

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. EARL DURDEN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with both great honor and humility that I rise to recognize the life of Mr. Earl Durden. After 18 years, Earl succumbed to his battle with cancer and now rests in peace. Throughout his 78 years, Mr. Durden spent his days working as a community leader, and I am proud to honor his lifetime as a compassionate giver and visionary.

Mr. Durden came from humble beginnings. He was born the son of a farmer outside of Dothan, Alabama, but became a powerful leader in the transportation industry. While he was a well known railroad magnate throughout Florida, Mr. Durden was perhaps best known as a local philanthropist and for his quiet charity. Earl Durden was a friend to many and was respected by even more. He was a man who always gave generously and has good deeds that will forever go unknown. Even during his fight with cancer, he never forgot what was important and what was worth living for.

Earl Durden was a self-made man. He believed in being honest, working hard and making the most of life. His impressive list of accomplishments includes being named chairman of the state transportation commission under Governor Jeb Bush, CEO and Director of Rail Management Corporation and owner of Magic Broadcasting Company. At age 68, Durden was honored by being named one of the most influential people in Florida.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize and honor the life of Earl Durden. The size of Mr. Durden's heart was only matched by his love for family. My wife Vicki and I express the deepest sympathies to his loving wife Karen and their three sons.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
MAJOR MARK B. HILL**HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Major Mark B. Hill of El Dorado Hills, California. Hill grew up in El Dorado Hills and after graduating from California State University-Sacramento, he was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force at Mather Air Force Base.

Major Hill has served with distinction for the last 20 years, flying over 4,500 hours and more than 130 combat support missions aboard the E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft and as a qualified Master Air Battle Manager. He has deployed in support of multiple operations, including: Desert Storm, Provide Comfort, Southern Watch, Deliberate Force, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom, and Noble Eagle. As a qualified Joint Service Officer, he left a NATO post for his current duty assignment as a Branch Chief within the Command and Control, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Division, Directorate of

Requirements, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. As a former Eagle Scout, he remains a volunteer supporting the Boy Scouts of America and has done so throughout his military career. Hill's commendations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (two oak leaf clusters), Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Joint Service Achievement Medal.

Madam Speaker, with his retirement from active duty in the United States Air Force on June 1, 2010, I am proud to recognize Major Mark B. Hill and thank him for over two decades of representing the finest of our values and for his long service in defense of our nation.

HOOSIER HONOR FLIGHT

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the brave and heroic veterans of the Hoosier Honor Flight for their outstanding leadership and service to our country.

Hoosier Honor Flight is an organization created solely to honor the men and women who have bravely sacrificed in their service to our country by flying our heroes to Washington, DC to visit and reflect at the memorials they so rightly earned.

The Hoosier Honor Flight is an admirable undertaking. It is of the utmost importance to me that all American veterans are honored. Thanks to their courageous service, all Americans live free in this great country.

Thanks to the dedication of Monroe County veterans' organizations, businesses and Hoosiers from across southern Indiana who joined forces to provide the first Hoosier Honor Flight on 12 November 2008, 39 World War II veterans and one Korean War veteran were able to enjoy visiting the national WWII Memorial, Lincoln and FDR memorials, Vietnam and Korean War memorials, as well as the Marine Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns, and laying a Hoosier Honor Flight wreath at the Tomb.

Today, over one hundred Hoosier veterans will arrive in Washington, DC to visit the memorials dedicated in their honor. I will have the privilege of meeting these fine men and women to thank them for their service to our country.

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF
"OPERATION COOKIE SHARE"**HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the success of "Operation Cookie Share," a collaborative effort of the Girl Scouts of Central Illinois and the State Farm Military Affinity Group. This year, customers purchasing Girl Scout cookies were able check on their order form whether they

wanted to donate extra boxes of cookies to our troops. As a result of this effort, over 86,000 boxes of Girl Scout cookies were sold and delivered to our troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, military hospitals in the U.S. and overseas, and USO hubs at major American airports for deploying and returning troops.

