

September 29, 1980, and upon which “Happy Birthday” is recorded, to Dr. King, with an inscription that read, “Martin Luther King, Jr. showed us, non-violently, a better way of life, a way of mutual respect, helping us to avoid much bitter confrontation and inevitable bloodshed.” On January 17, 2000, for the first time, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was officially observed in all fifty states.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a dreamer. His dreams were a tool through which he was able to lift his mind beyond the reality of his segregated society, and into a realm where it was possible that white and black, red and brown, and all others live and work alongside each other and prosper. But Martin Luther King, Jr. was not just an idle daydreamer. He shared his visions through speeches that motivated others to join in his nonviolent effort to lift themselves from poverty and isolation by creating a new America where equal justice and institutions were facts of life.

It appears that too many of our nation’s young people have forgotten how to dream. They have forgotten what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. taught us, when he started his journey towards equality—with peace in his heart and the dream of equality in his eyes.

Today, children and young people often ask: “What is a dream?” or “How can it change my life?” We must once again introduce our young people to the life of Dr. King and his enduring dream. His vision is still so pertinent today, our lives continue to be shaped by his efforts.

A young Martin managed to find a dream, one that he pieced together from his readings—in the Bible, and literature, and just about any other book he could get his hands on. And not only did those books help him educate himself, but they also allowed him to work through the destructive and traumatic experiences of blatant discrimination, and the discriminatory abuse inflicted on himself, his family, and his people.

The life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was properly captured in Dr. King’s most famed speech, “I Have A Dream,” on August 28, 1963, when he said, “I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.’” The legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is continued today, as evidenced by the work of organizations like the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which is currently led by Dr. King’s daughter, Bernice King, and was at one time led by Dr. King’s son, Martin Luther King, III. In addition to organizations, the legacy of Dr. King continues on today with people in the United States and throughout the world, with individual acts of compassion, courage, and peace.

This legislation will benefit the well-being of the public as it celebrates the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the 30th anniversary of the Stevie Wonder tribute song to Dr. King. It recognizes the legacy left by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with commitments to freedom, equality, and justice, as exhibited by Stevie Wonder and so many others; and finally, encourages the people of the United States to commemorate the legacy of Dr. King by renewing pledges to advance those principles and actions that are consistent with Dr. King’s belief that “all men are created equal.”

As such, I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues to join me and do the same.

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IN RECOGNITION OF MARY COLEMAN GILMER’S 105TH BIRTHDAY

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**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 26, 2010*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House’s attention today to pay recognition to the special life of Mary Coleman Gilmer of Montgomery, Alabama.

Mrs. Gilmer was born on January 24, 1905 in Conecuh County, Alabama. In 1926, Mrs. Gilmer married Gaddie Gilmer, and in the 1940’s she graduated from Alabama State Teacher’s College High School Class.

Mrs. Gilmer and her husband Gaddie adopted two daughters, Cubie Rae Chambliss and Jacqueline Lorraine Larry from two of her nieces. Both daughters graduated from Alabama State University. Mrs. Gilmer now has five grandchildren.

Mrs. Gilmer has spent her life actively working in the church and has been the Minister of music at several churches in Alabama. She also worked for the Atlanta Life Insurance Company for many years.

Today her friends and family will celebrate her birthday in Montgomery. I would like to join her family and friends in wishing Mrs. Mary Coleman Gilmer a very Happy 105th Birthday.

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HONORING MR. ROB CALLAHAN

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**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 26, 2010*

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the good work of a dedicated public servant in Missouri’s Eighth Congressional District. Mr. Rob Callahan has made a wonderful commitment to the residents of southern Missouri who have served our country in uniform. Once a year, Mr. Callahan leads a trip for veterans who would like to visit Washington, DC called the Southeast Missouri Honor Tour.

While they are here, the veterans of American military service can see the monuments erected to honor them. They are able to visit the memorials that stand in testament to the Americans who served alongside them, and Mr. Callahan ensures that they are able to visit Capitol Hill. The planning and logistics of these trips are not simple but Mr. Callahan does an exemplary job not only of ensuring the trip is worthwhile, but also of finding sources of support from the community so the veterans (most of whom are on fixed incomes) can afford the considerable expense of the trip.

