

RECOGNIZING RON YEAKLE ON HIS 87TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor the life and service of Mr. Ron Yeakle on his 87th birthday. Mr. Yeakle is a true patriot. His story of extraordinary heroism and commitment to country has been an inspiration to many.

Ron Yeakle was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. In World War II, Mr. Yeakle served as a bomber pilot. During a bombing mission near Vienna, Austria, his B-24 Liberator was shelled at over 22,000 feet. In a harrowing feat of courage and bravery, Mr. Yeakle survived the jump and was later captured by enemy soldiers and forced to spend 14 months in German concentration camps. In what must have seemed like a hopeless situation at times, Mr. Yeakle and the other captors managed to encourage each other to endure this horrific experience until they were liberated by General George Patton and his men.

After the war, Mr. Yeakle and his wife Dorothy moved to Pensacola, Florida. In 1969, Mr. Yeakle was a co-founder of Piping and Equipment, Inc., where he still serves as a consultant. Additionally, Mr. Yeakle has served on the West Florida Hospital Board and the Ellyson Industrial Park Board. Ron and his wife have two daughters, Priscilla Carroll and Suzanne O'Meara.

It is with great honor, Madam Speaker, that I recognize the life and deeds of Mr. Ron Yeakle on his 87th birthday. He has been a leader both at times of war and times of peace. My wife Vicki and I wish him a happy birthday and his entire family all the best for the future.

TRIBUTE TO KIM WITCRAFT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kim Witcraft of Charles City, Iowa for his achievement as a 2010 Stars of Life award recipient.

The Stars of Life award publicly recognizes and celebrates the achievements of all people working in the selfless and heroic ambulance industry. The Stars of Life Program seeks to honor outstanding individuals as a thank you for their service, their sacrifice and the inspiration they bring to all Americans.

Kim has been recognized as a hero who has assumed several roles to ensure that the American Ambulance Association's Charles City small operation succeeds and continues to provide much needed help to area citizens. He is a state-certified EMS instructor and handles all clinical and education services and schedules most of the trainings for his operation. Kim also handles safety training for fifth and sixth graders in the area and presents many safety talks each year to Iowa elementary school students.

I know that my colleagues in Congress join me in congratulating and thanking Kim

Witcraft, one of Iowa and America's everyday heroes for his service and his constant consideration for the well-being of others in his community.

HONORING THE MICHAEL JAZZ TRIO FOR THEIR MUSICAL GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a unique group of young musicians from my district, the Michael Jazz Trio.

The Michael Jazz Trio is comprised of three brothers from Central Islip, New York: Matthew, David and Jordan Godfrey. These young men have shared with the Long Island community not only their extraordinary talent, but also their passion for philanthropy. On Saturday, May 1st, 2010, they performed at Central Islip High School to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

I am proud to honor the Michael Jazz Trio for sharing their musical gift with the community.

THANKING STATE LEGISLATOR POLLY BUKTA FOR HER SERVICE

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank Iowa State Legislator Polly Bukta for her service to Iowa and our country. Representative Bukta is retiring from the Iowa State Legislature at the end of the 2010 state legislative session.

Representative Bukta has represented the Clinton region in the Iowa legislature since 1997. She has been a principled, pragmatic leader. In addition to serving on several committees in the Iowa House—including the Education, Local Government, and Transportation, and Veterans Affairs Committees—Representative Bukta is Speaker Pro Tem of the Iowa House. She was elected to this position because she has earned the trust and respect of her colleagues.

On the first day of the 2010 Iowa Legislative Session, Representative Bukta delivered the following remarks to the Iowa House:

Honor the institution. Thomas Jefferson did it, and so did James Madison, George Washington, Alexander Hamilton and other builders of our governmental institutions. They worked tirelessly to make representative government work. Now the well-being of our state legislature is in our hands. Preserve and protect it so it remains a strong, co-equal branch of government. Legislative service is one of democracy's worthiest pursuits. It is an important duty that deserves our time, attention and dedication. To work well, government requires a bond of trust between citizens and their representatives. Try to appeal to the best instincts of the electorate, talk about what you stand for, what you intend to do during your time in office and then work as hard as you can to fulfill those promises. Remember why you ran for

office—to make a difference, a difference for the better.