Our sons and daughters fighting for us overseas put their lives on the line every day and everything we can do to make their lives easier helps. These cookies aren't just a treat; they're a simple reminder of home and a simple gesture of thanks from a grateful community. I'm proud to support the great members of the Girl Scouts of Central Illinois and the State Farm Military Affinity Group, and honor the work done by so many in our community to thank our troops.

HONORING EDUCATION & ASSISTANCE CORPORATION FOR THEIR
EXTRAORDINARY WORK IN THE
COMMUNITY**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a nonprofit organization that serves my district, Educational & Assistance Corp.

EAC has demonstrated an overwhelming amount of commitment to serving the Long Island community. My constituents rely on our nonprofits for the vital services they offer. The continuous selfless efforts of those involved with Education & Assistance Corp. are admirable.

I am proud to honor Educational & Assistance Corp. for their extraordinary work in the community.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING
PARENT SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the contributions of Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) and Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSA) in northern Virginia. These associations serve a critical role in helping to provide the best possible educational environment for our students.

Schools located throughout northern Virginia are consistently recognized as being among the very best in our country. I strongly believe one factor in the excellent education received by our students is the high level of involvement and encouragement provided by parents through PTAs and PTSAs. Parent volunteers exist in a number of capacities within each school ranging from planning and implementing social events to helping ensure that teachers have the classroom resources they need to succeed.

The Northern Virginia District PTA represents a region with more than 220 schools. Maintaining a healthy and strong organization is an important part of allowing these groups

to have the greatest possible impact on the students they serve. To encourage such strength, it is important to note the individual PTAs and PTSAs that excel in this mission as well as the individual Volunteers of the Year.

I am pleased to congratulate the following on being recognized by the National PTA and Virginia PTA for 2009–2010 school year:

\$1,000.00 National PTA Healthy Lifestyle Grant: Laurel Hill ES PTA

\$300.00 Virginia PTA Family Fitness Grants: Samuel Tucker ES PTA and Haycock ES PTA

2010 National PTA Phoebe Apperson Hearst Family-School Partnership Awards of Merit: Fairview ES PTA, Lake Braddock SS PTA, Mosby Woods ES PTA, and White Oaks ES PTA

2009–2010 Virginia PTA Superior Membership Achievement Awards: Falls Church ES PTA, Nottingham ES PTA, Flint Hill ES PTA, and Langley HS PTSA

2009–2010 Virginia PTA Outstanding Membership Achievement Award: Peyton Randolph ES PTA

2009–2010 100 percent Membership Awards: Chesterbrook ES PTA, Falls Church ES PTA, Flint Hill ES PTA, Langley HS PTSA, Nottingham ES PTA, and Waynewood ES PTA

2009–2010 New Unit Charters: Cedar Lane School PTSA, Laurel Hill ES PTA, Lutie Lewis Coates ES PTA, Drew Model School PTA, and Arlington Special Education PTA

2009 Virginia PTA Volunteer of the Year: Sue Bernstein, Hollin Meadows ES PTA

2010 District Volunteer of the Year Nominees (Secondary): Kathy Conrad, Patricia Fausser, John Long, Janet Robinson and Greg Brandon.

2010 District Volunteer of the Year Nominees (Elementary): Karen Hildebrand, Teresa Willebeek-Lemair, Jenniefer Schantz, Jana Hollis, Ellen Giblin, Jill Chastain and Christa Soltis.

Congratulations to Sue Bernstein for being named the 2009 Volunteer of the Year and best of luck to the 2010 Volunteer of the Year Nominees.

A special note of appreciation is deserved by the following individuals for their service as elected officers of the Northern Virginia PTA Executive Board as they complete their term in office; District Director Debbie Kilpatrick, 1st Asst. District Director Nina Austin, 2nd Asst. Director Rob Horvath, Secretary Angela Nesley and Treasurer Donald Cantwell. Thank you and those who serve as Committee Chairs for your tireless efforts during the 2008–2010 term in office.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the outstanding achievements of the individuals and the PTA/PTSA organizations being recognized. Dedicated involvement from so many parents reflects a strong commitment to public education and community service that students in our schools are fortunate to experience. I offer my strong support for these organizations and their dedicated volunteers.

