

A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER  
BANKS

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christopher Banks.

Christopher Banks is the Executive Director and CEO of the East New York United Concerned Citizens, Inc. Born twenty-seven years ago in Brooklyn, NY to immigrant parents from Trinidad and Tobago, his first-hand witness to the struggles of disenfranchised individuals in his community greatly influenced his dedication to public service and advocacy.

Mr. Banks attended the New York City High School for Leadership and Public Service, and CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice where he pursued a degree in political science. He founded the East New York United Concerned Citizens, Inc. making his dream of creating a social service and non-profit organization come true.

Over the past ten years, Mr. Banks has focused his advocacy on the areas of youth, seniors, block associations and tenant associations to provide services to the East New York community. He has worked in partnership with organizations such as NYC Citizens Committee, East New York Development Corporation, Linden Houses Tenant Association, Emerald Green Tenants Association, The Justice Fund, The East New York Council for the Aging, the National Association of Black Business and Professional Women's Brooklyn Club, and a host of other organizations.

Mr. Banks was appointed to Community Board #5, serving as one of the youngest members in the capacity of Executive Board Member and Chair of the Transportation Committee. He also served as Co-Chair of the Youth Services Committee, Co-Chair of the Aging Committee and Public Safety Committee. He is currently President of his Block Association, has previously served as President of the Black Business Professional Women's Youth Club and as an Advisory Member of the Pink House Cornerstone Program. Additionally, Mr. Banks has worked for organizations over the past eight years such as the Italian American Civil Rights League and The Federation of Multicultural Programs, and has served as an Adolescent Services liaison for the Youth Services Department. Mr. Banks is a proud member of Changing Lives Christian Center.

He is an innovative, charismatic and dynamic young man, on a mission to empower and change the dynamics of his community and the world at large.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 439, the Kind Amendment to H.R. 2112, I voted "aye" when I intended to vote "nay."

A TRIBUTE TO ALAN D. COHEN

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alan D. Cohen.

Alan was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He is one of four siblings and is a proud graduate of the New York City school system. He received his bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College and holds a master's of Science, Special Education from New York University. He is a Cahn Fellow at Columbia University.

Alan has 34 years of educational experience having filled many roles as a teacher, administrator and principal for the New York City Department of Education. He is currently a Network Leader providing support and supervision for principals in 32 New York City schools and prior to that completed seven years as principal of P.S. 69 in the Bronx. In the past he has had various responsibilities in the New York City system, including teaching, mentoring teachers and aspiring principals, high school admissions and supervising student support services. He also implemented a Reggio Emilia inspired early childhood program and spent time in Italy studying as a member of the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance and International Association Friends of Reggio Children.

Recently, he has spent his summers as a group leader at the Principal's Center Summer Institute of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He also serves as an advisory board member at the Principal's Center. He is also the recipient of the 2007 Time Warner Principals of Excellence Award and the 2006 Outstanding Educator of the Year Award from Education Update.

Alan's focus is on enhancing a dynamic child-centered curriculum, fostering professional development and creating a strong sense of community. He will be returning to his passion as a building principal in September, at the Portledge School in Locust Valley, New York. Alan is the ideal educator to build on the traditions and foundations and has the professional background and the enthusiasm to establish Portledge as a leader in early childhood and elementary education.

Alan looks forward to a long future of educating the children who will be our leaders of tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Alan D. Cohen for his extraordinary accomplishments and his spirit which reflect the best our nation has to offer.

RECOGNIZING 2011 APPOINTEES TO  
THE UNITED STATES SERVICE  
ACADEMIES

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2011*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my 2011 appointees to the United States Service Academies, an outstanding group of young Washingtonians who have a combination of academic and athletic prowess, dedication, and leadership, as they leave their fami-

lies to embark on their new lives in service to the nation: William Westbrook Moore, Atticus Lee Sawatzki, William Guy Merkle, and James David Rice.

