

HONORING THE JOHN BASILONE
MEMORIAL PARADE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the organizers of the John Basilone Memorial Parade which takes place in Somerset County, New Jersey. This year they celebrate 30 years of remembrance for an American hero.

Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his valiant efforts at the Battle of Guadalcanal on October 24, 1942. After his 15-man unit was reduced to himself and two others by Japanese forces, Gunnery Sgt. Basilone took command of two sections of machine guns and bravely fought for 48 hours with his two fellow Marines. When ammunition became scarce, he battled through enemy grounds to gather more. And, by the end of the fight, the Japanese troops were nearly destroyed.

Upon his return to his hometown in the Borough of Raritan, New Jersey, Gunnery Sgt. Basilone was welcomed home with a parade held in his honor on September 21, 1943. The first parade was covered by both Life magazine and the Fox Movietone News. The Newsreel was then shown in movie theatres throughout the country.

Tragically, after requesting to return to the fleet, Gunnery Sgt. Basilone lost his life during the invasion of Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. For his duty in Iwo Jima, Sgt. Basilone posthumously received the Navy Cross, becoming the only Marine enlisted in World War II to receive both the Medal of Honor and the Navy Cross.

Sgt. Basilone's memory was not forgotten in his hometown, and in 1981, the John Basilone Memorial Parade began and is now in its 30th year. Every September, the Borough of Raritan and neighboring communities come together to not only remember our fallen war hero, but to honor our military and unite as a community. The John Basilone Parade is more than just a parade, it is an opportunity for Americans to come together and celebrate the freedoms we share and those who fight to protect them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the organizers of the John Basilone Memorial Parade for honoring not only one American hero, but all those who fight for our country.

IN HONOR OF MR. TIMOTHY
DOWNING

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Timothy Downing who is being awarded the 2011 Cleveland Stonewall Democrats Leadership Award at the Cleveland Stonewall Democrats' Freedom Fund Reception on September 26, 2011.

The Cleveland Stonewall Democrats is one of more than ninety chapters of the National Stonewall Democrats throughout the country.

They are a grassroots movement devoted to securing equal rights for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Mr. Downing graduated with his undergraduate degree from Allegheny College in 1985 and earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1988 from Cleveland's Case Western Reserve University. He began his career in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the law firm of Rose, Schmidt, Hasley and Disalle. For the past 23 years Mr. Downing has been co-chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the Cleveland law firm Ulmer & Berne LLP, where he is also a partner. Mr. Downing is an active member of the American, Ohio State, and Cleveland Bar Associations' Labor & Employment Sections/Committees. He has also served as the chair of the Financial Committee for Ohio's Local Government Reform and Collaboration Commission for 18 months under former Governor Strickland. Mr. Downing has been recognized throughout his career; he was named a "Super Lawyer" by Cincinnati Law & Politics magazine and a "Leading Lawyer" by Inside Business magazine for the past 10 consecutive years.

In addition to his career, Mr. Downing is also an outspoken activist and advocate for the LGBT community. He founded Equality Ohio, an organization dedicated to "an Ohio where everyone feels home; living in families and communities where equality, diversity and inclusiveness are universally valued; and where government protects all people and responds to their needs, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression." Mr. Downing is currently the co-chair of the Board of Directors for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest LGBT civil rights and education organization.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Timothy Downing on the occasion of being honored with the 2011 Cleveland Stonewall Democrats Leadership Award.

HONORING THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the League of Women Voters of Oakland, who are celebrating 100 years of women voting in California, starting with the historic and narrowly won California state referendum and the first California Civic League, Berkeley Forum led by Miss Blanche Morse in 1911. It is an immense honor to represent Bay Area communities who have truly been at the forefront of a century's worth of major achievements in social justice.

Over the years, the League of Women Voters of Oakland, as well as its sister leagues in Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville, Piedmont and the surrounding Bay Area, have worked tirelessly to advocate, educate and champion citizens' informed and active participation in government and civic affairs.

An expansive and well-organized network of committed chapters, over 4,000 members in 21 local Leagues comprise the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area (LWVBA), which took shape in 1959. On a national

scale, the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) was founded during the 1920 convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, held just 6 months before the 19th amendment was ratified. Thus, after a 72-year struggle, the U.S. Constitution finally reflected what women in the Bay Area and California had fought to achieve a decade earlier.

