

and we are truly grateful for her commitment to racial and gender equality. Our thoughts and prayers are with her sister, Anthanette Aldridge, and all Americans whose lives she has touched.

HONORING THE WORK OF THE REBUILDING TOGETHER SOUTH SOUND ORGANIZATION IN WASHINGTON STATE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rebuilding Together organization in their efforts to improve the lives of American homeowners with the greatest need, and help to ensure they have a safe and healthy place to call home.

Established in 1988, Rebuilding Together currently maintains over 200 active affiliates nationwide and works with more than 200,000 volunteers to rehabilitate 10,000 homes and community centers each year. The homeowners that Rebuilding Together serves include the elderly, disabled, veterans, and families displaced by natural disasters.

Rebuilding Together is the Nation's largest domestic housing organization that works to preserve homeownership and revitalize communities in a cost-effective manner by providing critical home repairs, accessibility modifications, and energy saving upgrades all at no charge to America's low-income homeowners. With the support of large volunteer teams, major corporations, and other contributors, Rebuilding Together leverages each dollar donated into an average of four dollars in added market value invested into the low-income homes they serve.

In a time of widespread housing challenges and economic turmoil, Rebuilding Together's work allows the residents it serves to remain and live safely in their own homes. Rebuilding Together's efforts help prevent homeowners from losing their homes and help homeowners maintain their independence and retain what is in many cases their most significant asset of personal savings and intergenerational wealth. These efforts also help to support neighborhoods and keep communities from losing residents and experiencing declines in real estate value.

This weekend, I will have the pleasure of joining volunteers and Rebuilding Together South Sound in Washington State as they hold their annual Rebuilding Day. I look forward to supporting their work and helping to achieve their important goals.

With the help of community partners, corporate sponsors, and political leadership, Rebuilding Together makes it possible for thousands of Americans to thrive in their own homes and live in healthy communities. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Rebuilding Together for their efforts to ensure proper housing for veterans, senior citizens, the disabled, and displaced families in Washington and throughout the United States.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GROUNDBREAKING OF A NEW HABITAT FOR HUMANITY DEVELOPMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today, joined by my colleague, The Hon. JAMES MORAN, to celebrate the groundbreaking of a new Habitat for Humanity development in Northern Virginia. This new development, Perry Hall, will provide homes to 12 families in Arlington County, Virginia.

Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia, an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, was founded in 1990 and is entering its 20th year serving Arlington and Fairfax Counties as well as the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax. Since 1990, Habitat for Humanity has built homes for 73 Northern Virginia families.

Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to the belief that all people deserve a safe and decent place to live. To qualify for a Habitat for Humanity home, the applicant must have lived in Northern Virginia for at least 1 year prior to application, currently live in either substandard or inadequate housing which may include overcrowded or unsafe living conditions, be willing to complete 300–500 hours of “sweat equity” to building of their home, earn only 25–50% of the area median income, and have adequate income to pay a 20–30 year zero interest mortgage with a 1% down payment.

The successes of Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia would not be possible without the support of their partnerships with individuals, corporations, civic organizations, associations and faith based groups from throughout the community. Equally important are the committed employees and volunteers who dedicate countless hours to achieve the goal of providing homes for those in need.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the groundbreaking of Perry Hall and in recognizing the invaluable contributions that Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia has made to the entire region. I would also ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the supporters, employees and volunteers of this wonderful organization for their ongoing dedication.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF THE TOLEDO CATHOLIC DIOCESE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Centenary celebration of the Catholic Diocese of Toledo, Ohio. The year long celebration began in October of 2009 with a Season of Preparation and now moves into its Season of Celebration. The Centenary concludes with a Season of Recommitment beginning October 8, 2010 through April 15, 2011.

The Toledo Roman Catholic Diocese was established by order of Pope Pius X on April

15, 1910. Its first bishop, the Most Reverend Joseph Schrembs was installed on October 4, 1911. The Diocese covers nineteen counties in Northwest Ohio including Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot. The region is urban, rural, suburban and every variety of ethnicity.