Mr. Callahan is a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, and he understands the pride of service felt by every veteran who is able to visit our Nation’s capital. It is a wonderful way to say thank you to the Americans in Southern Missouri who have served our country, de-

fended our freedoms, and made sacrifices for our liberties.

I am very proud that Mr. Callahan will receive the Citizen of the Year award in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. He has earned this recognition several times over, and I commend Mr. Callahan and his excellent work to the U.S. House of Representatives.

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TRIBUTE TO DR. RAJESH VYAS

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**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 26, 2010*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a member of our Foreign Service and a great American. Dr. Rajesh Vyas is a former resident of Kentucky’s First Congressional district and currently serves as our nation’s Regional Medical Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Manila. Recently, Dr. Vyas celebrated his twentieth year of practicing medicine.

Prior to starting with the State Department, Dr. Vyas practiced medicine for two years at Logan Memorial Hospital and lived in Russellville, Kentucky, both in my Congressional district. Dr. Vyas also served our nation’s veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs for a number of years.

After joining the Foreign Service, Dr. Vyas was posted to Pakistan and served at our Islamabad Embassy. From there he was dispatched to his current position in Manila. He has responsibility for overseeing the medical services provided at a number of our diplomatic missions throughout Asia. In other words, Dr. Vyas serves and protects the men and women who represent our country at our Embassies and Consulates throughout the world.

Ironically, when a Foreign Service officer recently became very ill in Manila, this same Dr. Vyas who had practiced medicine in my Congressional district in Kentucky took steps that saved his life, and that officer was a former member of my own staff. Dr. Vyas accurately assessed the situation, determined what the individual needed and then developed a plan that took into account the limits of local health care to get the American officer the care and treatment he needed. Without the doctor’s situational and cultural awareness, this American diplomat might have lost his life.

Dr. Vyas has spent twenty years practicing medicine and a significant number of those years serving and protecting our veterans and our diplomats overseas. I know his wife and two sons are tremendously proud of him and I am, too. I ask the House to join me in saluting this fine American who protects those who have served us in our armed forces and the men and women of our diplomatic corps who are serving us at this very moment overseas.

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HONORING DAVID A. FORD

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**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 26, 2010*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, a community prospers and thrives on the contributions of its citizens to the common good. David A. Ford

has been active in all aspects of the community life of Mount Vernon for all of his adult life, serving as Commissioner of the Water Department since 1977 and in innumerable positions in the volunteer and political sectors. There are few aspects of life in Mount Vernon that he has not touched and made better.

While his life was community involvement, his passion was politics. From 1969 to 1996, he was Chairman of the Mount Vernon Democratic City Committee. He is Chairman of the Black Democrats of Westchester County and a member of the Council of Black Elected Democrats of New York State. He is also a New York State Committeeperson for the 84th Assembly District. More personally, and to my joy, he serves as my Special Assistant.

He has also served as President of the Lions Club of Mount Vernon and President of the Mount Vernon YMCA. He is a Life Member of the 369 Veteran's Association, and a Life Member of the Mount Vernon NAACP. He is Chairman of the Board of Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center and a member of the National Association of Health Care Providers.

And under his leadership the Board of Water Supply has continued a longstanding tradition of excellence.

He is a veteran of WWII. He is married to the former Eula (Daisy) Gadson and is the proud father of five children (David Jr., Renee, Garey, Michael, and Karen). He has five grandchildren: Rachel, Shaarod, Nardara, Jerel and David Christopher) and one great-grandchild, Amira.

David is retiring and I wish him all the very best that retirement has to offer. This is Mount Vernon's loss for he has contributed to his community for longer and better than we are ever likely to see again. On a personal note I am happy to say that he will still be advising me, which means he will still be helping me to help the people of Mount Vernon.

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A TRIBUTE TO HOLY FAMILY  
CHURCH

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**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 26, 2010*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial anniversary of Holy Family Church of South Pasadena, California.

In 1906, land was purchased for the construction of a Catholic church and Bishop Thomas J. Conaty assigned Reverend Richard J. Cotter, D.D. the task of establishing a new parish in South Pasadena located at El Centro Street and Fremont Avenue. On May 10, 1910, seventy-five families gathered with Father Cotter for worship in a small cottage at the El Centro/Fremont location and called themselves Holy Family Parish.

