

by President Obama to be the 15th director of the Service. Three months later, as he was being sworn in, he reaffirmed his commitment to addressing the threat of climate change, habitat fragmentation, invasive species, limited water supplies, and the illicit trade of wildlife. Perhaps he put it best when he said, "as wild-life goes, so goes the nation."

Sam Hamilton was loved by all conservationists. He leaves behind his wife, Becky; two sons, Sam, Jr. and Clay; and grandson Davis. I am proud to have known Sam D. Hamilton, and to be able to help carry on his vision here in Congress. I ask my colleagues to stand and join me in celebrating his achievements and remembering his legacy as a person who embodied the very best of the American spirit.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
COMMISSIONER DUPONT L. DAVIS

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of DuPont L. Davis who served the people of Hertford County, North Carolina for many years as County Commissioner and civic leader. Well known for his passion, deep caring and unapologetically speaking his mind, DuPont Davis helped make a difference in the lives of countless citizens.

Commissioner Davis was first elected to the Hertford County Board of Commissioners in November of 1988. Since that time he has often served as Chairman of the Board, been recognized as North Carolina Commissioner of the Year and served as President of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Davis was a person of faith. He was an active member of Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Aulander, North Carolina. He was also a member of Jerusalem Lodge No. 96 of Prince Hall Masons, Ahoskie, North Carolina and was past Master of the Lodge.

Commissioner Davis was my dear friend of many years and I am saddened by his loss. Without question, he was a devoted public servant with an unsurpassed drive and passion to improve the lives of people in his community. He was an irreplaceable asset to Hertford County and to the state of North Carolina.

Commissioner Davis is survived by his wife Earline Powell Davis, and sons Derrick Davis and Dexter Davis, and daughters, Donica Davis Thompson and Dedria Davis King.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing remorse at the passing of one of North Carolina's finest public servants, a man who was one of the State's most admired and respected elected officials. His passion, perseverance and dedication should serve as an inspiration to us all.

AMISTAD SAILS TO HAVANA
HARBOR

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today is a proud day for the Mystic Seaport Museum and the city of New London, as our freedom schooner *Amistad* prepares to sail into Havana Harbor as a floating goodwill ambassador. The *Amistad*'s visit to Cuba culminates its current Caribbean Heritage Tour to help commemorate the United Nations-designated date of March 25 as a Day of Remembrance for the victims of the Atlantic slave trade.

The 19th century *Amistad* Incident ultimately led to a profoundly important U.S. Supreme Court decision that arguably turned the tide against slavery itself. The ship serves as a global icon of racial tolerance and a platform for serious examination of shared history across Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and the United States. Today, the world is watching as the *Amistad* sails into Havana Harbor to set new milestones for diplomacy and remembrance. Today, from New London to the Caribbean, we honor our common heritage and wish the *Amistad* fair winds and following seas.

The following is a story from the New London Day:

AMISTAD IS SAILING BACK TO WHERE ITS
STORY BEGAN

(By Ted Mann Day)

HAVANA.—Over a breakfast of melon, eggs and thick, dark Cuban coffee, Quentin Snediker, Maureen Hennessy and William Pinkney seem barely able to stand the wait for the coasting schooner *Amistad* and its crew to arrive in Cuba.

It is a wait older than the ship itself, says Snediker, who was the project coordinator of the design and construction of the *Amistad* for Mystic Seaport.

"To complete the story, we always felt the vessel had to return here," he said on Sunday morning, as he and Pinkney, who was the first in command of the ship when it launched nearly 10 years ago, prepared for a press conference at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes to announce the *Amistad*'s impending historic visit to Cuba.

"Here" means Havana, the Cuban capital and trading center, where the African captives who would make the *Amistad* famous were auctioned illegally in 1839 as slaves in violation of the Spanish and English treaties banning the international slave trade, and bound for the eastern agricultural districts that made Cuba a power in the sugar and coffee trade.

Brought to Havana on a slave ship after being taken captive in Sierra Leone, the 53 men and boys were transferred to the *Amistad*, a modest vessel that transported goods and freight along the Cuban coastline.

In an ornate, wood-paneled room at the Museo Nacional, Cuban historian Miguel Barnet, Pinkney and Snediker took turns reviewing the subsequent twists of the *Amistad* story for a crowd of about 45 journalists from the Cuban national press, American TV networks and the BBC.

Despite the 1807 passage of the Wilberforce Act—whose anniversary, now the United Nations' international day of commemoration for victims of the slave trade, the *Amistad* will mark with its formal arrival in Havana on Thursday—Cuba's booming sugar and cattle businesses precipitated a dependence on human slavery.