A century after its founding, the diocese serves 321,516 Catholics in 128 Parishes. Its services have grown to meet the needs of 21st Century Catholic life while adhering to traditional Catholic teaching. Today's faithful can look to a spirit of ecumenism, both lay and religious pastoral care, and ministries focused on youth, families, those who are aging and those who are alone.

Pope Paul VI said, “Liturgy is like a strong tree whose beauty is derived from the continuous renewal of its leaves, but whose strength comes from the old trunk, with solid roots in the ground.” As the Toledo Catholic Diocese has travelled through a century of steadfast faith, challenge and opportunity, it has always been the bedrock for the faithful of our region. Even as we celebrate the milestone marker of 100 years in Christ's service, we look forward to the coming 100 years with renewed hope and faith.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VIVIAN JONES ON HER 40TH ANNIVERSARY IN PUBLIC SERVICE AS A MEMBER OF MY CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I rise today to commend my dear friend and colleague, Vivian Jones, on an illustrious public service career spanning 40 years in the United States House of Representatives.

But, my dear Vivian is more than just a coworker to me. We have maintained a personal and working relationship for the larger part of my political life that has proved abundantly edifying and rewarding. I consider her a true friend with not only great skills—one of the last people on earth who can take shorthand—but a great understanding of the nuances of dealing with politicians and the rigors of constituent casework. I am pleased to say that there are people that call up and want to speak to Vivian instead of me.

The many who have met and been touched by Vivian and her life's work can attest that she is equal parts strong mind and ample heart, a humble soul who cares deeply about the issues of the day and their impact on everyday people. And yet, she has been able to influence public decision making, develop activities of enormous impact and provide motivation, inspiration, and consolation to the younger members of my staff.

Vivian Jones goes back to my days at Weaver, Evans, Wingate & Wright. She was my Administrative Assistant when I first practiced law. She became a part of my campaign staff in March of 1970, when I, then a young New York State Assemblyman, challenged the legendary Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. for the Congressional Seat.

Upon election to the Congress, she joined the Congressional Staff as my Executive Secretary. As a freshman Congressman, I was the beneficiary of Vivian's previous experience with secretarial and paralegal work. She immediately became responsible for my schedule and constituent services in the district office, which was all done without computers in those early days of our careers in the House.

In 1975, Vivian succeeded Virginia Bell as my District Administrator. As my District Administrator, her responsibilities expanded to the role of a Chief of Staff in the District. Viv managed the district offices, directed work activities, supervised staff, and oversaw and coordinated activities in the different communities of my Congressional District. As a woman in this role in the 1970s and proceeding decades, she was quite an effective leader and powerful force in pushing my agenda forward in the district. She continued this role until January 1999, when Vivian reduced her work load and went part-time.

Although at part-time, my loyal colleague, Vivian Jones, still coordinates my schedule in conjunction with the scheduler in Washington, handles all personnel matters pertaining to the district staff, and prepares correspondences of varying complexity for my signature. Vivian continues to arrive at the office in the wee hours of the morning on her assigned days. As always, she remains committed to offering a sympathetic ear or to jump start a slow or reluctant bureaucracy for a constituent.

Vivian's dynamic spirit and sense of purpose serves me and her fellow colleagues as the motivation and driving force of the office. I thank her for her incredible service over the years, her devoted friendship, and wish her many blessings.

SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF 2010 NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask that we take time to recognize National Crime Victims' Rights Week. As a law enforcement officer for 33 years, protecting victims of crime and their rights is a mission close to my heart.

In the King County Sheriff's office, I saw unspeakable tragedies firsthand. I saw the consequences of crime and how it affects victims—sometimes for the rest of their lives. There are few things more painful than looking into the eyes of a victim, knowing that a criminal's selfish, terrible deed has done irreparable damage to an innocent life.