Representative Bukta has made "a difference for the better" for her constituents and the state of Iowa. Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Representative Bukta and her family for their service.

IN HONOR OF POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY, 2010

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division and of Polish Constitution Day, which is celebrated this year on May 2, 2010. Polish Constitution Day is a time for Poles to honor the struggles, sacrifices and victories of their ancestors. It is a day when people of all cultures join with the Polish community to celebrate the rich culture, traditions and history of Poland.

After almost five centuries of struggle and perseverance, the Governmental Statute of Poland became the first written constitution in Europe on May 3, 1791. An important document in the history of democracy, the Polish Constitution established the separation of government powers, freedom of religion, and abolished key elements of serfdom.

Formed in 1949, the Polish American Congress is a national umbrella organization representing over ten million Polish-Americans. It serves as a unifying force for both Polish-Americans and Polish citizens living in America. Additionally, the Polish American Congress has helped integrate Poles into the United States with programs like the Displaced Persons Program, which allowed almost 150,000 Polish immigrants to enter the U.S. after World War II.

The Polish-American community in Cleveland is deeply rooted in its commitment to the values of family, faith, democracy and hard work. As in years past, the Greater Cleveland community will join in celebration of Poland's rich history and culture by attending events such as the Polonia Ball, the Grand Parade and the Photographic Exhibition.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the Polish American Congress as they celebrate Polish Constitution Day. Their dedication to preserving and promoting their heritage, history and culture with Greater Cleveland serves to enrich and illuminate the brilliant and diverse fabric of our entire community.

PUERTO RICO DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2499) to provide for a federally sanctioned self-determination process for the people of Puerto Rico:

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 2499, the Puerto Rico Democracy Act of 2009, introduced by our colleague Congressman PEDRO PIERLUISI. As the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, I fully support this bill, which the full Natural Resources committee reported out favorably on July 22nd of last year.

H.R. 2499 is an important bill for both Puerto Rico and the other U.S. Territories. As the delegate from Guam, I understand the desire of residents in the territories to decide their future and make a determination about their political future. Guam and Puerto Rico were both ceded to the United States after the Spanish American War in 1898. The communities in Guam and Puerto Rico have long traditions of patriotism and loyalty to the United States. In fact, both Guam and Puerto Rico boast some of the highest per-capita rates of military service in the United States. But while we are proud and fortunate to be Americans, we must be given an opportunity to decide our future political status. H.R. 2499 will provide the people of Puerto Rico a congressionally-sanctioned process to express their preferences regarding their political status. The bill's broad, bipartisan base of cosponsors as well as the unified support it enjoys among Puerto Rico's elected and governing leaders should not be overlooked, and in fact, should prompt us today to decisively pass this bill. Appropriate deference on questions about ballot format and process should be given to Governor Fortuño, the legislature leaders of Puerto Rico, and our colleague, Congressman PIERLUISI of Puerto Rico. They are the democratically elected leaders of the people desiring Congress to sanction a process for them to exercise their fundamental right to self-determination.

Mr. Chairman, Article 4, Section 3 of the Constitution makes it clear that Congress has the power to make needful rules and regulations governing the territories. Passing the Puerto Rico Democracy Act will fulfill the responsibility this body has to over 4 million American citizens.

Each territory is on a different path toward self-determination, and what is appropriate for Puerto Rico may not be suitable for the other territories. But I firmly believe that the process established by H.R. 2499 is the best way for the people of Puerto Rico to exercise their right to self-determination and express their desires to Congress to ultimately resolve their political status. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this important and needed legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIFTEENTH AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the members of Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church, located in Nashville, Tennessee as they celebrate their 125th Anniversary.

The church was organized in 1885, just 20 years after the end of the Civil War, by a loyal band that included Irene Smart, Bill Smith, Ed

Marshall and others. Ten years later they called their first pastor, Reverend A.W. Porter. The first revival service was held at a lively stable. Since those humble beginnings, five pastors have shepherded this faithful congregation: A.W. Porter (1895–1931), Walter R. Murray (1929–1953), Leroy Crinel (1953–1960), Enoch Jones (1961–1994) and William F. Buchanan (1994–present).