It was a case of "negocios sucios," or "dirty business," Barnet said, but one into which leaders in Cuba and in its colonial patron, Spain, felt driven by necessity. "Both the Spaniards and the Cubans needed fresh hands," he said.

The *Amistad* never reached its destination. The leader of the captives, known as Cinque to his Spanish-speaking handlers, led a revolt that would change not just the history of slavery in Cuba and the Spanish empire, but also in the United States.

Picking the locks of their shackles with a nail, the captives seized the ship and killed most of the crew, including Captain Ramon Ferrer, with machetes. The remaining crew members were ordered to steer the *Amistad* back to Africa—away from the setting sun.

But as those crew members tried to sabotage Cinque and the Africans, the *Amistad* zig-zagged up the east coast of the United States until it was captured off Montauk and towed into the Custom House in New London.

The captives, initially put on trial for the killings, would eventually be freed, after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that since they had been taken from Africa in contravention of international treaties banning the slave trade, they could not be property.

Instead, the court ruled, Cinque and his countrymen were necessarily men, with a right to defend themselves against those who kept them captive.

The *Amistad*'s visit resonates not just with its historical legacy; it is also, Hennessy noted, a rare opportunity for open interchange between the Cuban and U.S. nations, at a time when their respective governments remain at uneasy odds. Hennessy, who, like Snediker, was taking time off from her work at the Mystic Seaport to meet the *Amistad* and its crew as they arrive in Matanzas today, said the group met over the weekend with officials from the Cuban Ministry of Culture.

The ministry plans to broadcast Steven Spielberg's 1997 film "Amistad" on one of the state-run television channels Tuesday night, in an attempt to drum up popular interest in the ship's visit.

As the press conference concluded Saturday morning, journalists descended on the *Amistad* representatives, particularly Pinkney, wanting to know if this combined diplomatic effort of the State Department, United Nations and Cuban officials represented a new thawing in mutual relations.

The visit comes months after the incoming Obama administration relaxed travel restrictions and other facets of the nearly 50-year U.S. embargo of Cuba, but significant tensions still persist. Billboards on the highway into Havana from Jose Marti International Airport depict the mug shots of Cuban prisoners held in the United States—without cause, according to the Cuban government. And U.S. commentators continue to raise questions about the Cuban government's policies, including its economic system and approach to dissidents.

But the *Amistad* represents shared strands of history, said Barnet, the Cuban historian and writer, and the American visitors agreed.

While interviewers continually asked him variations of the question "can this be a step" toward normalization, Pinkney said, this visit transcends the political considerations that have divided the two countries.

"Now they're completing the *Amistad* story by coming into Havana, where it all started," he said. "Here, we have nothing to express but the solidarity of humankind."

RECOGNIZING SANDY PALMER AS
THE HURLBURT AFA CHAPTER
398 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sandy Palmer upon receiving the Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398's Overall Teacher of the Year Award for 2010. Ms. Palmer has been a dedicated educator for 27 years, and I am proud to recognize her achievement.

Currently teaching third grade at Shalimar Elementary School in Okaloosa County, Florida, Sandy has taught at every grade level and in a variety of subjects over the course of her illustrious career. She is known for her enthusiasm for and commitment to incorporating space and aviation into her daily classroom instruction. After attending Space Camp for Teachers in 2001, Sandy changed her way of thinking to integrate these ideas into math and science curricula. She uses paper airplane construction to introduce concepts such as distance, angles, and measurements. Sandy also thinks outside the box to keep her students involved, including an annual play that involves launching the International Space Station. The performance provides parents with the unique opportunity to learn what their children are doing in the classroom with Ms. Palmer's innovative teaching methods. For her outstanding efforts, Sandy is this year's AFA Hurlburt Chapter nominee to the Florida State/Regional Teacher of the Year Competition.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am humbled to recognize Sandy Palmer as the Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398 Overall Teacher of the Year. For 27 years, she has inspired her students and her colleagues, and she is highly deserving of this honor. Vicki and I wish Sandy and her family all the best for the future.

CONGRATULATING THE WINNERS
OF THE VALOR FOUNDATION'S
NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS
ESSAY COMPETITION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the winners of the Valor Foundation's essay contest. I am honored to recognize the achievements of these students from Loudoun County and this excellent program in the 10th District of Virginia.

The Valor Foundation is an organization dedicated to partnering with individuals and organizations to support local community fire, rescue, and law enforcement groups. The dedicated work of this foundation supports numerous public safety officers and their families during their times of need. To recognize and celebrate these individuals, the foundation held a youth essay competition to honor the first responders.

