

in thanking him for his many years of dedicated service.

**TWENTYNINE PALMS MARINE
CORPS BASE WINS COMMANDER
IN CHIEF AWARD FOR INSTALLA-
TION EXCELLENCE**

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I am delighted today to share with my colleagues the announcement that the Commander in Chief's annual Award for Installation Excellence has been bestowed on the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, California, which I am honored to represent.

The Marine Corps established a facility in the Mojave Desert at Twentynine Palms nearly 50 years ago when it was determined that they needed open space to conduct live-fire exercises. Over the past five decades, the 932-square-mile base has become one of the largest in the world and one of the most sophisticated training centers for the U.S. military.

I have represented the base and the Twentynine Palms community since I served in the California Legislature, and I have been proud to witness and provide support as the base grew into one of the premiere training sites in the world.

Thousands of Marines from units around the Nation are sent to Twentynine Palms each year to take part in large intensive live-fire exercises, complete with full armament and air support. This training is without question the most realistic possible, and has been credited as saving many lives by Marines returning from the battlefields in the War on Terror.

It was my great honor to support the Marine Corps over the past decade in the development of a new facility called Viper Village, which is considered to be one of the best in the world at providing training for urban warfare and military control of urban areas. This 247-acre facility with more than 400 buildings allows Marines to get a real-life experience of moving into foreign urban areas. The exercise is enhanced by specially-trained actors and "foreign forces" who help provide an understanding of how to deal with both armed urban warfare and non-combatant civilians.

The value of this training has been shown almost daily to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, who are put through a 30-day intensive course before their deployment on the front lines in the War on Terror.

I am pleased but not surprised that the Twentynine Palms Marine Base has received the annual excellence award from the President. The designation would be strongly supported by the thousands of Marines who have trained there, and the 1,900 full-time base personnel who have created a supportive and efficient installation in the remote desert. The base's recent awards have included the Secretary of the Navy's Marine Corps Pollution Prevention Award, the Commandant of the Marine Corps Continuous Process Improvement Special Recognition Award, and the Marine Corps Community Services Youth Sports Excellence and Semper Fit Bronze Anchor Awards.

Madam Speaker, the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center continues to show a commitment to excellence and improvement in providing the best possible training for our U.S. Marines. The base has begun an extensive upgrade in laying sensors and instruments that will allow commanders and analysts to "see" the movements of every unit during exercises, large and small. Please join me in congratulating the commander, Brig. Gen. H.S. Clardy, and all of the base personnel in receiving their much-deserved honor.

**RECOGNIZING THE MEDICAL CON-
TRIBUTIONS OF DR. ROBERT
SMITH, SR. TO THE CIVIL
RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding medical contributions of Dr. Robert Smith, Sr. and congratulate him on being honored as a "Living Legend" by Central Mississippi Health Services, Incorporated.

A native of Terry, Mississippi, Dr. Smith is no stranger to hard work and has dedicated much of his life to serving others. He earned his Bachelor's of Arts in Chemistry from Tougaloo College in 1957 and his M.D. from Howard University in 1961. Dr. Smith has done extensive postgraduate training at some of the Nation's most prestigious medical institutions such as the University of Mississippi, the University of Tennessee, the Cook County Postgraduate School and the Harvard University. He has an array of professional certifications and has been appointed to a number of administrative, instructional, clinical and hospital positions.

Dr. Smith stood fearlessly on the front lines during Mississippi's Freedom Summer, when civil rights demonstrations were held from Mississippi to Selma, Alabama to Chicago, Illinois, to combat racial inequality.

Equally significant, was as Dr. Smith fought to end inequality for blacks socially, politically and economically, he fought a separate fight in the medical profession. Dr. Smith was instrumental in exposing the racial practices taking place within the American Medical Association. His unwavering commitment to battling acts of racism and discrimination within the medical profession has earned him critical acclaim in national publications such as the New York Times, Time Magazine, Ebony, Brown Magazine, Tufts Medicine and a number of notable scientific publications.

