

ways to improve the lives of other young people.

At age 12 Angel Ray was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. He spent a year and a half in a Hawaii hospital battling cancer.

But Angel Ray did not let his disease control his life. Instead, he used his experience to empower himself to help others.

During his long hospital stay, Angel Ray found that time passed more comfortably because of a playroom in the pediatric ward. It was filled with games and toys, computers and a TV well stocked with DVDs, all of which helped take the young patients' minds away from their illness and from the reality of being in the hospital. In the playroom, Angel Ray told a reporter from the Saipan Tribune, kids "don't feel like they're sick. They feel like they're at home."

But Angel Ray knew—from personal experience—that kids back home at the Commonwealth Health Center in the Northern Marianas had no playroom. Though the average stay is only two-and-a-half days, some patients are there for six weeks or more. And they have no toys or books, no refuge from the psychological toll of being sick.

So Angel Ray partnered with Hawaii state representative Glenn Wakai and with Reach Out Pacific, a non-profit organization that takes surplus medical and educational supplies from Hawaii to the Pacific islands, including the Marianas, Guam, Palau, the Marshall Islands, Chuuk, Yap, Kosrae, Pohnpei and the Philippines. Together, they organized donations of toys and books to create a playroom at the Commonwealth Health Center. The Shriner's Hospital in Honolulu was being renovated and needed to clear out toys in its pediatric area. Moanalua High School gave hundreds of books. The U.S. Bankruptcy Court donated shelving. And Matson Navigation offered to ship the 20-foot container stuffed with 50 boxes of books, 19 bookshelves, and 60 bags of toys from Hawaii to the Northern Mariana Islands.

Madam Speaker, Angel Ray Guerrero is an inspiration to us all: an individual who took the adversity in his own life and turned it into a benefit for others.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. DOROTHY IRENE HEIGHT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today we mourn the loss of Dr. Dorothy Height, a true American hero, who worked tirelessly throughout her 98 years to make the world better as a leader, activist, and counselor in the civil rights and women's rights movements. In 2004, I was privileged to support legislation that honored Dr. Height with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award Congress can bestow. Dr. Height led a remarkable life and made a significant difference in the lives of so many others.

After earning degrees at New York University, Dr. Height joined the staff of the Harlem YMCA. There she met human rights activists First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and educator Mary McLeod Bethune. Her encounter with Dr.

Bethune led to Dr. Height's involvement with the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), an organization she would come to lead as president for four decades. Dr. Height was a tremendous mediator and minister during times of great civil rights strife, such as after the 1935 riots in Harlem and then again in 1963, at the request of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., she traveled to Birmingham, Alabama, after a bomb killed four African American girls in a church.

Called the queen of the civil rights movement, Dr. Height was often the only woman at key moments in civil rights history and we are indebted to her for keeping women's rights and equality in the fore. During her tenure with NCNW, Dr. Height instituted programs to establish dialogue between interracial groups of women, to expand business ownership by women, to celebrate women's history at the Bethune Museum and Archives, and to monitor human rights around the world.

In addition to her efforts to overcome racial prejudices and for full voting rights of all, she also fought for school desegregation, for access to decent housing, and for better employment opportunities. It seems only fitting that we honor the legacy of Dr. Height on Equal Pay Day, a day each April intended to bring awareness to the inequalities that still exist in our society. Dr. Height was at the White House ceremony when President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act and was there again when President Clinton marked the 35th anniversary of the legislation.

Dr. Height was apt to tell her colleagues at NCNW to continue their efforts to address issues of social concern. In gratitude for everything she has done, we are inspired to continue with her life's dedication to expand civil rights and equality for all.

COMMEMORATING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, under the leadership of Speaker PELOSI, the 111th Congress has passed some of the most extensive and ambitious environmental legislation this country has seen since the 1970s. So it brings me great pleasure to be here in the House of Representatives to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.

Such legislation includes the Recovery Act, which I was proud to support and has made historic job-creating investments in a clean energy future that will provide hundreds of thousands of jobs. The House also passed clean energy jobs legislation that enhances the American manufacturing base and will make the U.S. a world leader in new energy technologies.

