

careers in public service, giving back to the country they love so much.

Indeed, three members of the President's Cabinet—Secretary Locke, Secretary Chu, and Secretary Shinseki—are Asian Americans.

Thirty Members of Congress are of Asian or Pacific descent as well, including my good friend Mr. HONDA, who has done an admirable job championing this cause.

Celebrating Asian/Pacific Heritage Month provides Americans with an opportunity to celebrate our diversity and recognize the achievements, contributions, and rich history that these individuals have shared with us.

It is for these reasons that I urge all my colleagues to vote in favor of H. Res. 1316.

HONORING FRANK BRANSON FOR
BEING NAMED AMONG THE BEST
TEXAS LAWYERS IN 2010

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to Frank Branson of Dallas on being honored by the 2010 Edition of the Best Lawyers in America and recognized as one of Texas's best lawyers.

Best Lawyers is the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal profession. Best Lawyers compiles lists of outstanding attorneys by conducting exhaustive peer-review surveys in which thousands of leading lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers. In the U.S., Best Lawyers publishes an annual referral guide, The Best Lawyers in America, which includes 39,766 attorneys in 80 practice areas, covering all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Mr. Branson is the founder of Dallas' The Law Offices of Frank L. Branson, a nationally recognized litigation firm. A graduate of SMU Law, Mr. Branson joins a distinguished list of alumni to earn the annual honor, which is based on outstanding achievements, public service and commitment to the legal profession.

Mr. Branson has secured record courtroom recoveries and landmark verdicts for clients seriously injured by dangerous products, medical negligence, transportation injuries, industrial catastrophes, and, in recent years, commercial torts. He is a past president of the Southern Trial Lawyers Association, Dallas Trial Lawyers Association, and Dallas Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Additionally, he is a fellow in the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and the International Society of Barristers.

Throughout his career Mr. Branson has consistently prided himself in his tenacious preparation, as well as his imagination in the courtroom. His firm has a nationwide reputation for its use of advanced, state-of-the-art trial techniques such as digital video, computer animation, medical art and individualized anatomical models.

Mr. Branson's prestige within the law community has been acknowledged since 1987. Forbes magazine recognized him as one of the most successful trial lawyers in the country, and D CEO Magazine recently named him as one of the top five lawyers corporate adver-

saries never want to face in court. His trial work was highlighted in The National Law Journal's Top 100 Verdicts in America in 2007.

Mr. Branson's importance to Dallas extends beyond the legal community. He has been recognized by the Vietnam Veterans of America's distinguished service award and the American Heart Foundation's Chip Moody Eagle Award. Mr. Branson is also a Garland Community Hospital Trustee.

Madam Speaker, I would like to join with the people of Dallas in commending Frank Branson on his continual striving for excellence within the field of law and congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition.

TRIBUTE TO ELISE JONES MARTIN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a community leader whose tremendous contributions were recently recognized with a new housing development named in her honor. Mrs. Elise Jones Martin has spent her entire life advocating for her community and it is fitting and I think proper, that a new neighborhood in the community that she has devoted her life to will now bear her name.

Elise Jones Martin is a native of Hartsville, South Carolina. She graduated from Essex High School in New Jersey, but returned to her beloved South Carolina in the 1930s to open a beauty salon in Columbia's thriving African American business corridor along Washington Street.

In addition to running her business, Mrs. Martin also furthered her education with trade and teacher training courses at Allen University, Benedict College and South Carolina State University. She went on to teach cosmetology at Booker T. Washington High School. She later became the first African American woman to open a business on Columbia's Main Street.

Throughout her life, she worked on behalf of building strong communities. In the 1960s, her mother organized the Jones-McDonald Club to ensure neighbors took an active part in maintaining their neighborhood. After her mother passed away, Mrs. Martin carried the mantle for the organization. Even well into her 80s, Mrs. Martin walked door to door to meet new neighbors and to encourage them to join the Jones-McDonald Club. With Mrs. Martin's influence, the club has grown beyond its initial purpose. Today it hosts an annual Easter brunch, produces a newsletter, and boasts the participation of elected city officials and religious leaders.

Mrs. Martin was also instrumental in providing community input for a Hope VI project that revitalized a former barrack-style housing complex in Columbia. Her belief that the home and the neighborhood are the foundations to producing solid, contributing citizens helped develop a philosophy for the new family-friendly development that replaced the warehouse approach of the former housing project.