As a cop, you live with the hard truth that you can't prevent every crime. But what we can all do is provide as much support and aid to victims as possible. We can help them receive justice and return some normalcy to their lives.

I urge my colleagues to keep victims of crimes in their hearts and minds, especially when voting for measures that will support their ability to move beyond the tragedies they've suffered and are working to overcome.

LUKE BRYAN, CMA "TOP NEW ARTIST" 2010

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Luke Bryan, of Leesburg, Georgia, who won the 45th Annual Academy of Country Music Award for Top New Artist on Sunday, April 18th in Las Vegas, Nevada.

All of us in Southwest Georgia are proud of his accomplishment and I would like to recognize and applaud Mr. Bryan's dedication and determination to his art. He has worked diligently, and his album, "Doin' My Thing," peaked at the Number Two spot on the Country Album Billboard. On behalf of my constituents in Georgia's Second Congressional District, I offer my congratulations on a job well done!

I cannot put into words the amount of pride that everyone in Leesburg, and indeed in the Second Congressional District, has in being able to claim this outstanding musician as one of us. He has accomplished a special goal, one that could not have been possible without the unrelenting support and encouragement from his family and community.

The "Top New Artist" winner was elected through fan votes by voting online in February and March. Residents of the City of Leesburg and the State of Georgia should be commended for the outstanding loyalty and support they displayed in voting for Mr. Bryan.

Madam Speaker, Luke Bryan has worked hard, persevered, made sacrifices, and developed the character that will help him to succeed. Once again, I congratulate Mr. Bryan on his achievement.

THE DIVERSE TEACHERS RECRUITMENT ACT OF 2010

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the effort to bring more diversity to our national teaching force.

Striking statistics compiled by the Department of Education show a lack of diversity among teachers. During the 2007–2008 school year, an estimated 7 percent of teachers were African-American, 7 percent Latino, and 1.2 percent were Asian. More than 83 percent of teachers were white. A total of 75.9 percent of teachers were female and only 24.1 percent male.

Some educators believe this lack of diversity leaves some students without an inspiring role model to whom they can relate. The result may be lower test scores and higher dropout rates within some student demographics.

I am introducing the Diverse Teachers Recruitment Act of 2010 to address this lack of diversity. The legislation provides grants to school districts to create and implement recruitment programs to bring teachers from underrepresented groups into the classroom.

The grantee will track and compile data showing results of the program, including minority teacher recruitment rates. Data will also

include the impact on student learning, growth, and attendance rates.

The Department of Education will analyze the programs and disseminate which were effective in recruiting teachers from underrepresented groups. Successful results could be replicated in other school districts.

It is a worthwhile effort to bring teachers from underrepresented groups into our classrooms. This legislation begins a national effort to build a teaching force that reflects the diverse population of the United States to enhance the learning experience of our students.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,871,255,665,556.84.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,232,829,919,263.00 so far this Congress. The debt has increased \$8,206,250,340.50 since just yesterday.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE TOLEDO BOARD OF REALTORS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Toledo Board of Realtors on the milestone occasion of the 100th anniversary of its founding. The Toledo Board of Realtors was founded in February of 1910 by a handful of Toledo real estate brokers. The association's first president was Irving B. Hiatt, who eventually assumed the presidency of the National Association of Realtors.

Formed as the Toledo Real Estate Board, its first membership consisted of about 28 brokers. The Board was formed to "Collect and circulate valuable and useful information pertaining to the real estate, manufacturing, industrial and mercantile interests of the city of Toledo and its citizens; To oppose the enactment of laws detrimental to said interest; to encourage legislation for needed public improvements; to foster an equitable system of taxation and assessment and to secure the enactment and enforcement of laws and ordinances for the further protection, convenience and welfare of the real estate owners, leaseholders and brokers."

In 1910 the Board developed a map of every manufacturing site in the city indicating whether the site was on the water, rail or inland. In 1912 Multiple Listing Service was established and it was mandatory that all members include their listings. The brokers gathered in the Board office each week and exchanged information about their listings.