

right and wrong, and was unflinching in her defense and support of those she loved.

Madam Speaker, with the passing of Mrs. Thomas, Dallas has truly lost an honorable and dedicated citizen, and I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in celebrating her long and accomplished life.

EDUCATOR HALL OF FAME

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, teachers spend endless hours with our children preparing them for their future. These teachers are a role model for our children and continue to shape them each and every day.

Lamar University honored four area educators on November 5, 2009 to be inducted into the Educator Hall of Fame—Joe Chenella, Ms. Sally House, Dr. Ron Sims, and Ms. Patty Sanderson.

Mr. Chenella started his career at Bridge City High School as a math teacher. After working his way through the system, Mr. Chenella now serves as the Bridge City ISD Assistant Superintendent. He is proud to see his students involved in the community and the leadership roles they have chosen.

Ms. House has taught students in Beaumont, Nederland, Lubbock, and Midland. She has been recognized for her outstanding work and continues her love for teaching by advising our future teachers at Lamar University.

Dr. Sims has a passion for teaching and working with students. He has taught, served as assistant principal, and principal at local schools. He is now serving as Superintendent of Lumberton ISD.

Ms. Sanderson has taught at Langham Elementary in Nederland for the past 14 years. She shows her love of teaching by encouraging her students and being a positive influence.

On behalf of the Second District of Texas, I would like to congratulate these educators on their dedication and love for teaching. They truly inspire others and have made a difference in many students' lives.

RECOGNIZING THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING YOUTH ORATORICAL CONTEST HOSTED BY THE PRINCE WILLIAM ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Twentieth Annual Martin Luther King Youth Oratorical Contest hosted by the Prince William Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and its Education Foundation.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. left an indelible mark on the way Americans engage in civil dialogue. Despite the violence perpetrated against the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. King responded with oratory and nonviolent resist-

ance to condemn the injustice of social inequality. His legacy is one of tolerance and steadfast commitment to principled and peaceful communication.

The MLK Youth Oratorical contestants pay tribute to Dr. King's legacy with their ability to exercise the strength of the spoken word. This is a skill inseparable from their character and will serve them well as they tackle leadership opportunities and build personal relationships.

I congratulate and applaud the following contestants in the Twentieth Annual Martin Luther King Youth Oratorical Contest:

Middle School Contestants:
Makaila Davenport—Stonewall Middle School

Autumn Moore—Rippon Middle School
David Rivera-Kohr—Saunders Middle School

High School Contestants:
Lauren Coleman—Potomac High School
Alice Gyamfi—C.D. Hylton High School
Seth Opoku-Yeboah—Osborn Park High School

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for recognizing the benefit that Dr. King's teachings bring to the development of our youth. We lay the foundations of a more tolerant society when we nurture the ability to engage and communicate with one another in a way that respects our common humanity.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE'S MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. CAMPBELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the University of California, Irvine's men's volleyball team for winning the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Men's Volleyball National Championship. The NCAA Championship title is UC Irvine's second title in three years, which makes them one of five programs to have won more than one NCAA men's volleyball Championship title.

The Anteaters, who were ranked in the Nation's top 10 for 75 consecutive weeks, including No. 1 for 21 of those weeks, achieved many historic accomplishments during the 2008–2009 season. They finished the year 27–5 overall. Ryan Ammerman was named the tournament's most outstanding player with 12 blocks, six kills, and 55 assists in the championship match. Taylor "Bones" Wilson led the Anteaters with 21 kills followed by Carson Clark with 15 kills. In addition, Ammerman, Wilson, and Clark were all named to the NCAA All-Tournament team.

UC Irvine men's volleyball team had four players selected to the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-America Team. Senior setter Ryan Ammerman garnered first-team honors on the AVCA All-America Team. Jordan DuFault, Kevin Wynne, and Carson Clark earned second-team accolades on the AVCA All-America Team. The senior class of Ryan Ammerman, Brent Asuka, Nick Spittle, Jon Steller, and Taylor Wilson has become the most successful graduating class in school history, with a 101–30

record in their four years winning two NCAA Championship titles.

