

power of nuclear weapons. While we all celebrate the creation of the State of Israel, an amazing country I was able to visit last year and witness the incredible things the Israelis have done with such a small country surrounded by hostile neighbors, we know that the concentration of the Jewish people in their own State leaves them vulnerable if a nuclear weapon fell into the hands of an entity wishing to bring the destruction the Nazis brought. And we unfortunately know such entities exist.

Therefore we must remember the tragedy of the Holocaust and do everything in our power to ensure no tragedy of this magnitude will ever occur again. This means continuing to educate people, promoting tolerance, and vigilantly checking the power of those forces who would wish to revisit the horror of the Holocaust.

HONORING HUGH CODDING OF
SONOMA COUNTY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor the life and memory of Hugh Coddington, who helped shape and define Sonoma County over the course of the 92 years he was with us. He was a legend in his lifetime; a home builder, commercial developer, banker, city councilman, civic leader and philanthropist, who during the construction boom years of the 1950s and '60s, changed the face of the county forever.

He built his first home in the 1930s and honed construction skills in the Seabees in World War II and brought those skills home with him. He leveraged his \$400 discharge pay into a construction project and with profits earned from that endeavor and a small bank loan, he built one of the first shopping centers in the state, the first of several he would eventually build in the county.

As much as he was a builder and developer, he was also a showman. He earned Time magazine's designation as the wunderkind of the post-war boom by building an entire house in three hours and 18 minutes and a church in five hours and 16 minutes.

He gave back generously to his community, helping fund and sustain both the Luther Burbank (now Wells Fargo) Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa and the Spreckels Performing Arts Center in Rohnert Park. There was scarcely a non-profit organization in the county that did not experience his generosity, whether it was the 4-H Club, the Earl Baum Center for the Blind, the Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation, the Sonoma County Community Foundation, the Children's Health Network, Artstart, the Southwest Community Health Clinic, Planned Parenthood, the Blood Bank of the Redwoods, the Green Music Center, Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, the Jewish Community Free Clinic, the Council on Aging, the Sonoma County Museum or the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Rosa, and many more.

He is survived by his wife Connie; former wife Elizabeth Mulkey; son George David Coddington; granddaughters Alexis Coddington, Lois Coddington, Lisa Coddington Chodrick and Terra Saxton and his stepchildren Brian Baker,

Pamela Reed, Lisa Malapit, Melinda Bailey, and Bradley Baker.

Madam Speaker, Hugh Coddington was an influential and respected resident of Sonoma County who will be greatly missed. It is therefore appropriate that we acknowledge him today and honor his memory.

HONORING MAJOR JON M.
LAUDER, USMC

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Jon. M. Lauder and his dedicated service to this great Nation.

After graduating from the Virginia Military Institute with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1994, he has served on active duty with the United States Marine Corps. He proudly served two combat tours in Iraq, including the initial assault into Iraq in 2003 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After a combat tour in Eastern Afghanistan as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom, Major Lauder served as a U.S. military observer in Israel during the summer of 2006 during the Israeli-Hezbollah war. He is currently the Commanding Officer for the Marcorps Recruiting Station in Dallas, Texas.

On May 14, 2010, Major Lauder will be turning over his command and will move to Washington, D.C. for his new assignment at the Pentagon. It has been my distinct honor and pleasure to work with him. I proudly call him my friend and know that Major Lauder's dedicated service has made our Nation a safer and better place.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Major Lauder. I wish him and his family all the best.

A TRIBUTE TO THE REV. DR.
CLAUDE S. WYATT, JR.: A LIFE
WELL LIVED

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, mere words do not begin to do justice to the life, legacy and transcendent accomplishments of the Rev. Dr. Claude S. Wyatt, Jr., co-founder of The Vernon Park Church of God in Chicago, Illinois. Rev. Wyatt's life in this world came to an end at the age of 86. Rev. Wyatt, founder emeritus of the Vernon Park Church of God, 9011 S. Stony Island, died Sunday morning, April 11, 2010, at his South Side home.

He left in his wake thousands of people from all walks of life who will forever remember his love for the Lord, his large and loving family, including his beloved wife of 70 years, the Rev. Dr. Addie Lorraine Wyatt, as well as men, women and young people from all walks of life, including me. In ways big and small, I learned from Rev. Wyatt important lessons in life. I am proud to count myself among those scattered throughout this country who, right now, are grieving the loss of his life but who,

at the same time, are rejoicing in the Lord in whose arms he now has eternal peace and comfort.