Additionally, I recently introduced the 10 Million Solar Roofs and 10 Million Gallons of Solar Water Heating Act, which will provide valuable cash rebates for the creation of 10 million small power plants located on the roofs of American homes and businesses throughout the country. This legislation will also create an estimated 1.35 million direct and indirect jobs, lower energy costs, strengthen the econ-

omy, and put America on the path to energy independence.

Corporate interests have spent millions espousing mistruths and presenting a false choice to the American people—the idea that efforts to preserve our planet and ensure our own survival will destroy the American economy. However, this Congress has exposed these claims for what they really are—lies. The 111th Congress has proven that we can indeed strengthen the American economy and ensure that all Americans can breathe cleaner air and drink cleaner water, and I am honored and proud to have been a part of such a historic effort.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND WORK OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINNIE SHIRLEY WIGGINS

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and work of County Commissioner Minnie Shirley Wiggins who died on Sunday, April 18, 2010 after a short illness. Commissioner Wiggins was a well-respected elected official and community leader in Perquimans County, North Carolina.

Born on February 6, 1933 to the late Mary and Hardy Wiggins, Sr., Commissioner Wiggins was a graduate of Perquimans County Training School and St. Agnes School of Nursing in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Commissioner Wiggins served our Nation with honor as a United States Navy Nurse Corps Captain, serving aboard the USS *Sanctuary* during the Vietnam War. She was a proud member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Vietnam Veterans of America.

During her more than 20 years as a Perquimans County Commissioner, she provided a passionate and tireless voice for the youths and senior citizens of the Albemarle Region. She worked as a volunteer with elementary school children and devoted significant time to the Meals on Wheels program. She earned recognition for her devotion to public service, including North Carolina's highest honor—the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Commissioner Wiggins had a great passion for her church, Melton Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Winfall, North Carolina, where she was a devoted member for many years.

She is survived by brothers, Percy A. Wiggins Sr. and Horace Wiggins; brother/son Hardy Wiggins Jr.; daughter/niece C. Loretta Buggs; and a host of nieces, nephews, adopted sons and daughters, godchildren and extended family.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise to recognize the life and work of Commissioner Minnie Shirley Wiggins and her outstanding public service to the community. I also ask that we pass along our best wishes and prayers to her family, friends and loved ones during this time of bereavement.

CRAIG MORGAN RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS AS THE DISTRICT MANAGER FOR THE SCHUYKILL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. HOLDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Craig Morgan, a constituent from my district, who is retiring as District Manager of the Schuylkill Conservation District after twenty-five years of service. Craig has always had an interest in the outdoors. As a boy, he enjoyed fishing, hunting, and helping on his grandfather's farm. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in environmental resource management from Penn State University in 1977, Craig began his career with the Schuylkill Conservation District.

The Schuylkill Conservation District was formed in 1955 with an emphasis on soil conservation. Since becoming District Manager, Craig has expanded the conservation district's role to erosion and sediment control, watershed protection, environmental education, farmland preservation, and farm conservation planning.

One of the Schuylkill Conservation District's accomplishments under Craig's leadership is the farmland preservation and erosion and sediment control efforts around the Little Swatara Creek, ultimately preserving the down-stream Sweet Arrow Lake.

Acid mine drainage has traumatically impacted and sometimes destroyed the ecosystems of streams in part of my district. Under Craig's direction, the Schuylkill Conservation District has partnered with the Schuylkill Headwaters Association, and other watershed associations, to treat acid mine drainage and bring those streams back to life with plant life and fish.

Craig is also proud of the Schuylkill Conservation District's efforts to educate local students on the environment and the importance of conservation. In 1979, Craig ran Schuylkill County's first environthon, which combines in-class curriculum and outdoor training, helping students to learn more about aquatic ecology, forestry, soil and land use, wildlife, and current issues facing the environment.

Looking back on his twenty-five years as district director, Craig said, "The job has been a challenge, but it's been a pleasure in doing good things and doing the right things. That's the reward. Seeing fish back in streams, seeing people at Sweet Arrow Lake. I am the type of person that wanted to do things right the first time so I didn't have to do them again."

I would like to thank Craig Morgan for his twenty-five years of commitment to conserving and preserving Schuylkill County's waters, lands, and wildlife.