William Westbrook Moore is my appointee to the United States Military Academy. He graduated from the Potomac School, where he was a varsity athlete and founder of the school's chess club. Atticus Lee Sawatzki departs for the United States Merchant Marine Academy. He is an alumnus of St. Anselm's Abby School, was a lifeguard for the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation and is an active parishioner at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, K Street. William Guy Merkle, whom I have twice had the pleasure of nominating to the United States Air Force Academy, is an alumnus of St. Anselm's Abby School. Bill is a thespian, crack shot, and an Elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He returns to the Air Force Academy after completing his two year mission for his church in Japan. James David Rice leaves for the United States Naval Academy Prep School. He graduated from The Bullis School, where he was both a varsity athlete and an honors student.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young men in advance for their service, in wishing them success, and in offering them the hearty congratulations of the House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING SOUTHERN  
METHODIST UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT  
R. GERALD TURNER

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2011*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Southern Methodist University (SMU) President R. Gerald Turner for receiving a quadrangle on the SMU Campus named in his honor. This week current and former members of the SMU board of trustees approved the naming of the R. Gerald Turner Centennial Quadrangle. This project is currently under construction and will be complete in the fall so SMU students, faculty and campus visitors can enjoy this gathering place for many years to come.

SMU is currently celebrating its Centennial Celebration, and I commend President Turner on his accomplishments and vision for the century ahead. I am a proud alumnus of SMU, and have greatly appreciated President Turner's service and leadership. He and his wife Gail Turner have made tremendous contributions to the university and this honor is well deserved.

SMU has made amazing strides over the past century, rising from a small rural college to an internationally renowned university. From its founding in 1911 till today, SMU has graduated more than 100,000 alumni. The outstanding achievement and leadership of those alumni serves as a testament to SMU's tradition of success. With seven different schools, SMU ranks as one of the best universities in the nation. The Cox School of Business routinely ranks in the top 25 business schools in the United States. In addition to twelve alumni who are past and present Members of the

U.S. Congress, SMU has graduated such notable individuals as: John Tyson, CEO of Tyson Foods; former First Lady, Laura Bush; Lamar Hunt, founder of the American Football League; Harriet Miers, former White House Counsel and Supreme Court nominee; James Cronin, Nobel Prize winning physicist; Mary Ellen Weber, NASA astronaut; and Karen Hughes, former Under Secretary of State.

For these well-known alumni, myself, and thousands of former and current students, SMU holds a special place in our hearts. There is a strong sense of pride amongst the SMU community, and the values we learned in school have stayed with us throughout our lives. We were and always will be SMU Mustangs.

With an eye towards the next generation, SMU is not only celebrating the past, but planning for the future. This Centennial Celebration will serve as a time to ensure the next hundred years are even more successful than the first one hundred. I am confident that under President Turner's leadership, SMU will continue to thrive as a center of excellence not only for Dallas, but for the world.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E.  
CORNEGY, JR.

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.

Robert E. Cornegy, Jr. is the son of the late Reverend Dr. Robert E. Cornegy, Sr., Pastor of the Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, and (the late) Ellen Journey Cornegy. Both of his parents were active members of the church for a quarter of a century, and it is their spirit of servant leadership that continues to inspire and guide him. Rob is married to his beautiful wife Michelle, and he is the father of six wonderful children (Robert E. Cornegy III, Nicholas Ethan, Nia Imani, Nala Catherine Ellen, Noah and N'Kosi).

As a dedicated and passionate community advocate, Rob recognized the needs of the community and used his own funds to purchase and rehabilitate a brownstone where he created "The Cornegy Residence": an 18-bed shelter for men suffering from substance abuse and mental health related issues.

Rob has a long history of service implementation and delivery focusing on mental health, substance abuse, and homelessness. He gained valuable hands-on experience by implementing an innovative service-delivery program that increased the number of inmates serviced dramatically while working at the Rikers Island Prison Complex. Rob holds a Professional Certificate in the treatment of individuals suffering from substance abuse issues; earned a Bachelor's degree in Organizational Management and holds a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Mercy College. He is currently a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church and is the former Director of the Christopher Wallace memorial foundation and Director of the Regional Resource Prevention Center for the Children's Aid society.

