United States naval ship *Medgar Evars*. H. Res. 1022 is an important measure that pays tribute to an individual who sacrificed his life fighting for the core American values of equality and civil rights.

I thank Chairmen CONYERS for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank the author of this legislation, Congressman HANK JOHNSON, who has taken the time to remember the invaluable work of Medgar Evars and to celebrate the United States Navy's efforts to honor this American hero.

Medgar Evars was born in 1925 in Decatur, Mississippi. Growing up in the heart of the segregated South, Medgar Evars experienced the worst of racial oppression. Still, in 1943, he volunteered to serve his country in World War II, and fought valiantly with the United States Army in the Battle of Normandy.

After fighting overseas for the cause of freedom and democracy, Medgar Evars returned home to a segregated country as a second-class citizen. He dedicated himself to activism, working tirelessly for the cause of racial equality on behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). As a result of his activism, Medgar Evars was the target of numerous death threats and assassination attempts. But his bravery and dedication knew no bounds and he continued his important work until he was tragically murdered on June 12, 1963.

It is entirely fitting that we honor Medgar Evars, who in his life as well as his death, helped move our country out of a time of oppression and segregation and into an era of greater tolerance and equality.

It is equally fitting that the United States Navy has chosen to honor Medgar Evars with the naming of the United States naval ship *Medgar Evars*. This ship, a *Lewis and Clark* class dry cargo ship, is a state-of-the-art vessel that will provide essential logistics support to Navy operations around the world. Just as Medgar Evars helped bring our nation racial reconciliation, the United States naval ship *Medgar Evars* will help the Navy to promote peace and conflict resolution throughout the world. This ship is one more way in which the life and sacrifice of Medgar Evars will continue to serve as a beacon of equality.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1022.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
LINDA GROVER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Linda Grover, an author and an activist for global peace. Ms. Grover turned her strong sense of justice into words and actions. Ms. Grover consistently fought for the common good as a volunteer and as a leader on behalf of numerous local, national and international projects.

Following her marriage to Broadway actor-singer Stanley Grover, Ms. Grover led a 7-