While today's young people are reveling in the fruits of what many call the "Joshua Generation," there would be no 'Joshuas' without the wisdom, guidance and front line courage of those Moses figures, like Dr. Wyatt, who stood side by side with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., campaigned for the release of Nelson Mandela and a free South Africa, or who worked alongside some of this nation's greatest labor leaders, like César Chávez. Together, men and women of unheralded stature successfully created a culture, in this nation, that values the labor of low-income and working class families by, at the very least, recognizing the merit of paying them a decent, minimum living wage for a hard day's work. I could go on and on about the things that Rev. Wyatt and his amazing wife Addie have done to create the nation we live in today, but I offer these thoughts for future generations to read, revel in and, hopefully, rejoice!

Rev. Wyatt was born November 14, 1921 in Terrell, Texas. He was the second of five children. A young Claude Wyatt first came to Chicago at the age of six. Rev. Wyatt fought honorably as part of a still, segregated Navy, during WWII, from which he was honorably discharged. And, prior to becoming a pastor, Rev. Wyatt worked as a clerk at the Hyde Park Post office, at 46th and Cottage Grove, part of my congressional district, for more than 20 years.

Rev. Wyatt was married to his wife, Addie, since 1940. Shortly after they joined their lives together, the couple became involved with the ministry and civil rights campaign of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rev. Wyatt marched with Dr. King in the famous Selma to Montgomery march to secure voting rights on March 7, 1965. In the midst of that infamous day in Alabama, now forever known as Bloody Sunday when 600 civil rights marchers were beaten and brutalized by the police, Dr. Wyatt was there. In fact, it was his job to coordinate ministers and recruit workers to join Dr. King on that day—a day that, in so many ways, helped make our nation a better place.

Over the years, with the loving support of his wife Addie, who also served side-by-side with him in his ministry, the church they founded together grew to become a powerful, leading voice for labor and for human rights.

In her husband's loving embrace, his support encouraged her to assume the mantle of national leadership in her own right. The Rev. Dr. Addie Wyatt became a labor adviser to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). The Wyatts also worked with Rev. Jesse Jackson in helping to launch Operation Breadbasket when, in 1962, it distributed food to underprivileged people in 12 American cities.

His son, Claude Wyatt III, said the Lord called his father into the ministry in 1952 and, in 1955, he founded the Vernon Park Church of God where he, initially, began holding services in a garage at 93rd Street between Indiana and Prairie. God called Claude and Addie Wyatt to carry a message of salvation and hope to a small but spirit-filled group of people. Together, they worshipped under the name of the Mount Zion Baptist Church. Under their leadership, the church was converted to the Church of God Reformation and, because of its location, was eventually named the Vernon Park Church of God.

Over the years, through much effort, mutual support and abiding faith, the Wyatts continued to build their church and, as the size of their congregation grew so, too, did the location of the church. Finally, after much prayer and perseverance, the present worship facility was erected. Today, this multi-million dollar complex, with a membership of more than 1,000, stands as a monument to the faith, hope and vision of a people who not only had a mind to build but an unshakable determination to do great things to honor God and to serve His people here on Earth.

Rev. Wyatt's accomplishments are legendary and could fill an entire CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. But of all the things I could say, on behalf of my beloved wife, Carolyn, my family and, indeed, a grateful nation, I salute the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Claude S. Wyatt, Jr. His was a life well lived, indeed.

HONORING REV. CURTIS B.
ALEXANDER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as you know, thousands of Americans were affected by Hurricane Rita. Many lost their homes and the cherished memories inside them. While devastation tore throughout much of the coast of Texas, there were some brave, hard-working citizens who tirelessly helped their neighbors.

Jefferson County Habitat for Humanity organized more than 3,000 volunteers over the course of three years. They built 50 houses during this time, which is an increased rate of four times the number of houses they typically are capable of building.

Habitat 2010 Board President Rev. Curtis B. Alexander of Beaumont, Texas and Executive Director Uliana Trylowsky worked with many volunteers, including faith-based organizations, prison partnerships, and others in the community that wished to put their hands to good use.

On January 22, 2010 these two selfless individuals represented Jefferson County Habitat for Humanity in receiving the Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Award from the National Community Development Association at their winter meeting in Washington D.C.

We applaud the leadership of Rev. Alexander and Ms. Trylowsky in organizing volunteers to build houses for their neighbors in Jefferson County after Hurricane Rita. The efforts of the countless Americans that volunteered their time after this disaster have been noticed. We praise and thank the generosity of those who have labored for their fellow neighbors.

