

Frankie Drayton Thomas, known to all as "Frankie," was born in West Palm Beach, Florida to Iola and Frank Drayton in May of 1928. She attended public schools and graduated from Industrial High School as an honor student in 1946. In 1950, Frankie graduated from Howard University in Washington, D.C. and went on to earn a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Florida Atlantic University.

A pioneer in her own right, Frankie became the first black college-trained social worker hired by the State of Florida's Department of Public Welfare. In the 1960s, she helped improve the lives of the less fortunate as a social worker in Washington State and, later, the Glades community. After years of hard work and dedicated service, Frankie rose to an administrative position in the Florida Department of Family and Youth Services. She retired from the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services as Director of Resource Development and Volunteer Services in 1995.

Frankie was a "Renaissance woman," also devoting herself to many political, social, and family endeavors. In June 1951, she and her good friend Gwendolyn Baker Rodgers co-founded Charmettes, Inc., an international organization 19-chapters-strong that unites women in the name of community strength. One of the many projects and services that she initiated as 1st Executive Director of the Charmettes is the annual contribution to the Howard University Cancer Research Center. From 1981 to present, the Charmettes have contributed nearly \$350,000 dollars to this effort.

Furthermore, Frankie was the founding president of the Northwest Democratic Club in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Urban League and the Board of Directors of Southeast Hospice. In fact, she was the first African-American female in the country to head a Hospice Board of Directors and also served on the Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of America. Frankie was also a member of Delta Sigma Theta and served as a Parliamentarian of the Broward County Chapter.

Well-known for her political savvy, she organized and executed many political forums and helped to elect many candidates to office, including myself, as well as most of the Broward County Commissioners and school board members, Governor Bob Graham, Sheriff Ken Jenne, Attorney General Bob Butterworth, and President Bill Clinton.

Madam Speaker, Frankie was a social worker, public servant, community leader, activist, mentor, and philanthropist. Above all, however, she was a beautiful person whose compassion and spirit touched countless lives. A great voice for humankind has been lost. Frankie was my friend and she will be missed dearly.

#### CONGRATULATING ZACH STRIEF OF THE NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

#### HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Zach Strief of the Super Bowl Champion New Orleans Saints. Zach

grew up in Milford, Ohio and—despite being too big to play pee wee football and an unfulfilling first practice in high school—was recently named to the Milford High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

Zach went on to attend college at Northwestern University where he was a three-year starter. He was selected as a first-team All-American after his senior season. In 2006, Zach was selected in the seventh round of the National Football League Draft by the New Orleans Saints. Now, in his fourth season with the Saints, Zach is an important part of the Super Bowl champions.

Citizens of Ohio's Second Congressional District are certainly proud of Zach's athletic accomplishments. However, I am more impressed with his actions off the field. Recognizing a need to keep children active and wanting to give back to the community, he formed the Zach Strief Dream Big Foundation with the help of his parents, Doug and Cathy. Through this charity, Zach and his new wife have become important contributors to the rebuilding of the New Orleans community—and he has not forgotten his hometown. The Zach Strief Dream Big Foundation has focused on after school activities for children in New Orleans. And in Zach's hometown of Milford, the foundation has donated football equipment and uniforms as well as provided scholarships for children. Each summer, Zach returns to Milford High School and conducts a youth football camp that benefits his foundation.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Zach Strief for his many noteworthy accomplishments both on and off the football field. Zach is truly an inspiring leader and Ohio's Second Congressional District is proud that he is one of our own.

#### RECOGNIZING TONY BELL OF HARVEYVILLE, KANSAS

#### HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tony Bell of Harveyville in the "Big First" Congressional District of Kansas. Tony has been selected as a "Great Comebacks Recipient" for the central region of the United States. He has been selected for this honor because of his perseverance and determination in the face of medical and physical challenges. Each year, the Great Comebacks program celebrates a group of individuals who are living with intestinal diseases or recovering from ostomy surgery.

Tony is one of over 700,000 Americans who have an ostomy, a surgical procedure that reconstructs bowel and bladder function through the use of a specially fitted medical prosthesis. Many Americans suffering from Crohn's or ulcerative colitis rely on a certain type of ostomy to function on a daily basis. Just like a prosthesis, ostomies help restore patients' ability to participate in the normal activity of daily life.

The Great Comeback Awards program raises awareness of quality-of-life issues for people with Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, colorectal cancer, and other diseases that can lead to ostomy surgery. While ostomy surgery is a procedure that can be life saving, it is also life-changing for these patients. The spirit and

courage with which a patient embraces life after ostomy surgery is what the Great Comebacks program celebrates.