Furthermore, senior All-American Jon Steller was named UC Irvine's Lauds & Laurels Outstanding Athlete. Sophomore outside hitter Jordan DuFault earned second team All-American honors and was ranked nationally in four categories, including kills, digs, hitting percentage, and blocks. The Anteaters captured the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) regular season title with a 19–3 record. Also, freshman Carson Clark was selected as the MPSF Freshman of the Year as well as a first-team All-MPSF honoree.

Congratulations to head coach, John Speraw, and the men's volleyball team of the University of California, Irvine, for winning the 2009 NCAA Division I Men's Volleyball National Championship. I am proud to recognize the achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and staff who were instrumental in helping the University of California, Irvine win the national title.

It is an honor to recognize UC Irvine, under the leadership of Chancellor Michael V. Drake, M.D., as it continues to establish itself as a world-class research university, and as one of the top universities in the Nation.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. MARY YOUNG-CUMMINGS, TRAILBLAZER AND FIGHTER FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend and former colleague, Mrs. Mary Young-Cummings, who passed away at the age of 66 on January 16, 2010. Mary was a woman of conviction and compassion who set an example for others through all the things she accomplished in her life.

Mary Young-Cummings was born in Fitzgerald, Georgia, on March 1, 1943, the 13th of 16 children. She was a proud product of the Ben Hill County School System, graduating from Monitor High School. At Savannah State College (now University), she served as president of the Honor Society and graduated in 1964 with a double major in mathematics and physics. She earned a law degree from Howard University in 1967 and then practiced with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in New York.

Mary was a spirited and staunch advocate for social and economic justice. She founded the Savannah State College (now University) Chapter of the NAACP and participated in civil rights campaigns in Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. She also participated in the historic March on Washington on August 28, 1963.

Mary was also a trailblazer, forerunner and visionary. She was the first African-American female attorney in Albany, Georgia, and served under the tutelage of legendary civil rights attorney C.B. King. Mary brought a successful lawsuit against the city of Albany to end unfair election practices so that African-Americans could be elected to posts throughout the city. This action paved the way for her to be elected the first African-American woman commissioner in the history of Albany.

She eventually became the first African-American woman from Albany to serve in the Georgia House of Representatives (1981–1992), and in 1992 became one of the first African-American women to run for Congress in Georgia's Second Congressional District.

In July of 2009, a play about Mary's life entitled "Cotton Field Girl" was performed at the Albany Civil Rights Institute in Albany. This play chronicled Mary's humble beginnings and her propensity for hard work and determination as instilled in her by her parents.

Shirley Chisholm once said that "service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Mary Young-Cummings, in the same spirit as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, and Fannie Lou Hamer, fought for what was right, even if she had to stand alone. Our country and our world are better because Mary Young-Cummings walked among us with pride and dignity and served humanity so well.

RECOGNIZING THE 19TH ANNUAL
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
BANQUET FOR THE OCCOQUAN
WOODBRIDGE LORTON VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 19th Annual Installation of Officers Banquet for the Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department.

The 2010 officers and members of the board of directors are taking leadership roles in one of Northern Virginia's longest standing volunteer fire departments. The O.W.L. Volunteer Fire Department was borne out of the need for organized fire response capabilities in the growing suburbs of Northern Virginia. In 1938, the Department officially formed to become the only fire department between Fredericksburg and Alexandria. In the subsequent decades O.W.L. has expanded to staff three stations and provide emergency medical services.

The members of O.W.L. are dedicated community volunteers, and the 2010 officers and directors will be diligent stewards of this tradition of service. The 250 active O.W.L. members answer 14,000 calls and serve 60,000 people each year. Their job is demanding and the hours are long, but they gladly serve for little more than the satisfaction of volunteerism and civic engagement. We would all do well to follow their example.

