

"Sea Signal" Joint Task Force 160 at Guantánamo Bay in 1994. For his voluntary service to this operation he received a citation from the Commander. It is instances such as these that demonstrate Dr. Serentill's unselfish character and dedication to service.

On July 3, 2011, Dr. Serentill was awarded the Medal of the Order of Dr. Carlos J. Finlay for distinguished services to his profession and services to honor underserved nations. Dr. Serentill has always expressed his belief in the greatness of his adopted homeland, and the opportunities our nation provides. He continues to practice surgery and teach in Miami Dade County, and was recently appointed as the Scientific Director of the XXI International Medical Congress of the Cuban Medical Association.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Dr. Luis H. Serentill for his continued service to the Miami community and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual.

IN HONOR OF PHIL TISI

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, our communities thrive when their citizens contribute to the common good and general betterment of their home towns, serving for the love of their community. Phil Tisi is such a man. He has held, with distinction, many positions in the educational field as a leader, an educator, administrator and college adjunct instructor. After serving for 38 years in the school system and in various capacities at the high school and the Ramapo Central School District, he recently retired as Chairman of the Suffern High School Social Studies Department. In addition, for over a decade he has served as Deputy Supervisor, Interim Supervisor, and Assistant to the Supervisor in the Town of Ramapo.

When organizations are successful quite often it's because of one person making a difference, and in many cases in Ramapo that person is Phil Tisi. He has helped many communities and their leaders in the Town of Ramapo, as well as individuals, and non-profit agencies throughout Rockland County.

He is an integral part of successful patriotic and community events and town programs in general. He is especially helpful to veterans organizations, including, and perhaps especially, the Fred Hecht Post of the Jewish War Veterans, who are honoring him.

He has served as Co-Chair of all of their past thirteen concert programs of the Support the Troops and Salute to the Veterans. With his help, more than \$550,000 was raised to ship gift-paks and GI travel/hygiene kits to our troops overseas in the Middle East and our Wounded Warriors in military hospitals. Phil Tisi has been commended 33 times for his good work with veteran groups, civic organizations and government agencies.

He was born in Dobbs Ferry and he and his wife, Alicia Cameron Tisi, a retired Registered Nurse, have three sons and a daughter.

I am proud to join in recognizing Phil Tisi for being an outstanding citizen and civic leader who has worked for his community and for our brave men and women serving in our Armed

Forces. He is a shining example of what a citizen can accomplish for his community.

PROTECT LIFE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 358, the Protect Life Act.

Our first priorities in the House of Representatives must be helping to foster job creation and supporting middle class families. We are now 280 days in this Congress without passing a jobs plan.

Instead, the Republicans have chosen to continue their radical assault on reproductive health care in the guise of preventing the use of federal funds to pay for abortion procedures. These bills and amendments are as unnecessary as they are offensive. Federal law already prohibits the use of federal funds to pay for abortion services except when a woman's life is endangered or she is a victim of rape or incest.

H.R. 358 would impose unprecedented limitations on comprehensive reproductive health services that go far beyond current law.

The bill would force health plans to drop comprehensive coverage in state health insurance exchanges. The bill would allow hospitals to refuse to provide life-saving care to women—even if they are facing an imminent threat of death. Further, the provisions in this bill are so broad that it would allow states to prohibit access to birth control, including providing emergency contraception to sexual-assault survivors.

This bill claims that it would protect life. But the bill could end the lives of women who are in need of life-saving emergency care. Sadly, we have all heard of the stories of women who are faced with the heart-wrecking decision to terminate their pregnancies when they are told that their baby will not survive to term. This bill will prevent women in that difficult situation from receiving needed health care services even if they are facing a life-threatening situation themselves.

This bill goes farther than ever in an extreme attempt to limit health coverage for American women, and make a legal, constitutionally protected medical procedure inaccessible to women.

Instead of debating how to put Americans back to work, we are again spending our time debating a bill that would result in substandard health care for millions of Americans.

I strongly oppose H.R. 358 and urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this dangerous piece of legislation.

IN HONOR OF STEVEN ALTARESCU

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the education of our children is one of our most important tasks, preparing them for adulthood. At the

Riverdale Temple the staff has been enormously helped by Rabbinic Intern Steven Altarescu, who has taught 3rd through 5th grades as well as an adult education course on Relationship in the Torah—Love, Sex and Violence; Parents and Children, Husbands and Wives, Siblings, Lovers, Us and God. The course is so popular that the congregants look forward to him returning next year to teach it.

He lives in Riverdale and is in his fourth year of rabbinical school at the Academy for Jewish Religion, a pluralistic seminary in Riverdale. He has also taught fourth, fifth and second grades at Temple Beth Shalom in neighboring Hastings-on-Hudson for thirteen years.

He is married and the father of two grown daughters, three stepdaughters and one stepson.

Steven brings a passion for Jewish spirituality, prayer and Torah study to our Temple and has contributed to a successful year in ways far beyond his actual responsibilities as our Rabbinic Intern. Steven has participated in worship services, preached, chanted Torah, and—behind the scenes—been the most generous, gracious and always available member of our synagogue staff.

The Riverdale Temple is grateful and proud to publicly acknowledge Steven's many, many contributions to the congregation, and to wish him every success in the rest of his rabbinic education, and in his future service to the Jewish community. I am proud to join the Riverdale Temple in this recognition and in the knowledge that his presence as a member of the rabbinate is a source of strength.

IN HONOR OF ELOUISE COBELL

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elouise Cobell who passed away on Sunday, October 16, 2011. This extraordinary individual led a 15 year fight on behalf of nearly 500,000 Native Americans who had their trusts mismanaged by the federal government.

Elouise Cobell filed a lawsuit in 1996 seeking justice for herself and the half million other American Indians who had their assets mismanaged by the U.S. Department of the Interior. After a lengthy battle in the courts, a \$3.4 billion settlement was announced in December 2009.

However, the fight was not over for Elouise Cobell. While a settlement was reached, Congress would still have to authorize payment for the settlement.

I was proud to support the Claims Resolution Act when it came before the House on November 30, 2010. This legislation authorized \$3.4 billion to settle the lawsuit, which became known as Cobell v. Salazar. The Claims Resolution also established a \$60 million education scholarship fund for Native American children. President Obama signed the Claims Resolution Act into law on December 8, 2010. This law came about because of Elouise Cobell's dedication in pursuing justice for the Native American community.

Mr. Speaker, California is home to over 100 federally recognized tribes. These tribes will

reap the benefits of the works of Elouise Cobell.

I am also a proud member of the Native American Caucus. Elouise Cobell's dedication and courage is not just an inspiration to Native Americans, but to all Americans. Her work will not only benefit American Indians now, but also the generations that follow.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the life of Elouise Cobell.

IN HONOR OF DEACONESS MATTIE
LEE DIXON DAVIS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Deaconess Mattie Lee Dixon Davis didn't arrive in New York City until she was 39 but still she has lived here for 61 years and is celebrating her 100th birthday today.

She was born in Alabama on April 11, 1911 to Willie and Elar Dixon who had a farm in McWilliams. After graduating from Conecuh County Training School she married the Reverend Albert A. Davis, II who was pastor to many of the leading African Methodist Episcopal Churches. He served as Presiding Elder of Troy and then joined the larger Ozark District where Mrs. Dixon served as District Adviser of the Women's Missionary for nine years.

She worked as a substitute teacher in public schools and thanks to her earlier training she was seamstress and hairdresser to her family, her church family, and to her friends and neighbors.

In May, 1950, Rev. Dixon came to the St. Luke A.M.E. Church in New York City's Sugar Hill neighborhood where for 16 years Mrs. Dixon served as Advisor to the Missionary Society and President of the Women's Club. The Missionary Society became so large that she reorganized it into five 'circles,' a structure that continues to this day.

Missionary work was always her main interest and she held several statewide offices in the New York Conference Branch Missionary Society including Second Vice President for three years, and Treasurer for eight years. She also served as President of the New York A.M.E. Ministers Wives and Widowers Alliance and Secretary of the Interdenominational Ministers Wives and Widows Alliance.

She and the Rev. Dixon moved to St. Steven Community A.M.E. Church where the Rev. Dixon served until he died 16 years later.

Her ambition was always to become a nurse, but raising their five children and missionary work made that impossible. But several years ago she helped a friend, a nurse, operate a 'House of Love' where patients discharged from hospitals, but too ill to go home, stayed. Here she not only helped with the daily care and feeding of these gravely ill people, but learned how to give medications and to handle injections. She was finally nursing, helping people in this hospice precursor.

