

also would like express my deep appreciation to the troop leaders and parents for their commitment to teaching our youth the skills and values that will serve them well throughout their lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CRISIS  
COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR  
AWARD RECIPIENT

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 26, 2010*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ms. Sonya Daniel upon receiving the Crisis Communicator of the Year Award from the Pensacola chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association.

In her role as the Public Information Officer for Escambia County, Ms. Sonya Daniel is responsible for disseminating vital information to the public during times of crisis. During tropical storms and hurricanes Ms. Daniel has remained calm and levelheaded. Amidst panic, she effectively relayed important information to residents of Escambia County on how to prepare and respond to crises. She was recognized by the Florida Public Relations Association for her streamline approach to communicating with the media. Ms. Daniel is known for utilizing all the resources of local media to reach concerned citizens as quickly as possible.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I proudly recognize Mr. Sonya Daniel as the Florida Public Relations Crisis Communicator of the Year. I am grateful for the work she does to inform the residents of my district of critical information. My wife Vicki and I wish Ms. Daniel and her family all the best for the future.

IN MEMORY OF BYRON ATHAN

**HON. JERRY McNERNEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 26, 2010*

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, today Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI and I ask our colleagues to join us in honoring the life of Byron Athan, who passed away at age 91 on November 25, 2009.

Byron Athan was passionate about public service. He dedicated his life to serving his country and community for over 68 years and Byron started his unique and distinguished career by joining the U.S. Army. He later became a fixture in the San Ramon Valley, authoring the City of San Ramon's Charter and later serving in city government in multiple capacities including as Mayor and City Attorney.

Byron Athan joined the Army in 1941 and retired in 1964 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He served during WWII in the Pacific Theater. Other assignments included tours in post war Germany and Japan, as well as assignments in Fort Lee and Fort Belvoir, Virginia, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, and at the Pentagon as a member of the Army Staff.

Byron Athan was vital to the incorporation of the City of San Ramon in 1983. He wrote the City Charter and served as San Ramon City

Attorney from 1983 until his election to the City Council in 1995. He was San Ramon Mayor from 1998 to 1999. He returned to the City Attorney post from 2004 until he retired in October of 2009 at age 91 as one of the most experienced practicing attorneys in California.

Byron lived life with a passion for exploration and adventure. Byron finished the marathon in Greece based on the original completed by the ancient Greek Pheidippides, as well as races in San Francisco and Hawaii. His spirit did not diminish with time. He celebrated his 90th birthday with a 100-mile bike ride.

Byron's years of service to his community touched the lives of many and improved the quality of life in San Ramon. He led by example and in the words of former San Ramon Mayor Diane Schinnerer, "he is known and respected for his honesty, integrity, work ethic, and knowledge of the law." Athan Downs Park in San Ramon, is dedicated in Mr. Athan's honor because of his successful advocacy for parkland in the city.

Byron Athan's dedication to public service leaves a legacy that will continue to benefit the people of San Ramon, the state of California and our great nation for generations to come. It is for these reasons that Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI and I ask our colleagues to join us in honoring the memory of Byron Athan and in sending our thoughts and prayers to his beloved family and friends.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF LANI  
FURBANK AND KEVIN HARGROVE  
TO ORGANIZE "A HAND UP, NOT  
A HAND OUT" BENEFIT CONCERT  
FOR AFRICA

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 26, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize "A Hand Up, Not a Hand Out" Benefit Concert for Africa. This Benefit Concert will raise money for sustainable investments in Africa through the Development in Gardening charity organization.

Development in Gardening seeks to improve the health and well being for HIV-positive and other at-risk individuals in developing nations. This is accomplished by teaching the skills and providing the infrastructure to create sustainable community gardens, thereby empowering people to improve both their nutrition and earning potential. The program reaches out to orphanages, hospitals and outpatient facilities to install micro gardens that provide not only a steady source of healthy, fresh vegetables but a sense of community and purpose. It focuses on improved nutrition, food security, micro-enterprise development, home garden extension, personal empowerment, and social change.

This benefit concert is anticipated to raise \$5,000 to fund the program's ongoing efforts. I would like to commend Lani Furbank and Kevin Hargrove for their commitment to helping those in need. Lani and Kevin have organized this event, which will result in the betterment of countless lives in Africa. Residents of Northern Virginia have a strong record of community involvement and charitable giving. I am honored to represent a district that is always

willing to help those in need, both at home and around the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Development in Gardening and, particularly, the efforts of Lani Furbank and Kevin Hargrove. By supporting sustainable micro-economic development projects, we invest in the continued well being of others. We provide the tools and education for people to be self-sufficient and live in dignity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE  
OF DAVID "DAVE" O. MILLER

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 26, 2010*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today in recognition of the service of David O. Miller from the Protocol Office of the Air Armament Center, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. Mr. Miller retires today after 49 years total federal service, 28 years in the United States Air Force and 21 years of Civilian Service. I am proud to recognize his vast contributions to national security through his humble service to this great Nation in the United States Air Force, both as a member of active duty as well as a civil servant.

Mr. Miller is a native of Loris, South Carolina. He graduated from Loris High School in June 1962, and began his military career with the United States Air Force in September, 1962. He later attended the University of Tampa and the El Paso and Pike's Peak community colleges. In his military career, he first served as an Administrative Apprentice and retired as a Senior Master Sergeant in February 1991.

The United States Air Force has been in existence more than six decades and Mr. Miller has been serving her for almost five decades beginning in 1962. He began his protocol career in 1976 when General Chappie James directed the establishment of the first protocol office at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. Mr. Miller was one of three people chosen to establish the organization. His outstanding performance in the protocol field eventually led to General Gregory Martin, Commander, Air Force Materiel Command, honoring him for superior performance in his duties by awarding him the Commander's Recognition Award in 2004. Mr. Miller was the second person to receive this award.

After retiring as a Senior Master Sergeant following 28 years of active duty service in the United States Air Force, Mr. Miller began his civilian federal service career in 1991 as a protocol assistant with the Protocol Office of the Air Armament Center at Eglin Air Force Base. Throughout his career, Mr. Miller demonstrated superior performance as a compassionate leader driven by a tremendous sense of purpose. He pursued excellence each day at the Air Armament Center, contributing immensely to its mission success. He consulted on protocol matters to ten Eglin center commanders, all of whom were charged with leading the world's largest Air Force Base. With Eglin being one of the most visited military facilities in the Department of Defense, Mr. Miller tirelessly contributed to a team of round-

the-clock-protocol support, decade after decade. From meeting aircraft with dignitaries on the flight line in the early hours to planning and directing social functions at the general's residence into the late evening, Mr. Miller upheld the rules of decorum for tasks small and large with professionalism and enthusiasm.

The most notable example of Mr. Miller's exceptional commitment to seeing to the needs of Eglin airmen, civilians and family members at large was during a memorial service attended by more than five thousand people. This was held on base to reflect upon the twelve fallen Airmen from the 33rd Fighter Wing at Eglin Air Force Base who were killed in the Dhahran Air Base bombing of the Kohbar Towers in Saudi Arabia in June, 1996. The memorial, organized by Mr. Miller and held a few days after the bombing, was recognized as "an absolutely flawless ceremony and an outstanding tribute to our fallen warriors," by the Air Force Development Test Center Commander. Mr. Miller was awarded the Exemplary Civilian Service Award for his work.

He is married to the former Carmen Sue Brown of Dublin, Georgia, and they have one son, Michael, who resides in Denver, Colorado.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Mr. David O. Miller for his excellent leadership and service to the United States Air Force both as a military member and civil servant. His dedication to our Nation is most deserving of this recognition. From all the constituents of Florida's First Congressional District, I would like to congratulate him on his retirement and wish him well in his future endeavors.

BLUE STAR/GOLD STAR FLAG ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, it is no coincidence that the greatest country in the history of civilization also happens to have the world's finest military. The strength and caliber of our military results from a variety of factors, not the least of which is the way in which our government provides for the veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much. Indeed, my love and passion for supporting America's veterans is second-to-none.

Wednesday, May 19, the House passed H.R. 2546, the Blue Star/Gold Star Flag Act of 2009 by voice vote. This legislation would impose a federal prohibition against a homeowners' association policy preventing residents from displaying a Service flag on or around their homes. This proposal is a response to an incident in which a homeowners' association prevented an Ohio woman from displaying a Service flag honoring her son who served in Operation Desert Storm and again in 2003 in Iraq. Although the homeowners' association ultimately made an exception in this circumstance, such policies are offensive to many Americans, such as myself, who hold such great affection for our country's cherished service members and veterans.

In this respect, I can certainly appreciate the support for legislation such as H.R. 2546. However, I take exception with this matter coming before Congress, since this body has no Constitutional authority to impose such a mandate on the private sector. Indeed, matters such as this are best left to the discretion of local governments or civic associations.

Allowing Congress to possess this type of authority could ultimately lead to more controversial proposals. Certainly there would be great objections raised if Congress sought to prohibit homeowners' association policies preventing the display of the Confederate flag or nativity scenes. On the other hand, one must wonder whether Congress could one day prohibit speech of the minority which our Founding Fathers so vehemently sought to protect.

Our Constitution established a set of enumerated powers to prevent Congress from seizing illegitimate powers. Despite the best of intentions, the rule of law rightly supersedes congressional desires to respond to the passions of the moment. Doing otherwise would set a precedent, opening the flood gates to future policies considerably more problematic than the one before us today.

The framers of the Constitution envisioned a nation composed of states empowered to govern according to the will of the people, with a Federal Government tasked with limited responsibilities and powers. As the 10th amendment states so clearly, "the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." Each time the Federal Government, even with the finest motivations, intrudes into the jurisdiction of the States and the people of America, the Constitution is further undermined and the erosion of liberty continues apace.

Good intentions were never meant to stand in for constitutional governance. Congress must rein in its tendency to legislate solutions to even the smallest of "problems" that would be better left to local problem-solvers in either local government or private citizen associations. With each passing usurpation of the rights of State and local governments and with each imposition of a federal one-size-fits-all "solution," Congress dilutes the strength of federalism and pushes our nation closer to dependency upon a power-hungry central government.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 27, 2010 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 28

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

Closed business meeting to continue markup of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2011.

SR-222

JUNE 8

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Children and Families Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the state of American children.

SD-430

JUNE 9

2 p.m.

Judiciary

Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the enforcement of the antitrust laws.

SD-226

3 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 2891, to further allocate and expand the availability of hydroelectric power generated at Hoover Dam, S. 2779 and H.R. 3671, bills to promote Department of the Interior efforts to provide a scientific basis for the management of sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin, S. 3387, to provide for the release of water from the marketable yield pool of water stored in the Ruedi Reservoir for the benefit of endangered fish habitat in the Colorado River, and for other purpose, S. 3404, to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to require the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to take actions to improve environmental conditions in the vicinity of the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel in Lake County, Colorado, and H.R. 4252, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of water resources in the Rialto-Colton Basin in the State of California.

SD-366

JUNE 10

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine assessing the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on states, localities and the private sector.

SD-342

JUNE 16

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine veterans' claims processing, focusing on if current efforts are working.

SR-418

JUNE 17

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) and the implications for national security programs.

SD-106