As members of the League of Women Voters, you are part of a magnificent legacy. Additionally, you have pledged to continue to be the kind of bold pioneers and astute advocates who led us to this point. Therefore, I would like to thank you for your dedicated service in guiding and encouraging our community toward civic engagement.

Moreover, the League has flexed its power in shaping public policy through the strength of its grassroots organization and by maintaining its important stance of non-partisanship. For example, the Oakland chapter has been a major advocate for ranked choice voting, quality education and accessible housing. Likewise, the Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville chapter has worked extensively on advocating for fair housing and the promotion of social resources, including mental health, education, juvenile justice and senior services. And, the Piedmont chapter holds positions in the areas of social policy, diversity and natural resources, to name a few.

On behalf of the residents of California's 9th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate you on this milestone and thank you for the invaluable service you provide to our community. I wish the League of Women Voters' local, state and national members all the best as you forge ahead toward another 100 years of protecting the rights of voters, promoting sound policy and creating a more just and peaceful world.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALBANY
TECHNICAL COLLEGE'S 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to extend a heartfelt congratulations to the administration, faculty, students, alumni and supporters of Albany Technical College, as this institution celebrates 50 years of providing vocational and technical training to thousands of Georgia residents. This learning center commemorates its 50th anniversary on Friday, September 30, 2011, with a gala at the Phoebe Towers North in Albany, Georgia. This widely attended gala will enable local dignitaries, prospective students, past graduates and other individuals from southwest Georgia to pay tribute to an institution that has positively contributed to Albany, Georgia's economic development and mercantile maturation over the last half century.

Founded in 1961, Albany Tech was originally established as the Monroe Area Vocational-Technical School. Shortly thereafter, the Albany Area Vocational-Technical School was built, and in 1972 the two schools merged to form a comprehensive and thriving educational cooperative. In 1988, the school continued its ongoing transformational advancement

through its affiliation with the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education (DTAE) and the Technical College System of Georgia. This worthwhile partnership, allowed Albany Tech to expand its outreach initiatives by providing technical training opportunities to the residents, businesses and industries within a seven-county service delivery area. These counties include Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Dougherty, Lee, Randolph and Terrell.

Today, Albany Tech has adult learning centers in all seven of its service delivery counties. The college has more than 3,000 full-time students and another 2,500 are enrolled part-time in seminars, continuing education courses, teleconferences and customized business training programs.

As a member of the Technical College System of Georgia, Albany Tech provides vocational training support services for the thousands of non-traditional students, employees and industries that make-up southwest Georgia's expansive and ever evolving economic landscape. To accomplish this mission, the college utilizes traditional and distance learning methods. Specifically, the institution offers a wide-range of technical certificates that prepare students for employment opportunities in the fields of information technology, culinary arts, aeronautics, airplane construction, electronics, health care and other leading industrial careers.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Albany Tech's current President, Dr. Anthony Parker, for his outstanding leadership in promoting and advancing this training institution's many outstanding vocational services. Southwest Georgians will forever be indebted to Dr. Parker and his well-respected predecessor, Nathaniel Cross, for all they have done to make Albany Tech a more accessible and highly resourceful training facility for the many individuals and industries that rely on the school's key services.

Dr. Parker, his predecessors, and the Board of Directors should all be commended for their contributions in making Albany Tech a vital part of our local communities.

For years, the administration, faculty and alumni of Albany Technical College have been steadfastly dedicated and fully committed to implementing training programs designed to advance the economic development needs of southwest Georgia's workforce, small business community and corporations.

Due to this institution's diligent work and extraordinary efforts, employees, entrepreneurs and business owners throughout southwest Georgia have enjoyed continued success. In addressing the economic needs of hard-working Georgians through the expansive availability of strong vocational training programs, Albany Tech has facilitated our community's abilities to better respond to and meet the civic needs of our local residents.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our collective and profound gratitude to the faculty, staff, alumni and supporters of Albany Technical College for all they have done to improve the quality of life for the residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT LOUIS J. MACHOVEC

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sergeant Louis J. Machovec, an iconic police officer from the Cleveland Police Department (CPD), as he celebrates his 100th birthday on September 29, 2011.

