

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 on 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.

For more than 30 years, she has worked tirelessly on behalf of thousands of Fairfax County Public Schools students and the community as a whole. Principal Phillips has demonstrated her strong commitment time and time again, first as a teacher, and later, beginning in 2003, as Principal of Fairhill Elementary School.

Principal Phillips has earned the respect and admiration of her peers and staff, but more important, that of the students and their families who have been taught, led, encouraged and supported by her over the decades. She has been a worthy role model and a fair and trusted friend. Principal Phillips also has a record of consistent academic and administrative excellence. In recognition of this excellence, Principal Phillips was honored with the Washington Post's Principal Leadership Award and has the distinction of having been named a Fairfax County's Top Rated Principal.

Principal Phillips is retiring after years of service, during which she became loved and admired for her passion for education, leadership in ensuring quality schools, and excellence as a role model. Principal Phillips has demonstrated a genuine love for her students and her work, the result of which has been the betterment of our schools and of our community.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to again thank Principal Phillips for her commitment to education. Her efforts and leadership have been a great benefit to the children of our community and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Principal Phillips and in wishing her the very best in her retirement.

REMARKS ON THE PASSING OF
MICAH NAFTALIN, LEADER OF
THE MOVEMENT TO AID SOVIET
JEWRY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission I wish to mark the recent passing of Micah H. Naftalin, an enthusiastic leader of the grassroots movement on behalf of oppressed Jews in the Soviet Union. His dedicated work contributed significantly in advancing the cause of refuseniks denied their right to leave the U.S.S.R. During the dark days of the Cold War, Micah was an impassioned champion for human rights for members of the Jewish community and others, including political prisoners, in the Soviet Union.

Micah was similarly unwavering in his commitment to combat anti-Semitism and related violence, closely monitoring and reporting on developments in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. He was appointed to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council in 1982, later serving as acting director.

For more than two decades Micah served as national director of the Union of Councils for Jews in the former Soviet Union. He worked closely with the Helsinki Commission to advance democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Russia and elsewhere in the former Soviet Union. In 1993, he served as a public member on the U.S. delegation to the annual meeting to review implementation of human rights commitments by signatories to the Helsinki Final Act. In 2007, he helped found the Coalition Against Hate, a consortium of human rights NGOs from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus united in their efforts to monitor hate crimes.

Madam Speaker, I join Chairman BEN CARDIN and others on the Helsinki Commission in expressing our condolences to Micah's family and his many friends.

TO COMMEND ANNANDALE TERRACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON BEING AWARDED THE BLOOM COMMUNITY GRANT

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 congratulate Annandale Terrace Elementary School on being named a recipient of a \$2,000 Bloom Community Grant.

Bloom, a large grocery store chain, is committed to being a "good neighbor" to the communities in which its stores are located. Bloom is opening a new store in Annandale, Va., and in conjunction with this opening, announced a grant competition between local area public schools with a grand prize of \$2,000. In order to qualify for consideration, each participating school submitted a proposal for a project that would "benefit mind, body and soul for the entire community."

The student body of Annandale Terrace Elementary School includes a large percentage of students who live in apartments and may not have sufficient access to outdoor physical activities. Annandale Terrace Principal Christina R. Dickens recognized this difficulty and coordinated the effort to submit a proposal to create an outdoor exercise path throughout the fields on the school. This exercise path would be oriented to the students but would be open to the entire community when school is not in session. This project, once completed, will help to create an environment that encourages physical activity and a healthy lifestyle.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Principal Dickens and Annandale Terrace Elementary School on being awarded the Bloom Community Grant. I would also like to express my gratitude to Bloom for their investment in the well-being of the Annandale community.