Born with a defect of his colon, Tony Bell received an ostomy after birth. The ostomy was reversed a few years later, but Tony received a permanent colostomy at 9 years of age. Following this procedure, Tony was ready to saddle up and grab life by the horns and he embraced a bright future—one he hoped would include a career as a professional bull rider from Kansas. He wasted no time, mounting his first bull at the age of 10. As Tony trained for rodeo events, he also pursued his love of music. In fact, as a high school senior, he was chosen to join the elite Kansas Ambassadors choir on a European tour.

While attending college on a singing scholarship, Tony entered the pro rodeo circuit and competed professionally for two years, even riding in the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo, known as "Daddy of 'em All." Having achieved this childhood dream, Tony has set his sights on a new goal, following in his parents footsteps to become a teacher.

Throughout his life, Tony says he drew tremendous strength from his parents, who taught him to be resilient and to bounce back from whatever life throws your way. He also credits his "second family," Youth Rally, a summer camp for adolescents with an ostomy, for helping him through some rough patches in his life. He now returns to Youth Rally each summer as a counselor and enjoys providing support and encouragement to campers.

Today, Tony is 28 and lives in Harveyville, Kansas with his wife Pam and six-year-old stepdaughter Haiden. He works on the family farm and is just a few credits shy of his special education teaching degree. Tony continues to channel his musical talents by performing in a barbershop quartet with his father. An outdoor enthusiast, he enjoys skydiving and noodling (fishing for catfish with your bare hands). Tony wants to share his story of success so that others with life-changing conditions know that they are not alone and can achieve their goals with hard work, determination, and perseverance. I commend Tony on his efforts and will to help others and I congratulate him on being selected as a Great Comebacks Recipient.

#### NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2009

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2314, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2009. This act recognizes the past injustices suffered by native populations, and with this act the United States can begin to move forward with a more positive government-to-government relationship.

American Indians and Alaska Natives have the right to govern their own affairs and determine their membership. Native Hawaiians should also have the right to self-governance and self-determination.

H.R. 2314 establishes a process for federal recognition of one Native Hawaiian governing entity and authorizes negotiations between the

state of Hawaii, the U.S. government, and the new entity on future issues. It begins to reconcile the past injustices suffered by native populations and allows us to move forward with a more positive relationship.

Opponents of this bill attempt to argue that Congress is creating race-based governments. Clearly, they fail to understand the sovereignty of tribal nations. H.R. 2314 is not based on racial status, rather a political status that has existed for centuries. The bill does not exempt the governing entity from the U.S. Constitution, from federal law or from taxation. It does not transfer land or establish gaming or authorize secession. It simply and formally recognizes the sovereignty of Native Hawaiians, which should have happened a long time ago.

In the 110th Congress, I voted for a similar bill (H.R. 505) that passed the House with bipartisan support on October 24, 2007, but was never considered by the Senate.

As a member of the Congressional Native American Caucus, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2314, and I urge the Senate to pass this legislation.

#### RECOGNIZING JUDY SODERBERG

##### HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize Judy Soderberg of Minnetonka, who was introduced into the 2009 Multiple Sclerosis Society Health Professionals Hall of Fame. Judy received this honor for nearly three decades of passionate work on behalf of those with MS, which included her work to help launch a first-of-its-kind, comprehensive MS center. The National MS Society recently acknowledged Judy as "a leading advocate for the MS community, Judy empowers people touched by the disease to be their own advocates." I would like to thank Judy Soderberg for her commitment to bettering the MS community.

#### RECOGNIZING LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

##### HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of LSU and its many achievements over the last 150 years.

As a graduate of LSU medical school, I can attest to the excellence and professionalism of the faculty and to the spirited campus atmosphere that is rivaled by few in the world.

LSU continues capturing the hearts of its students just as it was since it first opened its doors in 1860. It is a place with a unique culture, rich in tradition and quality. Originally serving as a war college, LSU has grown into the flagship university of Louisiana.

Through its seven institutions of higher learning, as well as its distinguished faculty, LSU prepares countless students for the careers of distinction in Louisiana and around the world. LSU also celebrates a number of athletic achievements, including football, base-

ball, and track and field national championships.

In addition to its academic and athletic successes, the LSU system goes above and beyond to serve the people of Louisiana. From its tireless efforts in the aftermath of the 2005 hurricanes to its various community outreach programs, LSU makes a great deal of difference in the many communities it serves.