Under the leadership of Pastor Buchanan, a new model of ministry was initiated. The image he had for this faith community was "Servant Model"—a church that exists to serve others. The ministries include a "Love Kitchen" that serves weekly hot meals to the homeless; a seniors ministry that provides a place for seniors in the community to come and fellowship, play games and have a hot meal weekly; a community development corporation that delivers services to assist people in meeting their physical, emotional and spiritual needs; "Christ Fund," an endowment that provides scholarships for high school graduates; "Life Spring," a grief and pastoral counseling ministry; "Psalm 46," a disaster preparedness ministry; "Ninevah," an outreach program that provides holistic ministry from the church to the community; a prison ministry; bus ministry; radio worship program, and many other initiatives that expand the church beyond the walls of the physical building.

For 125 years, the Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church has been an invaluable presence in the North Nashville community. When many growing congregations were faced with the dilemma of remaining in the inner-city or moving to the suburbs, Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church voted unanimously not only to remain an urban congregation, but also to be an agent for transformational change in North Nashville.

Several years ago, a local newspaper wrote, "what's exciting about Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church is they have taken ownership in their neighborhood to address conditions in their community to make it better for all the people there." Additionally, a nationwide survey funded by the Lilly Endowment cited Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church as one of 300 outstanding Protestant churches in America and Canada.

Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Pastor William F. Buchanan, and the entire congregation of Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church on the occasion of their 125th anniversary and wish them many more years of service to our great nation.

IN MEMORY OF CORNELIUS E. MAREK, JR., BELOVED FATHER AND GRANDFATHER

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Cornelius E. Marek, Jr., of Morris Plains, New Jersey, who passed away on March 14, 2010. Mr. Marek's contributions should not go unrecognized.

Mr. Marek, the son of Cornelius Marek, Sr., and Grace Bowden-Marek, was born January 28, 1942, in Morris Plains, New Jersey. He

served in the United States Army from 1964 until 1966 as a private first class prior to attaining his associates degree from the County College of Morris in 1968.

Mr. Marek dedicated his career to improving healthcare in New Jersey. He worked for Healthcare Materials Purchasing at Morristown Memorial Hospital from 1970 to 1980 before becoming Vice President of Purchasing at the New Jersey Hospital Association. Mr. Marek then joined FJD Ventures in 1994 before retiring in 2005. He came out of retirement to work for Liberty Health in Secaucus, NJ, from 2008 until 2010. In addition, Mr. Marek was a member and president of the Hospital Materials Management Society of New Jersey. Mr. Marek inspired all those around him and has passed along his love of politics, reading, and classic movies to his children and grandchildren.

He was diagnosed with cancer in 2008 and bravely fought the disease for 2 years, continuing to work full time at Liberty Health until January of 2010 and serving on the Board of Hospital Materials Management Society of New Jersey until March 3rd of 2010. He passed quietly in his sleep on the morning of March 14 surrounded by family and friends and was laid to rest next to his mother and father at Greenwood Cemetery in Boonton, New Jersey.

Madam Speaker, Cornelius Marek, Jr.'s commitment to his family and to healthcare in his country should not go unrecognized. I express my deepest condolences to his family for their loss and pay tribute to the memory of this outstanding individual.

IN HONOR OF POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY, 2010

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Poles, Polish-Americans and the Honorable Ambassador from Poland, Robert Kupiecki, and his wife, Malgorzata Kupiecki, on the occasion of Polish Constitution Day, celebrated on May 2, 2010.

Polish Constitution Day is a day when people of all cultures, in America and around the world, join with the people of Poland to celebrate the rich culture, traditions and history of Poland. After almost five centuries of struggle and perseverance, the Governmental Statute of Poland became the first written constitution in Europe on May 3, 1791. An important document in the history of democracy, the Polish Constitution established the separation of government powers, freedom of religion, and abolished key elements of serfdom.

The first Polish immigrants arrived on American shores in 1608 at Jamestown, Virginia. Today, more than 10 million Americans trace their ancestry to Poland and nearly 700,000 report that they speak Polish at home. Many Polish-Americans find strength from their family, faith, and hard work. They also find strength and inspiration in their unbreakable bonds to their heritage and their homeland. From Poland's courageous freedom fighters to the Solidarity leaders who rose from the union lines, Poles have been an inspiration.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me today, Polish Constitution Day, in honoring