A compassionate man who provides medical care to poor, uninsured and underserved patients, Dr. Smith was the primary founder of the model for the National Neighborhood Health Center Movement which today serves over 17 million Americans.

Dr. Smith was the first African American physician to serve as Chief of Staff at a majority tertiary level hospital in Jackson, Mississippi and has served as a Charter Diplomat and a fellow with the American Board of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

He was one of the lead investigators with the National Research Program for the Na-

tional Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study at the University of Mississippi Medical Center which is currently known as the Jackson Heart Study.

Dr. Smith over the years has proven to be very instrumental in diabetic studies. He has served as primary care physician for the Central Mississippi Health Service.

He chaired the Committee that oversaw the naming of the first federal building to be named after an African American in the state of Mississippi, the Dr. A.H. McCoy Federal Building, located in Jackson, MS.

Dr. Robert Smith is indeed a champion of the people and a trailblazer within the medical profession.

His contributions to his community, profession, state, and nation should serve as example for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to recognize and congratulate a son of Mississippi, Dr. Robert Smith, Sr., for his role in advocating for equality in the medical profession.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 4, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 243–245. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

**2010 WE THE PEOPLE NATIONAL
FINALS**

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, from April 24–26, 2010 more than 1,200 students from across the country visited Washington, DC to take part in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution National Finals. We the People is the most extensive educational program in the country that educates young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act approved by the United States Congress.

I am proud to announce that a class from Lamar Academy in my congressional district represented the state of Texas at this prestigious national event. These exceptional students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our nation's capital and compete at the national level.

While in Washington, the students participated in a three-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which students demonstrate their knowledge and skills as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on historical and contemporary constitutional issues. Annual surveys consistently show that high school students who take part

in the We the People academic competition outperform national samples of high school students participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress political test by at least 22 percent.

Madam Speaker, the outstanding students from Lamar Academy who participated include:

Aaron Barreiro, Rebecca Basaldua, Victoria Brown, Cameron Crane, Vincent Honrubia, Ali Lopez, Vanessa Lopez, George Mendoza, Luciana Milano, Daniela Montemayor, Patrick Muniz, Jorge Salazar, Paola Salazar, Katy Schaffer, Clark Scroggin, Rodrigo Velasquez, and Tori Velasquez.

I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, LeAnna Morse, who is responsible for preparing these young constitutional experts for the National Finals. Also worthy of special recognition are Jan Miller, the state coordinator, and Mick West, the district coordinator who are responsible for implementing the We the People program in my district.

I congratulate these young "constitutional experts" on their tremendous achievement at the We the People national finals.

BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, May 2010 is "Building Safety Month," as declared by the International Code Council, ICC, and its affiliate Foundation. The ICC has a 30-year legacy of safe building and promoting longevity, responsibility, and sustainability in building practices.

I believe it's important to recognize the ICC and "Building Safety Month" because all of us take the painstaking work of code enforcement for granted. Every single day, codes and code enforcers provide safeguards for families, businesses, and governments. We take for granted the codes surrounding fire safety and structural efficiency. We walk through hallways, sleep in bedrooms, work in offices, and exercise in gyms and take our safety and security for granted. May is a month to think about the benefits of building codes and code enforcement and the safety we enjoy because of careful planning.

This year's ICC theme is "Building Safety: Commemorating a 30-year Legacy of Leadership" and a spotlight will shine on four specific areas of the built environment: energy and green building, disaster safety and mitigation, fire awareness and safety, and backyard safety. I applaud the ICC for promoting their safety and awareness values this year, especially considering the devastating effects of natural disasters in the recent past. Furthermore, the President of the ICC Board of Directors, Ronald L. Lynn, reiterated the Code Council's steadfast willingness to support and help lead, along with the State Department, the rebuilding of Haiti in a way that will create "disaster resilience." The ICC is providing leadership and instilling value in an arena that, again, we too often take for granted.

The Code Council's emphasis on sustainable building is another aspect of Building Safety Month I want to acknowledge. This Congress, I introduced a comprehensive, bi-

partisan energy efficiency tax incentives package—The Expanding Building Efficiency Incentives Act of 2009—that has been recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council as one of their top legislative initiatives of the 111th Congress. It is reassuring to know that the ICC is also working to promote and further the goals of sustainable building.

