

# NATIONAL MEDIA FAIL TO HOLD PRESIDENT ACCOUNTABLE

## HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, recently, a woman named Doris asked President Obama why his health care legislation includes more taxes when, as she put it, "we are overtaxed as it is."

Here's what The Wall Street Journal had to say about the President's 17-minute, 2,500-word answer, and the media's failure to hold him accountable:

[The President's] filibuster had only served to avoid addressing her concern. He never explained why his health care bill ended up raising taxes on those making under \$200,000 a year—a violation of his explicit 2008 campaign pledge.

President Obama is clearly avoiding any forum where he can be pinned down with tough questions.

So far, Washington journalists have been quite passive in letting the White House choose the terms of its interaction with the public.

Would a conservative president get such an obliging ride from the normally aggressive Washington press corps? Probably not.

The national media should hold the President accountable, not give him a free pass.

# HONORING THE MIGNONI SISTERS

## HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2010*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Carol Mignoni Ferguson, Rosemarie Mignoni Szczucki, and Ann Mignoni Mundy.

The Mignoni family name has been synonymous with quality jewelry in Bristol, Pennsylvania for over 60 years. They have been intertwined with the Irish community for almost as many years, with their love for Irish jewelry and art on clear display in their Bristol store.

Recently, the Mignoni sisters were again recognized by the Irish community for their contribution to the culture, the tradition, and the general welfare of Irish heritage. They truly embody the ideals of the Irish community, and their charity and support of friends and family inspire those around them.

These three sisters led the Bucks County St. Patrick's Day parade on March 13, 2010, as exemplary members of the Bucks County community and as representatives of the Irish spirit. Long after the parade is over, they will continue to be leaders throughout the community, and their love and compassion will continue to be a beacon in the 8th district of Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Carol, Ann, and Rose Mignoni for their incredible service to our community. I am honored to serve as their Congressman and humbled to call them my friends.

# IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF FAIRVIEW PARK

## HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 100th anniversary of the City of Fairview Park. Residents, business owners and city officials have occasion to celebrate the rich history of this vibrant community.

One hundred years ago, the land southwest of Cleveland was a combination of farmland and woodland. Some of the earliest settlers of the area include families with surnames that are still recognizable today: Mastick, Anthony, Bassett, Eaton and Spencer.

Independence appears to be the main catalyst for the creation of Fairview Park (originally Fairview Village). Many residents of the Fairview-Parkview area of the newly incorporated Village of Rocky River wanted their own community. Seventy-five families submitted petitions in less than a year. On September 10, 1910, Fairview Village received its official charter.

As the city grew, Fairview Park continued to be an important part of the Cleveland-area community. Truck farming, a way of life for many families living outside Cleveland, strengthened ties between communities. Throughout the growing season, farmers would "truck" their produce and poultry to the city of Cleveland to sell at local markets such as the popular West Side Market.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the people of the City of Fairview Park, Ohio as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. The city has overcome challenges and ensured progress over the last century and it has always remained an integral part of the Greater Cleveland community.

# HONORING JAMES B. VENTANTONIO, ESQ.

## HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2010*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James B. Ventantonio, the Somerset County Business Partnership's 60th Annual Outstanding Citizen of the Year. Mr. Ventantonio will be presented with this award on May 5, 2010, in Martinsville, New Jersey.

The Somerset County Business Partnership is comprised of talented community leaders, volunteers and employees dedicated to developing a thriving economy and enhancing Somerset County's quality of life. Based in Bridgewater, New Jersey, the SCBP is committed to providing leadership on key business and community initiatives, assuring the opportunity to attain business and personal goals, and achieving results that benefit and assure prosperity in Somerset County.