She has taken her passion for building strong communities with her into public service. Mrs. Martin was a member of the Colum-

bia Zoning board for a number of years, serving until her late 80s. She was also an active member of Keep America Beautiful of the Midlands.

She performed another community service by heading her voting precinct for more than 30 years. While working at the polls during the 2008 Presidential primary, she had the honor of meeting then Senator Barack Obama.

Mrs. Martin is an advocate also for early detection of cancer. Using her speaking and leadership skills, she has traveled on behalf of the American Cancer Society's Best Chance Program, educating men and women about the warning signs of breast and prostate cancer.

She has been an active member of Bethel AME Church since arriving in Columbia in the 1930s, where she has served on the Board of Education, Steward Board, and the gospel choir. She is a recipient of the Queen Esther Award, which is one of the highest honors for women at Bethel AME.

Her organization memberships include: Board of Directors of the Drew Park, Renaissance Foundation Board, James E. Clyburn Golf Center Board, City Lighting Committee, City of Columbia Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development, several neighborhood crime prevention programs, and the W.A. Perry Middle School support group.

Mrs. Martin has received numerous awards for her service including recognition by the American Cancer Society, the Columbia City Council, the Columbia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and Richland County School District One. On May 1, 2010, she added the honor of the dedication of The Elise Jones Martin Place to her long list of accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the contributions of a true community leader. Mrs. Elise Jones Martin has spent her entire life giving back to her community and improving the quality of life for her neighbors. I am pleased to call Mrs. Martin a friend, and I add my voice to those of so many others in thanking her for her selfless service. She is a remarkable individual who is deserving of our appreciation.

HONORING THE SEVEN GOLD STAR
MEMBERS OF THE WELSH BETH-
EL BAPTIST CHURCH WHO SAC-
RIFICED THEIR LIVES DURING
WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR
II

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the seven Gold Star Members of the Welsh Bethel Baptist Church in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

The Welsh Bethel Baptist Church was founded in 1884.

During the 1940s, the Church established an Honor Roll of all of the members of the Church who served during World War II. In total, 111 members of the Church served in World War II, including 110 men and 1 woman.

The Church would honor those who were killed in action during the War by placing a gold star next to their name on the Honor Roll. Six members of the Church were killed in action during World War II and received this honor.

About ten years ago, the Church recognized its only member to be killed in action during World War I by adding his name to the Honor Roll along with a gold star.

Every year on Memorial Day, the Church holds a ceremony to honor its seven Gold Star Members.

On Sunday, May 30, 2010 the Church will pay tribute to the seven Gold Star Members of the Church by dedicating a memorial stone in front of the church in their honor.

The seven Gold Star Members, and Wilkes-Barre natives, being honored are:

Private William Robbins who was killed in Germany in World War I. He was only sixteen years old.

Private First Class Charles Grosspietsch who was killed in Luzon in the Philippines during World War II. He was 20 years old.

Corporal Kenneth Hobbs who was killed in Whelan, Germany during World War II. He was 28 years old.

Private First Class Robert Hummel who was killed in Germany during World War II. He was 21 years old.

Private William Parry, Jr. who died at Normandy during World War II. He was 24 years old.

Private William L. Richards who was killed in Anzio, Italy during World War II. He was 22 years old.

Staff Sergeant Thomas D. Williams who was killed in Russeisheim, Germany during World War II. He was 24 years old.

The memorial stone will be unveiled by Jack Johnson, the last surviving World War II veteran of the Church.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring these brave men who gave their lives protecting our country. This stone will serve as a reminder for future generations of the ultimate sacrifice made by these seven men who came before them.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of seniors, Social Security and Medicare.

Social Security and Medicare are among the most important programs ever created by our Government. Older Americans have worked hard and sacrificed themselves to ensure a better, stronger country for future generations. They deserve a secure, healthy retirement.

Together, Social Security and Medicare have helped tens of millions of seniors avoid poverty, enjoy better health, and maintain a respectable standard of living. For countless seniors, Medicare has literally saved their lives, giving access to medical treatment they would otherwise have been unable to afford.

These programs are a measure of what we truly value, and who we are as a Nation.

It was not always this way. Prior to the establishment of Medicare in 1965, a serious ill-

ness or hospitalization could easily bankrupt not only a senior, but his or her entire family. A single serious illness—a round of pneumonia, or a broken hip—could render an elderly man or woman destitute. Too often, our elders simply went without needed medical care, suffering and even dying because decent health care was out of reach.