HONORING BOB GRIP, ALABAMA'S
BEST TV NEWS ANCHOR FOR 2010

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate my friend Bob Grip for recently

receiving the award of Best TV News Anchor in Alabama. A trusted name in South Alabama for a quarter century, Bob is primary news anchor for WALA-TV FOX10 in Mobile.

On March 20, 2010, Bob Grip was named the 2010 Best TV News Anchor in the State of Alabama by the Alabama Broadcasters' Association. This was his third such award.

Mr. Grip's exemplary reporting has also recently earned him honors for "Best In-Depth Reporting" and "Best Community Service" by the Mobile Press Club.

Bob has also been honored for producing "Fox 10 News Fugitive Files," winner of the 2002 "Best Series" award from the Alabama Associated Press Broadcasters Association. Due to this program's success, he was spotlighted in 1996 by FBI Director Louis Freeh with the "Director's Community Leadership Award." "Fugitive Files" has helped capture more than 400 suspects.

In 1988, Bob traveled to the Vatican to produce a half hour documentary on Mobile Archbishop Oscar Lipscomb's visit with Pope John Paul II. Bob also brought Fox 10 News viewers reports from Europe following the death of Pope John Paul.

During 1993, Bob flew to Kuwait to present a series of live and taped reports on Operation Desert Peace, a trip designed to honor the families of those who died in the first Persian Gulf War.

Bob Grip is a cum laude graduate of Boston College, where he earned bachelor's degrees in Communications and Secondary Education. He also received a Master's degree in Journalism from The Ohio State University, where he was also a Teaching Associate in the School of Journalism.

In his spare time, he also teaches Broadcast Journalism at Spring Hill College in Mobile, and is constantly volunteering his time and tremendous talents to a number of worthwhile causes. On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I thank Bob Grip for his dedication to his profession of informing the public, and I congratulate him on his many achievements and send best wishes to his family, including his wife, Marie, and their two daughters Erin and Mary Kate, and their families.

TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE ACT OF
2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, across the United States, April 15th is Tax Day. As Americans file their taxes, H.R. 4994, the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010, improves taxpayer programs and protections. The "Tax Day" bill has a history of broad bi-partisan support and continues to receive large support today.

Most importantly for the residents of the 7th District of Illinois and the Nation, the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010 includes programs that benefit low-income taxpayers. For example, H.R. 4994 increases funding for grants to provide low-income taxpayer clinics. Even in the absence of a specific appropriation, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program will be available for use because the Secretary of the

Treasury could allocate up to \$20 million of grant funding annually for the program. As recommended by the National Taxpayer Advocate, the bill allows IRS employees to refer people to these tax clinics as well. The Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010 also improves the IRS's ability to inform taxpayers about the availability of the Earned Income Tax Credit in prior years, a tax credit that we know helps low-income households. In the 7th Congressional District alone, over 72,000 people participated in this program in 2007 with a savings of over \$172 million, with most of those taxpayers earning less than \$20,000 a year.

Further, the bill makes it easier for taxpayers to settle outstanding payments via the offers-in-compromise program. Importantly, H.R. 4994 contains provisions to assure the protection of taxpayers, such as requiring the IRS to notify taxpayers when it suspects that a taxpayer's identity, or a dependent's identity, has been stolen. Each of the bill's provisions provides timely assistance and improvements for taxpayers.

The Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010 also adapts the tax system to technology in several ways. By allowing the removal of cell phones from listed property, the bill eliminates a strict, outdated rule. The current rule requires individuals to keep detailed records regarding cell phones and similar equipment used for business purposes, imposing unnecessary burdens on companies and taxpayers. The IRS also will be given the opportunity to utilize the internet and other forms of mass communication to notify taxpayers of "unclaimed" or "undeliverable" funds.

Overall H.R. 4994 the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010 continues the tradition of the "Tax Day" bill by providing needed programs, protection to our taxpayers, and updates to outdated rules.

NEGLECTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues an editorial from the April 9 Scranton Times Tribune urging the Obama administration to name an Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, as required by the International Religious Freedom Act, which was passed by Congress in 1998. The editorial rightly points out that the portfolio of this ambassador is "fundamental to American ideals. . . ."

The absence of a consistent voice dedicated to the pursuit of religious freedom both within the State Department and globally in our interactions with foreign governments is deeply concerning. America must speak out for those around the world whose most basic freedoms are being trampled.

[From the Times-Tribune, Apr. 9, 2010]

NAME, ELEVATE AMBASSADOR

More than a year into office, President Barack Obama has yet to name a key diplomat with a portfolio that is fundamental to American ideals, international human rights and U.S. law.

The Religious Freedom Act of 1998, for good reason, requires the appointment of an ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom.