

during rollcall vote 398 and rollcall vote 407. On rollcall vote 398, I would have voted "aye" and on rollcall vote 407, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 408 and 409 on June 2, 2011. If present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 408 and "no" on rollcall vote 409.

CONGRATULATING NISWONGER FOUNDATION

Tennessee in the house of representatives

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Niswonger Foundation as last month it celebrated its 10th year of service to Northeast Tennessee this month.

The Foundation's work is known by an ever growing number of students and teachers in my district. Its school partnership and scholarship programs are aimed at educating and improving our region through the betterment of its young leaders. Niswonger scholars are chosen based on their proven leadership in the community, strong academics, character, and a pledge to return to our area to work, and lead, in their chosen profession. This need-based scholarship offers students the opportunity to attend the college or university of their choice.

Likewise, the Foundation established the Northeast Tennessee College and Career Ready Consortium, an ongoing partnership with public high schools that will eventually touch 29 high schools and 26,100 students. This program gives county schools best practices, provides additional resources for Northeast Tennessee's dedicated teachers, and gives students a challenging and engaging academic atmosphere in preparation for college or a career.

Again, I commend the Niswonger Foundation and its founder Scott Niswonger on ten years of life-changing service to Northeast Tennessee.

RABBI TOMER AND EFRAT GROSSMAN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Tomer and Efrat Grossman moved to Riverdale from Israel three years ago as Jewish Agency Shlichim of Bnei Akiva. Rabbi Grossman worked as the main Shaliach of Bnei Akiva in North America, and helped run Bnei Akiva activities at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale.

In response to the warmth of the HIR community and its strong connection and commitment to Medinat Israel, Rabbi Grossman organized an Israeli Seder, an Israeli Minyan for

Simchat Torah and two fundraisers—one after the Carmel Fire and another for poor families in Israel.

During his stay in Riverdale, Rabbi Tomer was appointed by the Jewish Agency as the Head of Formal Educational Shlichim in North America and as the main organizer of the National Bible Contest. He is currently the rabbi at Brandeis School in Long Island.

Tomer was born in Petach-Tikva and learned at Yeshivat Hagolan in Hispin. He served in the army as a tank commander and as a Division Rabbi in the Reserved Forces, in addition to working as a programming manager at Motorola.

Efrat, as a designer, immediately fell in love with the HIR community's creativity and open mindedness and participated in last year's Shavuot programs and gave a lecture in Hebrew.

Efrat works as a Hebrew literacy teacher at Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls as well as a pottery artist. Efrat was born in Jerusalem, and continues a dynasty of more than 10 generations in Israel. In Israel, she was head of the Visual Arts Department of Ariel University after serving as the Head of the Jewish Education Faculty at Emunah High School in Tiberias.

They have two daughters: Ayala, 8, and Hallel, 8 months old.

This marvelous couple is being honored by the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale with the Community Service Award, and I join HIR in congratulating them and thanking them for all their good work in our community.

HONORING MAYOR HENRIETTA BLACKMON OF CAMDEN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a citizen turned public servant who has earned the admiration and respect of her Southwest Alabama community.

In 2000, Henrietta Blackmon made history as Camden, Alabama's first female mayor. While a newcomer to politics and the campaign trail, Henrietta was by no means a stranger to the people of Wilcox County.

For some three decades before taking office, Henrietta Blackmon was recognized as an invaluable partner in her husband's local medical practice. She administered the business while her husband, Dr. Sumpter Blackmon, treated the sick. In fact, she never relinquished that role even after becoming Camden's chief executive.

Mayor Blackmon came to office on a mandate to take the city in a new direction and she certainly did. Over her three terms as mayor, she revitalized the downtown, balanced the city budget, secured block grants to upgrade the city sewer system and obtained funding that will be used to build a new city hall.

After 10 successful years guiding Camden, Mayor Blackmon surprised many of her friends and supporters when she announced on February 7 that she was stepping down.

However, anyone who thinks the mayor intends to slow down had better think again. She will not only continue to administer her

husband's medical practice, but she has also agreed to help run her son's new local construction business.