I bring this up today to underscore the need for vigilance in protecting Medicare and Social Security from those that seek to privatize these vital programs. Indeed, the retirement and health security of today's retirees, today's workers, and future generations rests on the decisions that Congress makes on these programs.

During the year-long debate over health care reform, we heard a great deal of rhetoric from our Republican colleagues about the need to protect Medicare. Yet when given the chance to strengthen Medicare by providing better benefits, lowering costs, and preserving Medicare's solvency for years to come, my Republican colleagues unanimously voted no.

In opposing Health Care Reform, my colleagues said no to free preventive care for seniors, no to ending the 'donut hole' for prescription drug coverage and lowering prescription drug costs, and no to more time with and better access to primary care physicians.

Further, while erroneously assailing health reform legislation as detrimental to seniors and Medicare, the ranking Republican member on the House Committee on the Budget introduced H.R. 4529, the Roadmap for America's Future, which purports to rescue and strengthen Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, allowing them to fulfill their missions and making them permanently solvent—all while putting the federal budget on a sustainable path. If this were true, I would be the first in line to cosponsor the legislation.

However, analysis of the "Roadmap for America's Future" by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities revealed the plan "would raise taxes for most middle-income families, privatize a substantial portion of Social Security, eliminate the tax exclusion for employer-sponsored health insurance, end traditional Medicare and most of Medicaid, and terminate the Children's Health Insurance Program. The plan would replace these health programs with a system of vouchers whose value would erode over time and thus would purchase health insurance that would cover fewer health care services as the years went by."

What I find most disturbing about this proposal is the failure to acknowledge a connection between the recent volatility of the stock market and the effect that would have on privatized Social Security accounts. When a trillion dollars of wealth can disappear in 30 minutes, as it did on May 6, 2010, we know that the stock market is not the place for seniors' life savings. Privatization, or partial privatization, of the Social Security system would have been disastrous for millions of senior citizens that depend on their Social Security checks every month. Likewise, replacing Medicare with a voucher system and letting seniors fend for themselves on the private market would leave our seniors with less and less care every year.

America's seniors have worked long and hard to build a prosperous Nation, yet too many seniors in this country saw their retirement savings get decimated by President Bush's economic crisis. I rise today to assure

seniors that I and the Democrats in Congress will continue to stand firmly opposed to any and all efforts to privatize Social Security or turn Medicare into a voucher program. Moreover, we will continue to take a leading role to improve—rather than undermine—Social Security and Medicare.

HONORING THE HUMAN LOSS AT DEEPWATER HORIZON

HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Speaker, on April 20, Louisiana lost eleven fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons at the Deepwater Horizon accident in the Gulf. Sorrow for their deaths is borne across our State.

As we focus our energies on stopping the spill, it is important that we focus our prayers on the families who are grieving the loss of loved ones. We cannot lose sight of the fact that this incident began—and is—a painful human tragedy, and I am thankful for all of those in Louisiana who are consoling these families and providing comfort in their time of need.

In mourning their loss, we should also recognize their contributions to Louisiana and the Nation.

As this event makes painfully clear, energy security, even at home, is not won easily. The men and women who work on rigs and pipelines endure long hours, tough conditions, and considerable risk to provide us with the energy our Nation needs to prosper.

To all of those who make this sacrifice on the Nation's behalf, thank you. And to the families who lost loved ones, our prayers are with you and we are here for you.

IN RECOGNITION OF DELFINA TELLES

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Delfina Telles, former first lady of El Paso, Texas, who passed away on May 6, 2010 in Los Angeles, California at the age of 93. Delfina was a devoted wife and mother who was passionate about her community and work in public service. I am proud to pay tribute today to such a giving woman.

Delfina was the wife of Raymond Telles, who served as El Paso's first Hispanic Mayor from 1957–1961. Mr. Telles was also appointed as ambassador to Costa Rica by President Kennedy, during which time Delfina became active in civil affairs, including leading fundraising drives for a children's hospital and a rehabilitation center for children with disabilities in Costa Rica.

Delfina is recognized and remembered for her commitment to non-profit organizations and charity work. She worked tirelessly on behalf of such organizations as the March of Dimes, was co-chairperson of the annual Easter Seal Drive for El Paso's Cerebral Palsy Treatment Center, served on the Pan-American Round Table and the Woman's Auxiliary