Mr. Ventantonio has held a leadership position in nearly every quality of life initiative in Somerset County for more than two decades. He served as Chair of a number of organiza-

tions in Somerset County, including the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce, the Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Somerset County Ballpark, and the Somerset County Business Partnership. Mr. Ventantonio continues to be a member of numerous non-profit and municipal boards and agencies. Mr. Ventantonio began his career with the Somerset/Sussex Legal Services, and continues to be a staunch supporter of providing legal services for those who cannot afford representation.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Mr. James B. Ventantonio for his commitment to my constituency, as well as congratulate him on receiving the 60th Annual Outstanding Citizen Award.

# HONORING THE RED CROSS

## HON. ANH "JOSEPH" CAO

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2010*

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the American Red Cross. Since its founding in 1881 by Clara Barton, the American Red Cross has provided assistance and comfort to communities where disaster has struck.

Every year, at home and abroad, one in five Americans is in some way touched by the Red Cross. My district, which includes New Orleans, was one of the hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina.

The American Red Cross' response was immediate and 20 times bigger than any previous response effort. While they provided sheltering, hot meals, and assistance in purchasing essential items such as food and clothing, they also provided something much greater: compassion, promise, and hope. And, for that I am extremely grateful.

In addition to responding to disasters, the Red Cross also helps prepare individuals to lead safe and healthy lives by offering baby-sitting, safety, and CPR classes and coordinating blood donations.

Madam Speaker, whether it is an earthquake or a single family home fire, a call for blood or a call for help, the American Red Cross will be there.

I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding the dedication and efforts of the American Red Cross staff and volunteers and in celebrating March as American Red Cross Month.

# INTRODUCING WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON HAITI ACT OF 2010

## HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2010*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the White House Conference on Haiti Act of 2010. This important piece of legislation would call on the President of the United States to convene a White House Conference on Haiti before the end of this calendar year.

As we are all well aware, this past January, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake rocked the already struggling nation of Haiti. Approximately

3 million people were affected and 230,000 are estimated to have died. Those that survived are facing unimaginable conditions with a crumbling infrastructure that has hindered the delivery of humanitarian aid.

If there is a silver lining to this unimaginable tragedy, it is that out of this, the Haitian people have been given the incredible opportunity to right the wrongs of the past and rebuild their nation stronger than ever before. Millions of dollars in aid have flooded into the country and thousands of aid organizations are committed to building a sustainable recovery.

Immediately following the earthquake, we all witnessed countless foreign governments and aid organizations pledging to stand with Haiti, and I have been inspired by the countless individuals throughout the globe who have donated their talents and services to the recovery and the many more who are eager to help, but simply don't know how.

We cannot let this opportunity go to waste. However, with the possibility to do good comes the very real possibility of waste, duplication, and inefficiencies in the rebuilding and recovery process.

Under this bill, the major stakeholders in the rebuilding, along with other interested parties, will come together to share their knowledge and best practices and identify gaps in the recovery process. It is my hope that out of this Conference, opportunities for collaboration and coordination in projects big and small will emerge.

The Conference will also highlight innovative ideas for rebuilding and redevelopment in Haiti, from inexpensive hurricane- and earthquake-proof housing and green building techniques to sustainable economic practices and urban development. There are countless companies and individuals who have developed groundbreaking concepts in response to this tragedy, but they have yet to be connected with those who can put these ideas into practices or with others pursuing similar goals who may be able to improve upon their initiatives. Innovation does not happen in a bubble; great things can happen when great minds come together.

Further, Haitians living abroad are eager to help their brothers and sisters in Haiti, but many simply do not know where to begin. The White House Conference on Haiti will tap the immense resource that is the Haitian Diaspora by bringing their abilities together with those who are in a position to use them.

Most importantly however, the White House Conference on Haiti will help ensure that the challenges facing the Haitian people remain in the public eye and in the minds of all Americans.

While the United States has been instrumental in the recovery and rebuilding from countless natural and man-made disasters throughout the world, few international tragedies have had as deep an impact on the United States, and particularly the State of Florida, as this one.

Helping our Haitian neighbors is not only the right thing to do; it is also in our own Nation's best interests. Just a stone's throw from our shores, instability in Haiti impacts our own economy and immigration levels.