Throughout the years, LSU has persevered to become one of the leading educational institutions in the country. It continues to uphold excellence at every level and sets a very worthy goal of reaching the upper level of national prominence by the end of 2010.

It is my pleasure to recognize Louisiana State University and join with the thousands of current students and alumni to celebrate 150 years of excellence. Geaux Tigers!

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. LINKWOOD WILLIAMS

##### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of physician Linkwood Williams, a famed Tuskegee Flight instructor and Memphis physician. He was born to Mr. and Mrs. Elbert and Bessie McNeal Williams on August 29, 1918 in Bonita, Louisiana. At the age of three, he and his family moved to Madison, Illinois where he attended school through the twelfth grade, then worked with his father at a local steel mill.

Having encouragement from his father to pursue higher education, Dr. Williams applied and was accepted to study industrial arts at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, which was one of six colleges where pilot training was offered and the only facility in the country for training black military pilots. After two years of studying, he decided to pursue full-time training in the Civilian Pilots Training Program, a program that would prepare him to quickly adapt to military aviation in the event of a national emergency. Successfully progressing through all Civilian Pilots Training courses, Dr. Williams became part of the Tuskegee Experience and went on to train many of the 450 pilots who served in the 332nd Fighter Group. The Tuskegee Airmen were the first combat group of African American pilots and flew with distinction during World War II.

At the end of the war, Dr. Williams married Katie Whitney, moved to Cleveland, Ohio, and became the third African-American to join the carpenters union. He later enrolled at Western Reserve University to complete the required pre-med courses for acceptance into medical school. Afterwards, he applied to and was accepted to Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. During the third year of his residency, he was hired as a part-time instructor to teach Air Force ROTC cadets at Tennessee State University.

After completing his residency, Dr. Linkwood Williams moved to Memphis, Tennessee and began his OB-GYN practice, becoming the first African American OB-GYN in the city. He worked for 31 years until his retirement in 1995.

Dr. Linkwood Williams was a member of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Center, where

he served in the Community Outreach Group, the American Medical Association, The Memphians, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and Sigma Pi Phi (Delta). Dr. Linkwood Williams passed away surrounded by his family on Saturday, February 20, 2010 and was laid to rest on Saturday, February 27, 2010. He was 91 years old. Dr. Williams truly left his mark on the world through his service to the citizens of Memphis, Tennessee. We are grateful to have had the pleasure of his dedication and perseverance in the community.

#### REMEMBERING FRANK SARRIS

##### HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, the people of Southwestern Pennsylvania lost an icon when Frank Sarris, founder of Sarris Candies, passed away Monday. A half century ago when Frank presented his sweetheart Athena with a box of chocolates, a loving Greek-American family and a chocolate empire were born.

After giving Athena the chocolates, Frank kept thinking he could make a tastier product. He went to work in the basement of his Canonsburg home cooking up sweet desserts for friends and family. Word quickly spread of Frank's delicious concoctions. To keep up with the demand, Frank had to quit his day job as a forklift operator.

Once the people of Southwestern Pennsylvania tasted Sarris Candies, their collective sweet tooth could not be satisfied. Frank moved out of his basement and opened a shop next to his home. Eventually, he tore down his home, built a bigger chocolate factory, and moved into an apartment above it. As his chocolate delectables grew in popularity, Frank soon became known as "Candy Man" throughout Canonsburg and beyond.

The only son of Greek immigrants, Frank used his success to give back to the community. If there was a charitable event in Canonsburg, Frank could be counted on to donate chocolate or financial support. Children all across Pennsylvania sell Sarris Candies to raise money for school, sports, and clubs. And one does not have to travel far to find evidence of Frank's philanthropy. His legacy includes the Frank Sarris Outpatient Clinic to care for organ transplant patients, the Sarris Clinical Endowment to fund science research, and the Frank Sarris Public Library. In one way or another, Frank has touched the life of every person in Canonsburg.

Generations of Southwestern Pennsylvanians have tasted and loved Sarris Candies. Today, parents who grew up on Sarris Candies take their children to the Sarris Chocolate Factory and Ice Cream Parlour. You can see the eyes of each child light up when the homemade ice cream covered with Sarris toppings is placed before them. At that moment, each parent remembers what it is like to be a kid again.

Frank will be missed, but his memory will live on every time a person takes a bite from a Sarris candy bar or a small child walks in to the Ice Cream Parlour for the first time to order a sundae. Sweet dreams, Frank.