2010 Officers: President Debra Haight, Chief James McAllister, Assistant Chief Mike Clark, Assistant Chief Wayne Haight, Assistant Chief Jack McGovern, Assistant Chief Karl Fippenger, Assistant Chief David Halman, Rescue Chief Edward Craig, Captain Stewart Young, Captain John Roberts, Captain Richard Slusher, Captain Justin Witt, Captain Richard Moore, Captain Steve Godin, Captain Reece Fancher, Lieutenant Jonathan Baldwin, Lieutenant Kurt Bolland, Lieutenant Mark Chandler, Lieutenant Matthew Haight, Lieutenant Ben New, Lieutenant Rick Ruggieri, Lieutenant Dave Williams, Lieutenant Ryan Williams, Lieutenant Tammy Hill, Lieutenant

Flavia Kelly, Lieutenant Kelly Shaw, Lieutenant Teddie Steele, Sergeant Joshua Culp, Sergeant Ernie Firkin, Sergeant Harold Griffith, Sergeant Rob Laver, Sergeant Nate Peterson, Sergeant Adam Wynn, Executive Vice President Mike McCranie, Treasurer George Nazionale, Membership Secretary Heather Carroll, Sergeant At Arms John Karnback, Elections Officer Susan Mitchem

Board of Directors: Chris McIntosh, Lenny Peters, Ralph Bowman, Thomas Sullivan, Kevin Lewis, William Spicer, Ron Miller

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these remarkable volunteers for their new positions. The Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department is to be commended for the vital service it provides to the Prince William community.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
CURTIS M. BEDKE

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. AUSTRIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Major General Curtis M. Bedke, for his outstanding service to our nation on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force.

It is an honor to join the people of Ohio's 7th Congressional District in congratulating Major General Bedke upon his retirement as Commander of the Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

A 1977 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, he has served a distinguished career, piloting 78 aircraft in more than 4,300 flights. As Commander of the Air Force Research Laboratory, he led more than 10,000 employees and was responsible for managing the Air Force's science and technology program.

Previously, General Bedke was Commander of the Air Force Flight Test Center at the Edwards Air Force Base in California. He also served in Operation Enduring Freedom as the Combined Forces Air Component Commander in Egypt in 2001 and as the U.S. Central Command's senior military representative to Pakistan in 2002.

For his many years of service to our nation, I join the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in extending our best wishes upon his retirement and wish him ongoing success in all future endeavors.

HONORING ANDREW JAMES
SWOBODA FOR HIS SUCCESS IN
THE SIEMENS COMPETITION IN
MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a local high school student, Andrew James Swoboda of Alexandria, Va., for his work alongside his California teammate in the Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology.

Participating in this competition on Monday, December 7, 2009, his team's original research on Optimization of Platinum Nanoparticles for Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cells Using Pulse Electrochemical Deposition earned them a shared scholarship of \$10,000. Celebrating academic achievement and encouraging our country's students to pursue math and science excellence, this decade-old competition, hosted by the Siemens Foundation, awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships this year to our nation's most promising high school students. Andrew is certainly that—a fine example of promise and talent, from whom we can be sure to expect great things in the future.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Andrew and his teammate for this recognition and in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING LOOKMAN
MUHAMMED

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lookman Muhammed, a student from Lawrence Hall Youth Services, for winning City Clerk Miguel del Valle's annual city sticker design contest. On December 15th, 2009, Lookman Muhammed won the 15th annual high school art contest.

This year's contest theme was "Burnham's Chicago," encouraging students to study the work of architect Daniel Burnham. More than 300 students from grades 9–12, and 39 Chicago high schools entered the art contest. After a panel of honorary judges narrowed the entries down to the top 10 designs, the public voted online and at City Hall computer kiosks. Nearly 17,500 votes were cast by the public to choose this year's winner.

Muhammed's artwork will be seen on 1.3 million vehicle stickers beginning in June 2010. He also receives a \$1,000 savings bond to help with his continuing education. In addition, Muhammed, along with all the finalists, will receive an honorary resolution at a January awards ceremony with City Clerk Miguel del Valle in City Hall.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lookman Muhammed for winning City Clerk Miguel del Valle's 15th annual city sticker design contest, and thank him for participating in the contest and contributing to the City of Chicago.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRINCIPAL PATRICIA S. PHILLIPS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Patricia S. Phillips and to express my gratitude for her years of selfless dedication in the field of education.

Principal Phillips believes in the public school system and the power of education.