Camden has progressed under the progressive leadership of Mayor Henrietta Blackmon and her presence at the helm of the city will be sorely missed. I join with her many friends in wishing Mayor Henrietta Blackmon, her husband, Dr. Sumpter Blackmon, and their family the very best in the days and years ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ALZEN FLOYD

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and legacy of Alzen Floyd. He was born March 15, 1919 and passed away on May 20, 2011.

As a young man, Floyd showed leadership by helping his mother in the purchase and renovation of their home while he was just sixteen years of age. In 1937, he joined the U.S. Army and he retired in 1960 as a Sergeant First Class.

After serving his country Floyd returned home and became a prominent member of his community though several entrepreneurial ventures. He owned and operated "Al Floyd's Soul Food," "Al Floyd's Photo Service," and "Al's Security." He would go on to open Broward County's first Black-owned security corporation, "Floyd & Associates Protection Corporation." This company would grow to half a million dollars in assets.

Floyd was a lifetime member of the NAACP and a faithful member of First Baptist Church Piney Grove since 1929, where he was a member until he could no longer attend.

Mr. Speaker, Alzen Floyd's motto was "If I can help somebody." His life was an example of dedicated service: service to his family, service to his country and service to his community. It gives me great honor to recognize his life and his service.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. FRANCIE MOORE HANSELL

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Mrs. Francie Moore Hansell. Children across the country are excitedly looking forward to their last day of school and summer vacations filled with friends and family. While they are focused on their vacation plans, they are also looking ahead to the next school year and wondering who their teacher will be. At Rocky Heights Elementary School in Hermiston, Oregon, students and parents alike will be disappointed when they learn that Francie will not be among next year's teachers because, after 26 years at Rocky Heights, she is retiring at the conclusion of this school year. Over her long career at Rocky Heights, Francie has launched more than 650 second-graders onto their next level of instruction.

Francie's service and commitment to her students, her school, and her community are to be commended.

Born in Prosser, Washington, Francie moved to Hermiston after her 1970 marriage to her Washington State University college sweetheart, Tyler Hansell. Together, Francie and Ty became integral members of the Hermiston community. Francie began her teaching career at Umatilla Middle School shortly after their wedding. After five years, she took a break following the arrival of their first child, Erin. Subsequently, Francie and Ty added four boys to their expanding family: Tyler Jr., Kenzie, Lucas, and Ruben. Raising her exuberant family and helping to run the family ranch took most of Francie's time and attention, but throughout she continued teaching Sunday school to the children of Hermiston Presbyterian Church. She also participated as an active member of the church choir and several other community volunteer organizations.

In 1985, Francie returned to teaching by joining the staff at Rocky Heights Elementary School as a second grade teacher. In 2010, Francie was awarded the coveted Crystal Apple award in recognition of her contributions as a devoted, accessible, and encouraging teacher for her many students.

Students always remember the special teacher who inspired them to believe in themselves and appreciate the unlimited power of learning—for many alumni of Rocky Heights Elementary, Francie Hansell was that teacher.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hermiston community that I have the honor to represent, I want to commend and thank Francie for her many years of service and dedication to her students and community. While Francie is retiring from teaching and as the grandmother of six (so far), I know that she will continue to dedicate herself to her family, friends, and her beloved community of Hermiston.

INCREASING STATUTORY LIMIT ON THE PUBLIC DEBT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I voted against allowing the United States to default on its debt.

Although the preamble of the bill took a gratuitous poke at the President by stating erroneously that it is the President's budget for Fiscal Year 2012 that makes it necessary to increase the debt ceiling, this statement was insignificant in relation to the effective part of the bill.

For more than two centuries, the United States has been a trustworthy creditor. In previous years, members of both parties have set aside their policy disagreements to ensure the United States fulfills its obligations to creditors and maintains its credit rating.

Unfortunately, the Republicans didn't want Tuesday's vote on the debt ceiling to be about maintaining our creditworthiness. Instead, it was the latest in a series of reckless political games being played by my colleagues who brought this bill to the floor to have it fail. Even the author of this bill voted against it.

We saw this brand of economic brinkmanship just last month, when Congressional Republicans brought the federal government to within minutes of a shutdown. While these actions may please some narrow ideological constituency, they endanger needlessly the financial security of the United States and the economic security of the American people.