CONGRATULATING REVEREND DANIEL P. COUGHLIN ON 10TH YEAR OF SERVICE AS HOUSE CHAPLAIN

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1216, a resolution congratulating Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin on his 10th year of service as Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

Reverend Coughlin was sworn in as the fifty-ninth Chaplain of the House of Representatives on March 23, 2000—the first person of Roman Catholic faith to hold the office. In his decade of service, he has opened House proceedings with prayer, provided pastoral counseling and arranged memorial services for the House and its staff.

Over the years I have come to know Reverend Coughlin and value his service to the House of Representatives. This resolution is a fitting honor, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Reverend Coughlin for his decade of faithful service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL SPANN WATSON

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of Spann Watson, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, a retired U.S. Air Force pilot and an advocate for civil rights. Mr. Watson, who helped break the color barrier in the military years ago, passed away at the age of 93 years old.

Mr. Watson, originally born in South Carolina, moved with his family to New Jersey where he was inspired to become a pilot after watching Charles Lindbergh land the *Spirit of St. Louis* at Teterboro Airport. Mr. Watson earned his pilot's license while studying engineering at Howard University. In 1940, he was told by an Army recruiter that there were no openings for black pilots; however, a year later, the NAACP filed a race-discrimination lawsuit and the War Department set up an experimental program to train African American airmen.

Mr. Watson completed this program, which was based at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama, as a fighter pilot and participated in nearly 40 flight missions during World War II. He retired from the military in the 1960s and worked as an affirmative action specialist for the Federal Aviation Administration. He continued to lecture into his 90s about his experiences as a military and civil rights pioneer.

Over the past 20 years, Mr. Watson traveled the country attending air shows and speaking about the all-black flight program. In 1997, Congress honored graduates of the Tuskegee program with the Congressional Gold Medal—the Nation's highest civilian award.

While at Tuskegee, Mr. Watson met Edna Webster, a civilian employee at the airfield,

and they were married on December 17, 1943. The couple had five children and spent nearly 50 years as a resident of Westbury, Long Island.

Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration, pride and respect that I acknowledge the accomplishments of Lieutenant Colonel Spann Watson and thank him and his family for a lifetime of civil service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO MYRTLE E. THATCHER

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished citizen of Kansas City, Kansas, who celebrates her 100th birthday today.

Myrtle E. Green Thatcher was born in Kansas City, Kansas, on April 22, 1910, to Embridge and Eliza Green. She is a lifelong resident of Kansas City, where she graduated from Northeast Junior High School and Sumner High School. She was married for over 50 years to Nathan W. Thatcher, Jr., the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan W. Thatcher, Sr., who was general manager of Thatcher Funeral Home, which is the oldest black family-owned funeral home in the State of Kansas. The business began operation in April 1912, at 1520 North 5th Street, founded by Mr. and Mrs. Nathan W. Thatcher, Sr.

In 1979, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Thatcher, Jr., affectionately known as Myrtle and "Snooks", remodeled the building. In the following year, Nathan died, leaving the family business in the capable hands of their only child, Quintelle Thatcher Davis, who guided the business until finally succumbing after a hard fought battle with cancer in 2007.

Myrtle E. Thatcher has been active in the business for over 50 years. A licensed funeral director, she's been a member of the Missouri-Kansas Funeral Directors Association, the National Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association, and other professional groups. She's been a member of Pleasant Green Baptist Church for over 50 years and is a charter member of Alice M. Browne Chapter #40 of the Order of the Eastern Star. The recipient of numerous community service and professional awards through the course of her career, she is still serving our community, along with the excellent leadership of her grandson, Robert Davis, the fourth generation of her family to join the business, where he serves as general manager, funeral director and embalmer.

This family business will be 98 years old this month. As Myrtle maintains, they will continue to follow founder Nathan Thatcher, Senior's, practice of following the Golden Rule: do unto others as they do unto you. And Myrtle will continue to be very proud of her family, which includes five great grandchildren and three grandchildren: Judy Easterwood, who lives with her husband Robert in Kansas City, Kansas; Robert Davis, and Associate Professor Jacquelyn Hams, the chair of the department of earth science and anthropology of Los Angeles Valley College.

Madam Speaker, I know that you and all members of the House of Representatives join with me in paying tribute to Myrtle E. Thatcher upon her 100th birthday.