By the following August, a temporary "bungalow church" was built to house the growing congregation until funds could be raised for a more permanent building. On November 24, 1923, the property at Fremont Avenue and Rollin Street, where the church stands today, was acquired for construction of a new church. Designed by architect Emmett G. Martin, this beautiful house of worship, recognized as one of the finest examples of Spanish Renaissance Baroque architecture in Southern Cali-

fornia, held its first Masses on Easter Sunday in 1928, with the formal dedication by Bishop Cantwell following two weeks later.

Over the decades, many additions and acquisitions were made. The parish elementary school opened in 1937, and properties were acquired for a parish office, parish hall and buildings for religious education. Two mahogany side altars, a magnificent mural and stained glass windows were added in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1977, the Oak St. House was acquired for the religious education program, and in 1984, the Ramona St. House was purchased, followed by the acquisition of two adjacent residential properties. By 1994, more space was needed, and the Vision Project to build a new ministerial campus was created. The challenge was to tear down, remodel or relocate everything but the church. The groundbreaking ceremonies took place in June 1997, and the completion of the Vision Project was in 2000.

Over the course of one hundred years, the leadership of Holy Family Church has included the Right Reverend Michael J. Galvin from 1922–1923, Reverend James B. Morris from 1926–1954, the Right Reverend Leo Joseph Murphy from 1954–1971, Reverend Monsignor Thomas McGovern from 1968–1984 and Reverend Monsignor Clement J. Connolly from 1984 to the present.

Since its inception, Holy Family Church has provided spiritual guidance and tangible support to the greater South Pasadena community. Some of the church's many programs include the Giving Bank, which provides direct relief to people in the Los Angeles area facing hunger, Detention Ministry, which reaches out to incarcerated youth at Juvenile Hall, Infant Care Outreach Program, which serves low-income women and families in need, Pastoral Care: Ministry to the Elderly and Sick and sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop 333. Church parishioners are involved with Dolores Mission in East Los Angeles, serving on their school advisory board and tutoring in the after-school program.

I consider it a great privilege to recognize Holy Family Church upon its one-hundredth anniversary, and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the congregation for their one hundred years of service to the community.

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HONORING COLLEEN DIPIRRO FOR  
HER DEDICATED SERVICE AS  
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE  
AMHERST, NEW YORK CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

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**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 26, 2010*

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask that this body join me in congratulating Colleen DiPirro of Williamsville, New York for her 28 years of dedicated service to the Amherst Chamber of Commerce.

When Colleen began her involvement with the Amherst Chamber of Commerce, she was the only staff member. Membership in the organization was at 180 and the Chamber's budget was \$24,000 per year.

Shortly after Colleen assumed leadership of the Chamber, it was named one of the ten largest in all of New York State.

Today, the Amherst Chamber of Commerce counts more than 2,300 local businesses as members and operates under a budget in excess of \$2 million. Colleen's outstanding leadership is directly responsible for this incredible growth over the last 28 years.

Colleen is an outstanding asset to the Western New York business community and I wish to extend my deepest appreciation for the outstanding work she has done over the last 28 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask that this body please join me in recognizing the many wonderful contributions Colleen has made to the Amherst community, and wish her much continued success in the months and years ahead.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 26, 2010*

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 11 on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended—H.R. 3538—the Idaho Wilderness Resources Protection Act, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

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HONORING JOHN SHIELDS

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**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 26, 2010*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, for a Democracy to succeed, the people have to be an active part of the political process. John Shields, who is retiring as the Mayor of Nyack, joined the political process, albeit later in life than most people.

He was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and grew up as something of an Army brat, traveling from place to place. After high school he tried summer stock. He moved to New York City in 1965 where he sold caviar and worked in a drug rehabilitation center. He went to City College of New York, graduating in 1972, and for the next 30 years taught in New York City schools.

He moved to Nyack in 1976 and in 1994 he ran for the Nyack Village Board and was elected Trustee. There followed two more terms as Trustee and four terms as Mayor and now he is retiring from elective office.

John is primarily an activist, and got into politics as an extension of his activism. In 2004 he sued New York State for the right for same sex couples to marry. He noted that as Mayor, he could legally marry heterosexual couples while the state denied him that equal right for himself. And while he may have lost the suit he has not quit the battle.

He still lives in Nyack, is still involved in the community, serving on the Board of Directors of Head Start of Rockland. He has not decided what to do next, but I wish him all the best that life has to offer in this next stage of his life.