Madam Speaker, I offer my thanks to the International Code Council for their leadership on building safety, disaster awareness, and sustainable building. I believe the Code Council and this House can work together to help lead our Nation and this world into a more secure future.

HONORING JUDY WALT JAMESON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Judy Walt Jameson upon being named as a 2010 Common Threads honoree. Dr. Jameson will be honored by California State University, Fresno at the 2010 Common Threads Award luncheon to be held on Friday, April 16, 2010.

Dr. Jameson is a small animal veterinarian in Tulare County. She and her husband, Connor, who is a dairy industry veterinarian, work very closely with fellow veterinarians in advancing educational experiences. For many years, Dr. Jameson has opened their family home for veterinarian students from the University of California, Davis to train and learn the most advanced techniques and dairy management tools. She also opens her home every year to veterinarians from around the world to attend, or work at, the annual World Age Expo in Tulare, California.

For twenty years Dr. Jameson has served on the Sundale Elementary School Board of Trustees. She is a strong supporter of Sundale's outstanding Ag-Science program that continues to grow every year. She has been a member of the Tulare-Kings Veterinarian Medical Association since 1974, and has been involved with the development of a veterinarian technician program at the College of the Sequoias.

Dr. Jameson is a member of First Christian Church in Visalia, where she has served as Youth Development Chair, Women's Bible Study leader, Mission Ministry Chair and member of the Building Committee. She is a member of the Tulare Kings Veterinarian Medical Association and the Visalia Christian Club. She has served on the Board of Directors and as Board President of Visalia Senior Housing. For her dedicated service, Dr. Jameson received the Sundale School Foundation Award. She and her husband have two adult sons.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Judy Walt Jameson upon her achievements. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Jameson many years of continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF TASTE OF HEAVEN AND THE PRINCE WILLIAM MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Taste of Heaven hosted by the Prince William Ministerial Association. This year, the Taste of Heaven celebrates its eighth service.

The genesis of the bi-annual worship service occurred when members of the Prince William Ministerial Association came together for a prayer group. During their discussion and worship, they came to the realization that the "11 o'clock hour" on Sunday morning in America is our nation's most segregated.

Established in 1996, the Taste of Heaven seeks to break down the denominational and racial barriers that are so starkly borne out during the "11 o'clock hour." The service demonstrates that the churches of Prince William County can come together across ethnic, social and sectarian boundaries and worship as one congregation.

I am honored to recognize the churches and organizations participating in this noble exercise in fellowship and community: All Saints Church, Bethel AME Church Dale City, Bethel UMC, Larry G. Brown, Care Net Pregnancy Resource Centers, Centerpoint Church of God, Christ Chapel Assemblies of God, The Connection, Crossroads Presbyterian Church, Cutting Edge Ministries, Dale City Christian Church, First Mount Zion Baptist Church, Heritage Presbyterian Church, Harvest Life Changers Church International, Hylton Memorial Chapel, Iglesia de Dios Canaan, Little Union Baptist Church, Mount Olive Baptist Church, Mount Zion Baptist Church, New Covenant Fellowship, New Life Anointed Ministries, Open Heart Open Bible Community Church, Preston Wines, Sentara Potomac Hospital Chaplaincy, Reconciliation Community Church, The Salvation Army, Star of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, Tribe of Judah Miracle Center, Trinity Temple Church of God, Victory Family Outreach Ministries, Vineyard Christian Fellowship, Young Life, Word Alive Full Gospel Church.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Prince William Ministerial Association for bringing together local faith communities to celebrate their common purpose. We sow the seeds of tolerance and understanding when we respect our differences and celebrate our common humanity.

CONGRATULATING ESTHER SILVER-PARKER

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to recognize and extend my congratulations to Esther Silver-Parker as she retires from a trailblazing career as one of America's top African-American female corporate executives. Her reputation as a consensus builder and advocate for diversity has won her