Rob is also an adjunct professor of Marketing at Brooklyn College. Rob is a commu-

nity organizer, advocate, and political activist with more than 20 years experience working in underserved communities around New York. He has also worked in various high-capacity political roles ranging from Campaign Manager to Chief of Staff for numerous elected officials in the New York State Assembly and Senate. In 2009 Robert ran for City Council for the 36th District serving Bedford Stuyvesant and Crown Heights. Currently, Rob is State Committeeman/District Leader of the 56th Assembly District serving Bedford Stuyvesant, Crown Heights and parts of Bushwick.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Cornegy for his extraordinary accomplishments and his spirit that reflect the best our Nation has to offer.

HONORING ROCKY RUN MIDDLE  
SCHOOL'S "THE LATEST GEN-  
ERATION MEETS THE GREATEST  
GENERATION" PROGRAM

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2011*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I recently attended a wonderful event at Rocky Run Middle school in Chantilly, Virginia. The program brings World War II veterans together with 7th grade students for one-on-one interviews about the veterans' experiences during war.

The event was initiated 10 years ago by history teacher Jamie Sawatzky and for his efforts, he was selected as the Fairfax County Public Schools Teacher of the Year. Rocky Run Middle School is the only school in the region with this type of program.

The event was attended by 125 World War II veterans, representing all branches of the Armed Forces and nearly every theater of the war. I was touched to hear the recollections from so many members of the "Greatest Generation" who sacrificed so much to protect our nation's freedom. Students got to hear from Edward Connor, who served with the U.S. Army Air Corps in Papua, New Guinea, and Guadalcanal; Lucas Dugan, who served aboard a U.S. Navy destroyer in the north Atlantic guiding supply convoys; Donald Graul, a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division who parachuted into Normandy on D-Day and was captured by the Germans, spending the rest of the war in a POW camp, and Richard Graff, who marched with the Army through France, Belgium, and Holland and met the Russian Army at the Elbe River.

These men, and many more, volunteered their time to share their views with today's students. With fewer and fewer World War II veterans still living, I applaud the efforts of these and all veterans who share this living history and make their memories part of children's learning experience and the historical record.

I also want to draw attention to the Rocky Run students, who recognize the importance of learning from previous generations. Knowing about one of the most traumatic episodes in world history and the sacrifice it required of all Americans, these students will have an appreciation of what it takes to preserve our nation's freedoms. The 7th graders of Rocky Run Middle School took on a challenging assignment and carried it out in a fashion of which we can all be proud.

There can be no better learning experience than combining the knowledge and experience of the "Greatest Generation" with the "Latest Generation." I hope schools across America can learn from the example of Rock Run Middle School in Chantilly, Virginia.

A TRIBUTE TO ISRAEL  
VELAZQUEZ

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Israel Velazquez.

As founder and President of Velazquez Associates, Inc., and its subsidiary Velazquez Accounting Services, a New York based accounting and nonprofit development consulting firm that bears his name, Israel Velazquez has worked tirelessly to develop partnerships with community leaders, development corporations, and other public and private partners.

For the past thirty years, Mr. Velazquez, known as "Izzy" to many, has assembled public and private partnerships in the areas of local community issues, affordable housing and economic development projects in urban cities throughout the United States of America and in several Caribbean islands.

Mr. Velazquez holds a Master's in Taxation from Long Island University in Brooklyn, NY and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Mass Communications from C.U.N.Y., Hunter College. In 2009, Mr. Velazquez was designated an adjunct Professor in the Gates Foundation and Warren Buffett Enterprises Fellows Program.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Velazquez's extraordinary achievements.

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS  
VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Liberty Lady Jays Varsity Soccer team on defeating Ursuline Academy, by a score of 2-1, to win the Class 3 State Championship for the second straight season.

The Lady Jays finished their incredible season by posting a strong record of 27-3, while scoring a total of 147 points and only allowing 29 points. In the Championship game, they finished spectacularly by scoring the winning goal with one second left on the clock of the first overtime period. The dedication and teamwork displayed by the Lady Jays is impressive and evident in their success.

I want to recognize the great leadership of the team, including Head Coach Tom Rottjakob and the work of his assistant coaches. I also want to recognize the work of the school administrators, Superintendent Mike Brewer, Principal April Adams, and Athletic Director Jason Cahill, as additional keys to success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating the achievement of the Liberty