THE OCCASION OF FIRST ANNI- VERSARY OF UNVEILING OF SO- JOURNER TRUTH MEMORIAL

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, what does the unveiling of the Sojourner Truth Memorial in the U.S. Capitol mean to me?

I feel extraordinarily proud to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the unveiling of the memorial to Sojourner Truth in the United States Capitol. I am inspired by the legacy of Sojourner Truth, who was born a slave and overcame daunting odds to become one of the most influential figures in both the women's rights movement and the African-American struggle for equality.

The existence of such an eloquent memorial statue in her honor in the U.S. Capitol ensures that her legacy will never be forgotten. Lawmakers and visitors alike will be reminded of her spirit, dedication and courage each time they pass by her memorial. Just as Sojourner Truth paved the way for so many who came after her, this memorial reminds all visitors and those who work and serve here that the fight for freedom is hard fought but worth the victory.

HONORING UNITED WAY OF LONG ISLAND FOR THEIR EXTRAOR- DINARY WORK IN THE COMMU- NITY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a nonprofit organization that serves my district, United Way of Long Island.

United Way has demonstrated an overwhelming amount of commitment to serving the Long Island community. My constituents rely on our nonprofits for the vital services they offer. The continuous selfless efforts of those involved with the United Way of Long Island are admirable.

I am proud to honor United Way of Long Island for their extraordinary work in the community.

INTRODUCING THE INSTRU- CTIONAL LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2010

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Instructional Leadership Act of 2010, which will strengthen schools by helping principals to become instructional leaders.

With the passage of No Child Left Behind, NCLB, school principals often find themselves with greater responsibilities. They are accountable for student achievement and the broader goals of NCLB but they lack the appropriate training and resources needed to accomplish

these goals. It is time to bring equal attention to developing programs that train principals on the best practices to guide teaching and learning in schools.

The Instructional Leadership Act of 2010 provides grants to State and local educational agencies to drive gains in academic achievement for all children by: (1) Creating innovative programs and sites to train principals in instructional leadership skills including developing a school vision, staff development, and effective instructional practices; (2) Developing pilot programs to evaluate the incorporation of standards of instructional leadership into State principal certifications; and (3) Establishing state-of-the-art principal induction programs that provide mentoring and on-the-job training for new principals.

This legislation is strongly supported by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, NASSP. It represents a necessary first step towards developing the next generation of school leaders who are committed to, and effective in, increasing student achievement. I urge support for this important piece of legislation.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1116, which expresses support for the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week. I want to thank my friend and colleague Representative BARBARA LEE for introducing this resolution, which brings attention to a disease that affects an estimated 400,000 people living in the United States.

Because I was diagnosed with MS in 2003, I know the importance of research into treatments and a cure for the disease. I support additional funding for research regarding MS, Parkinson's disease, and other neurological disorders. MS is a serious disease, but I am lucky to have insurance that pays for most of the cost of the expensive drugs that slow its progression and help prevent disability. However, many people diagnosed with MS often find their necessary medications financially out of reach. The 111th Congress has taken historic action to make health care affordable and accessible, to end discrimination against those with pre-existing conditions, and to help people control and live well with chronic illness—keeping them out of wheelchairs or nursing homes. However, we must continue to work on behalf of our constituents who every day are dealing with serious health conditions.

I am pleased that included in the health insurance reform law recently signed by the president is the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Act. The CLASS Act will create an insurance program for the 10 million adults with disabilities in America to help them obtain the services and supports they need to stay functional, independent, and active in their community. It is a disgrace that millions of Americans with disabilities are forced to live a life of poverty just so they can qualify for long-term benefits offered by Medicaid. The CLASS Act will allow