To recognize the National First Responder Day, Loudoun County Middle School students were asked to submit essays describing, "Why

We Should Have a National First Responder's Appreciation Day." The Valor Foundation collaborated with Randy Kelly, CEO of INOVA Loudoun Hospital, to award five essay winners with savings bonds. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these outstanding students for their achievements, as well as the dedication of the first responders of Loudoun County.

I submit for the winning essays:

Tommy Mai, Belmont Ridge Middle School:

First responders are brave people. They sacrifice their lives just to save other lives at any cost. Whether it's a fire, medical emergency, or a shoot-out, they'll put anything and everything on the line. Think about a jailhouse without police guards, or a burning building without fire fighters coming to the rescue, or hospitals without doctors, nurses, and paramedics. Think about what would have happened during 9/11 without these brave people. Who can think of braver people. They sacrifice their lives for their families, for us, but more importantly, for America.

Ananda Bhatia, Eagle Ridge Middle School:

Every day a crime is committed. Every day a house catches on fire. Every day a person is hurt, a purse is stolen—someone risks their life for someone else! Emergency Responders help people when they need it most. When lives are at risk—they're there for you. Without them, thousands of people wouldn't be here right now. Someone who runs into burning buildings deserves equal respect as someone in the military. Fire fighters, police officers, medical responders, deputies—they deserve respect—and a holiday of their own. I believe Emergency Responders Day would be perfect—and I'm sure many other thankful citizens agree.

Diego Loya, Farmwell Station Middle School:

Who was there to help the victims of 9/11 on that horrific day? Who were first to rescue and help others during and after that tragic event? These people are not the heroes we normally think of with swords, spears or protective armor. They are every day human beings doing what they love and putting themselves in harm's way for their country.

Police, ambulance workers, E. M. T's and firefighters are examples of first responders. They risk their lives to help others. Every day a fire starts or someone is hurt or the police are needed in our communities. Without their presence in our daily lives we would have so many worries. They deserve a day of honor. They desire to be honored and appreciated on First Responders' Day.

Maddie Klaff, Seneca Ridge Middle School:

Believe it or not, in 2007, a total of 181 law enforcement officers and 118 fire-fighters lost their lives while on duty. Because these people do their job, I can walk around feeling safe and protected. These first responders spend their time serving the public and are only minutes away in times of crisis. Many of them do this voluntarily and without pay.

I believe we should dedicate a holiday in honor of those who spend their days looking after us. Their lives are dedicated to protecting ours every day, so we should dedicate one day to recognize them.

Kyle Brown, Simpson Middle School:

Though situations like car accidents and medical emergencies bring grief and sorrow, it is good to know that there are people who are dedicated and trained to help. They are known as first responders. These heroes are

committed to helping others who need them when they can't fend for themselves. These unselfish people know that their lives are sometimes at risk, but they care about the safety of others. I stand for everyone when I say that these first responders deserve a day on which their fellow Americans can show them how much they appreciate their commitment to helping others.

HONORING CAPTAIN JEANETTE
SAID-JINETE

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Jeanette Said-Jinete, the first woman to be sworn in as a police officer and receive the rank of Captain in the Town of Medley Police Department.

Jeanette began her law enforcement career at the age of 19 with the city of Homestead Police Department. Years later, she joined the town of Medley and in 1984, was sworn in as the first female Medley Police Officer. In 1986 she became a detective and in 2002 was awarded Officer of the Year for her success in investigating and solving crimes. In 2004, Jeanette was assigned as the assistant to the mayor and a liaison for the police department and in June of last year, was promoted to captain, becoming the first female appointed to this rank and second in command of the police department.

Jeanette is also a member of the Police Honor Guard, the Miami Dade Association of Chiefs of Police, the Florida Police Chiefs Association, and the International Association of Chief of Police, and is a certified computer voice stress analyzer and a certified code enforcement officer.

Aside from her personal achievements in her career, Jeanette has been a driving force for Medley, obtaining numerous grants for public safety and homeland security equipment, and making possible funding for the town "Tot Lot", basketball court, and the Riverside Domino Park. She has also been instrumental in planning community events and ensuring the Town's participation and partnership with other local entities.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, I ask you to join me in thanking captain Jeanette Said-Jinete for her commitment to making the town of Medley a safe place to live, work and play, and congratulating her for her outstanding work ethic and personal achievements.

RECOGNIZING THE MIDLAND
SCHOOL D.A.R.E. GRADUATES

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today the Rochelle Park Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the fifth graders of the Midland School. The young people participating in this important program have made a commitment to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and