Whether one blames the debt on unpaid bills of the Reagan defense buildup, food stamps and other social programs, the Bush tax cuts and two wars not paid for, or any other action of government over the past decade or past century, this was not the place for that argument.

Whether you think taxes are too low or spending is too high, this was not the occasion to try to impose one's own idea of a correction.

This was not the occasion to reshape our economy or score ideological points. If House Republicans were serious about improving the nation's fiscal outlook, then they would have voted in favor of this measure so we could move on to legislation that will help Americans get back to work.

I acted responsibly so the United States can continue to fulfill its financial obligations by voting in favor of this clean debt ceiling bill.

CELEBRATING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHSIDE CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT, INC.

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the founding of the Northside Center for Child Development, Inc.

In March of 1946, shortly upon the conclusion of World War II, two young African American psychologists, Mamie Phipps Clark and her husband, Kenneth B. Clark founded the Northside Center for Child Development. Originally called the Northside Testing and Consultation Center, the Northside Center for Child Development's first home was in the basement apartment located in the historic Dunbar Housing Development on 150th Street in Harlem.

The research of Kenneth and Mamie Phipps Clark challenged the notion of differences in the mental abilities of black and white children, which played an important role in the desegregation of American schools. At the Center, the Clarks conducted experiments on racial biases in education. Their findings were presented at school desegregation trials in Virginia, South Carolina, and Delaware; and in 1954, in a famous footnote, those findings were cited in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, the landmark Supreme Court decision that ruled public-school segregation unconstitutional.

Kenneth Clark was the first African American to earn a doctorate in psychology at Columbia, to hold a permanent professorship at the City College of New York, to join the New York State Board of Regents and to serve as president of the American Psychological Association. In addition to his work as a psychologist and educator, he assisted corporations

with racial policies and minority hiring programs. His books include *Prejudice and Your Child* (1955), *Dark Ghetto* (1965), *A Possible Reality* (1972), and *Pathos of Power* (1975). During Columbia's student protests in 1968, Clark, whose son Hilton (Columbia College 1968) was a leader of the Society of Afro-American Students, served as mediator between the black student protesters in Hamilton Hall and the administration.

Mamie Phipps began studying self-perception in black children as a graduate student at Howard University, where she met and married Kenneth Clark. Between 1939 and 1940, the two published three major articles on this subject. Phipps Clark continued her work at Columbia where, in 1943, she became the first African-American woman and the second African American (after her husband) in the University's history to receive a psychology doctorate. It was her work on the way black children seemed to prefer white dolls to black ones that particularly impressed the Supreme Court justices. In 1966, Columbia recognized the couple's work by awarding each the Nicholas Murray Butler Silver Medal.

Prior to the establishment of the Northside Center for Child Development (Northside Testing and Consultation Center), the Clarks decided to tackle the lack of services for troubled youth in Harlem. They approached nearly every social service agency throughout New York City with their modest proposal to urge established agencies to expand their programs to provide social work, psychological evaluation, and remediation for youth in Harlem, since at that time there were virtually no mental-health services in the community. Each agency they explored rejected their proposal and they decided to open their own developmental center to address those needs that were lacking for Harlem families and the youth.

In 1948, Northside moved to the 6th floor of the New Lincoln School, located at West 110th Street across Central Park. In 1974, Northside moved its headquarters east one block in Schomburg Plaza on Fifth Avenue.

Today, the Northside Center continues its mission to further the healthy development of children and families and empower them to respond gainfully to negative communal factors, including racism and its related consequences. By providing comprehensive, high quality mental health and educational services, coupled with research, Northside is able to assist children and families in their development to seek their full potential.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Dr. Thelma Dye, Northside Center doors are open to over 500 families and children who walk in on any given day for support, guidance, psychological evaluations, and therapeutic services or just to talk about their day or utilize the library of books available at the center.

Mr. Speaker, in the words of Dr. Dye, "whether children and families come to Northside because they are deeply troubled and look to us for solace, compassion, direction and understanding, or they come because they are excited and happy and look forward to the next enjoyable learning adventure, we welcome them. We work toward empowering and helping them learn and grow in an environment that reinforces their strengths, their cultures, their self-worth and their dignity. What we do at Northside is important, challenging and immensely rewarding."