Our nation's rapid, comprehensive response, from our Government down to everyday Americans, has been commendable, but the President and this administration are in a position to do more. This legislation would not

be a costly endeavor, but could stand to save millions of dollars that could be used to improve the lives of the Haitian people for generations to come.

At a time of extreme instability and crisis, the United States must do all within its power to help ensure a long-term sustainable recovery for Haiti.

I ask my colleagues to support this legislation and urge the House leadership to bring it swiftly to the House floor for consideration.

#### HONORING MRS. FAYE CAIN SEARS

#### HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2010*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Faye Cain Sears of Somerset, Kentucky on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Sears has long been admired by her community. The mother of four children and blessed with many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews, she has been a wonderful Christian example to them and the numerous friends and acquaintances she has known over the years. Her devotion to God, her family, and her community have been the driving force of her long life.

While her husband, Goebel Sears, served our nation in the Navy during World War Two, Faye moved to New York City, where she worked at the Woolworth Company in Brooklyn. Upon returning to Kentucky, she worked tirelessly in the community as an election officer, precinct chairwoman, and attended the inauguration of several Kentucky governors. She has also been awarded the prestigious "Kentucky Colonel" award for her involvement. During her spare time she is active in the Senior Friends organization, enjoys gardening and, of course, University of Kentucky basketball.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring Mrs. Faye Cain Sears who throughout her life has continued to bless all those who know her and cherish her friendship and love. I am proud to have her in my home community and honored to serve her in the House of Representatives. Her 100th birthday is only the latest in a long list of milestones in her life, and I am sure there will be many more.

#### RECOGNIZING DR. MARTIN LUTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BROOKLYN, OHIO

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church of Brooklyn, Ohio as they celebrate one hundred years of service to the community.

The legacy of Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church began in 1910 with the faith of several immigrant families who came to Cleveland from Czechoslovakia in search of a better life.

The original church was built on West 14th Street in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland. In the 1960s, the church was demolished to make way for interstate highway construction, including Interstate 71. Thanks to the dedication and generous contributions of church members, a new home was found in Brooklyn, Ohio, where the church has remained for more than forty years.

Today, the church provides social activities and events for all ages. Church members are brought together by the musical talents of the Praise Band, as well as programs such as the weekly Children's Sermon. Many members volunteer time at fish fries and other events, including fund raising projects to help people in need.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church of Brooklyn, Ohio as they celebrate their one hundred year anniversary. Although the church has evolved in many ways over the past century, its mission has remained the same: to provide a warm and friendly place for families and individuals of all backgrounds to worship; to support each other; and to reach out and help others in need.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MARY HATWOOD FUTRELL

#### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2010*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mary Hatwood Futrell on her remarkable career as the Dean of the Graduate School of Education and Human Development at The George Washington University. Many in this body will remember Dr. Futrell from her decades of involvement and leadership at the National Education Association, where she was president from 1983 to 1989.

Throughout her entire distinguished career, Dr. Futrell has been a trailblazer in Virginia and the national education debate. Born and raised in Altavista, Virginia, she graduated from Dunbar High School in Lynchburg and received a Business Education Degree from Virginia State University. In 1965, she helped integrate the teaching staff at George Washington High School in Alexandria, where she would continue to teach until 1980—becoming chair of her department and an active participant in the Alexandria and Virginia Education Associations.

In 1968, Dr. Futrell became the first African American president of the Virginia Education Association. She fought hard for teachers' rights, and in that same year she led a march of 7,000 teachers and public school employees on Richmond to protest a Virginia Supreme Court ruling striking down collective bargaining rights for public employees. At the time, it was one of the largest marches ever to take place in the history of Virginia.

Dr. Futrell became president of the National Education Association in 1983. There she served an unprecedented three terms. She worked tirelessly to strengthen and grow the association, move it to take forceful positions on collective bargaining rights, and to bring a higher profile to important issues like drop-out rates and changing school curriculum needs.