Around this time she was consecrated a Deaconess at the Allen Cathedral A.M.E. Church by Bishop Franklin Norris.

I join her community in honoring this wonderful woman who gave a century of love and good works to the world. We are blessed to have her.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JOHN A.
GIRGENTI

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of an outstanding American and public servant, Senator John A. Girgenti, who will be recognized on Monday, October 24, 2011 for his many years of service to his community and to New Jersey's Legislature.

John A. Girgenti was born in Paterson on August 8, 1947. He attended Hawthorne High School then continued on to Seton Hall University. After receiving a B.A. degree in Political Science, cum laude, in 1969, he completed his M.A. in Government and Public Administration from St. John's University.

Senator Girgenti was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly in 1977, and re-elected six times. While in the Assembly he served as Chairman of the Municipal Government Committee and Deputy Majority Leader. As an Assemblyman, John sponsored legislation that created the Victims of Crime Compensation Board, successfully imposing the first "tax on crime."

In March of 1990, John Girgenti was chosen by district Democrats to fill the State Senate seat left vacant by the death of Frank X. Graves, Jr. He was sworn into the Senate on April 5th and was elected to his first full-term in the Senate on November 5, 1991. Since then he has been re-elected five times.

During his time in the legislature Senator Girgenti has sponsored many important pieces of legislation that have become law. He was one of the first State Senators to call for enhanced fingerprinting requirements for state employees involved with domestic security following the attacks on 9/11. Senator Girgenti has also fought to update and modernize New Jersey's background check laws so municipalities can identify potential threats before it is too late.

Following the Seton Hall University dormitory fire in 2000 Senator Girgenti was instrumental in putting forth legislation that mandates and provides funding for sprinkler installation in New Jersey college dormitories. He has also sponsored other landmark legislative measures that include Megan's Law, Amber Alert and the Paterson Urban Enterprise Zone Program. The Senator spearheaded the reinstatement of the Paterson Motor Vehicle Agency and was the momentum behind its re-opening in 2008.

In response to the growing gang problem in New Jersey, Senator Girgenti has helped formulate pragmatic legislative solutions to eliminate criminal street gangs. He formed a "Gang Task Force" in 2006 composed of experts from government, law enforcement, education, local clergy and recreation to review and evaluate legislative measures aimed at circumventing gang activity.

The Senator has also fought to create the State Public Safety Interoperable Communications Coordinating Council, which would allow first responders (police, firefighters and emergency workers) to communicate between agencies on a single assigned radio frequency. Senator Girgenti also pushed for increased aid to the New Jersey National Guard.

Senator Girgenti is currently the Chairman of the Law & Public Safety Committee and Vice Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He also serves on the Senate Transportation Committee. On April 5, 2011 Senator Girgenti announced that he will not seek re-election to the Senate in 2011. His leadership in the state will be missed by his colleagues and his constituency.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of dedicated public servants like John Girgenti.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, John's wife Rose, their family and friends, the members of the New Jersey State Legislature and me in recognizing John A. Girgenti's outstanding service to his community and the entire State of New Jersey.

IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR
EDMUND W. GORDON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Professor Edmund W. Gordon is among the most distinguished behavioral pedagogical scientists in the United States and one of the very few in the world to hold two endowed Ivy League professorships at Columbia and Yale universities.

More directly related to my Congressional District, he is Senior Scholar in Residence at State University of New York Rockland Community College as well as at the College Board.

His distinguished career encompasses not only professorial practices but scholarship, clinical and counseling psychology, research, author, editor, and minister. Besides Columbia and Yale, he has held appointments at Howard and Harvard Universities.

He has written text books that are considered classics in their field, as well as more than 200 articles in scholarly journals and he is still going in his eighties. He and his wife, Dr. Susan Gordon, have lived in Rockland County for more than 55 years and with whom he co-founded CEJES Institute and Conference Center in Pomona. Their four children attended the local Ramapo schools and both parents were very active in the PTA, school board elections, and other community matters.

Dr. Gordon is being honored by the Howard University Alumni Association for his seemingly unending contributions to society. As a former teacher I join with HUAA in congratulating Dr. Gordon for these contributions which have advanced education in our society over the course of generations.