Sgt. Machovec was born on September 29, 1911 in Cleveland's North Broadway neighborhood. He was one of three sons born to Jan and Anna Machovec, immigrants from Bohemia, Czechoslovakia. He attended Our Lady of Lourdes school and later graduated from Thomas Edison High School. After high school, during the Great Depression, Louis worked various jobs including working as groundskeeper at Lakeview Cemetery, in a railroad boiler factory and as a Cleveland taxi driver.

In 1937, Sgt. Machovec took the qualifying test to become a Cleveland police officer. After Eliot Ness became the city's Safety Director, the entire police force was given the exam again. Sgt. Machovec scored sixth out of more than 800 applicants and was asked to become a member of the first Cleveland Police Academy Class. After working on accident prevention for a short time, Sgt. Machovec was asked to join in the investigation of the Kingsbury Run murders; the Cleveland Torso Murderer was never caught.

He worked in various departments, ultimately joining the CPD's communications division. He worked as the voice of the Cleveland Police Department for many years, through the 1950 Thanksgiving snowstorm and the Hough Riots in the 1960s. Later, Sgt. Machovec ran the police internal telephone exchange and bank alarm departments until his retirement. He served with the Cleveland Police Department for 39 years.

Following his retirement, Sgt. Machovec moved to Solon, Ohio to be closer to his wife, Margaret, and their daughters, Mary Lou and Margaret. Today, he enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren and still wears his grey CPD shirt.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in wishing Sgt. Louis Machovec a very happy 100th birthday and thanking him for his dedicated service with the Cleveland Police Department.

COMMEMORATING REVEREND
WILLIE G. DIXON

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his 80th birthday milestone, I rise to commend the inspirational leadership of Reverend Willie G. Dixon. Reverend Dixon is a wonderful example of how a local leader can help shape future generations and make a difference in their community. Reverend Dixon's accomplishments are worthy of recognition by the entire Tampa community.

A native of Tampa, Florida, Reverend Dixon entered the Air Force upon completion of high

school. After serving our country, Dixon was honorably discharged and enrolled at Tennessee State University where he received a Bachelor of Science in Music Education. He then moved back to the Tampa area, where he was employed by the Hillsborough County School Board as an elementary school music teacher and band director for six years.

Reverend Dixon then went on to pursue a career helping ex-offenders at the Zephyrhills Correctional Institution. As an ex-offender placement specialist, Dixon assisted inmates preparing for release and later served in the same capacity at Pasco-Hernando Community College. While employed in this career, he continued to work in area school systems until his retirement from the Sarasota County School System in 1991.

While teaching in Hillsborough and Sarasota County, Reverend Dixon realized that a large percentage of his students were African American repeat offenders who were unable to gain reentry into society financially and socially. Dixon developed a strong desire to help these youths that experienced difficulty getting back on track after release due to a number of factors such as broken homes, various types of abuse and lack of education.

In response to this calling, Dixon formed COACH Foundation, Inc. and the COACH Faith Based Ministry. COACH Foundation, Inc. has numerous programs that help inmates make a smooth transition into society and become productive citizens. These programs include after-school programs, job training, counseling, affordable home-ownership as well as many other services that benefit the community. Reverend Dixon's individual efforts continue to touch lives with his partnership with the Abe Brown Prison Ministry and weekly bible study with inmates at the Zephyrhills Correctional Institution.

The Tampa Community is proud to recognize Reverend Willie G. Dixon for his efforts and outstanding contributions towards educating and guiding youth in Tampa. Reverend Dixon's determination and commitment to improving the lives of others have made him an inspirational community leader. I ask that you and all Americans recognize such a remarkable citizen for his service to our community.

CELEBRATING GANDHI JAYANTI,
INDIA'S NATIONAL HOLIDAY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honor to offer my best wishes to the millions of Indian-Americans and to Indians around the globe on this Gandhi Jayanti, India's national holiday celebrating the birth of Mohandas Gandhi.

Political prisoner, freedom fighter, father of a nation—Gandhi shaped modern India and has continued to shape the world we live in by inspiring some of the greatest leaders of our time. A champion for the rights of all people, he fought apartheid in South Africa, colonial rule in India, and oppression and injustice in all its guises. In doing so, he has inspired our world's greatest leaders from Nelson Mandela to Cesar Chavez, Aung San Suu Kyi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.