

HONORING PHYLLIS MARINO FOR HER INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Ms. DELAUBRO. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to pay tribute to my dear friend, Phyllis Marino, as she is honored by the Connecticut Democratic State Central Committee with one of their 2011 Women's Leadership Awards. Phyllis has been a mainstay of the New Haven political arena for as long as I can remember and today her many contributions will be recognized with this very special award.

Each year, in the spirit of the late Governor Ella Grasso, the Democratic State Central Committee selects ten women whose extraordinary leadership and contributions have made a difference in their communities. The annual Women's Leadership Awards celebrate the innumerable ways in which women, through their work in the political arena, have helped to shape our communities.

The letter nominating Phyllis for consideration said it best—"In life, never mind in politics, you meet very few people who do what they do every day because they believe in a cause and not to benefit themselves—a person who truly gives of themselves with no expectation in return. She is also a person of conviction . . . and her word is her bond no matter what the consequences." I could not describe Phyllis better than that.

Her involvement in the New Haven community came at a very young age. Like so many of us, Phyllis learned the value of community service at the feet of her parents. She stuffed envelopes, campaigned door-to-door, and made thousands of phone calls on behalf of candidates and issues. As a young adult, she was charged with managing headquarters and political operations throughout the city. Phyllis earned the most distinguished of reputations and for many years she has been the one that newcomers turn to when they want to get involved. She has guided countless young people to success and has served as an inspiration to them all.

Her history with city of New Haven, its residents, and the many changes they have witnessed over the years makes Phyllis an invaluable resource to anyone who wants to get involved in New Haven's political arena. I would be remiss if I did not extend a personal note of thanks to Phyllis. I have known Phyllis most of my life—our fathers were good friends and worked together in the community. Phyllis has long been one that I can always count on for support and encouragement. People often invoke the phrase "I stand on the shoulders of giants"—for me one of those giants is Phyllis Marino.

I am proud to join her son and daughter-in-law, Pat and Pam; her daughter, Andrea; grandson, Gennaro; and all of those who have gathered today to congratulate Phyllis Marino as she receives this well-deserved recognition.

IN HONOR OF DR. SUSAN S. GORDON

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Susan S. Gordon has, for more than 50 years, lived and has been active in Pomona where she and her husband, Dr. Edmund W. Gordon, raised four children and where she was active in her school district, her community and as a pediatrician.

She graduated from the Howard University College of Medicine and is a Licentiate of the American Board of Pediatrics and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She was also named an Associate Professor of Pediatrics, initially at New York Medical College and then at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons. From 1978 to 1981 she was a member of the National Panel on the Measurement of the Program Effects of Head Start.

For eight years she served on the Board of Education of the East Ramapo Central School District, where, for three years, she was also president. She also served, for 20 years, on the board of the Lexington School for the Deaf where the Health Center was named in her honor. She added to her humane service resume by travelling to West Africa for four summers to train workers in providing educational and health services and in Nicaragua she trained local people in family planning and child health maintenance.

Both she and her husband are in the Rockland County Hall of Fame. Dr. Gordon is being honored by the Howard University Alumni Association for their life's work and outstanding contributions to society. I join with HUAA in honoring Dr. Gordon for her outstanding record of accomplishment, in Rockland and Westchester and throughout the world.

IN CELEBRATION OF JOHN J. AREIAS' 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 90th birthday of Mr. John J. Areias, a respected leader, distinguished dairyman, and wonderful father, grandfather, and friend. His contributions to our community have been immeasurable and have made the San Joaquin Valley a better place to live.

John J. Areias was born on April 27, 1921 to Jesse Areias and Genevieve Silva Areias, who emigrated to the United States from Portugal's Azore Islands. John, his parents, and eight siblings settled in Volta, California, where they operated a small dairy. A proud product of the Central Valley, John graduated from Volta Elementary School as the valedictorian and then Los Banos High School, where he was a part of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) and served as Senior Class President.

As a young man, John's passion for agriculture was evident. In high school, he traveled with the FFA to the International World Fair in Treasure Island and to the California

State Fair to show cattle. It was also at this time that he met the love of his life, Mary, whom he later married. One of John's fondest memories is driving his future bride around in his 1939 Plymouth Deluxe Rumble Seat Convertible.

Soon thereafter, John and Jess, his brother, went into the dairy business. Their pioneering spirit made them innovators in the dairy industry; their dairy was the first Grade A dairy in the Los Banos Dairymen's Association. Eventually, John and Jess became the operators of one of the largest dairies in California, shipping approximately 150 cans of milk every day. Despite their massive success, their dairy operation remained a family business at heart—their children would often ride along in the milk truck during deliveries. John's success allowed him the opportunity to operate ranches throughout the west side of Merced County, California, which included 6,000 acres of land and 4,500 head of cattle.

Through all of his professional endeavors, John has found time to serve his community. A devout Catholic, he served as Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus. In addition, he was active in the Portuguese Fraternal Order. His consistent involvement in our community makes him an invaluable asset to the people of the Central Valley.

John's wife, Mary passed away in 1980 after a brave battle with cancer. Together they have four wonderful children: Marcia, Lucia, Kathleen, and Rusty, all of who have accomplished great things. John is also the proud grandfather to Evan, Nina, Bianca, Alexis, and Austin.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank John for his wonderful contributions to our Valley. His commitment to family, community leadership, and hard work is admirable and makes him a role model for our entire community. I join the rest of John's family and friends in wishing him a blessed 90th birthday and continued health and happiness in years to come.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM GONZALEZ

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Social Security is such an integral part of so many lives in our communities that it is with some sadness that I congratulate William Gonzalez, the Operations Supervisor of the West Nyack office on his retirement after 35 years of exemplary service.

He has faithfully served the people in my district for those years, starting as a Claims Development Clerk in the Baychester district office in the Bronx. After a short time, he rose to Claims Representative. He later served as a Field Representative and became an Operations Supervisor in 1989. He was reassigned to the West Nyack, NY district office in 1996 and established himself, over many years, as a liaison for a number of community and social agencies such as the Department of Social Services, Housing and Urban Development and as a contact for law enforcement in Rockland County.

He received many performance awards throughout his career including recognition for his pivotal role in the Region's Bi-Lingual Interviewing Skills Training initiative and for his

participation in supervisory training for his peers.

He always managed to find time for many community service endeavors. He chaired the Suffern Community Development committee from 1998 through 2004. He was an original member of the Suffern Community Foundation and participates in the Friends of Sloatsburg organization. He currently serves as an elected member of the Ramapo Central School Board, coached little league for many years and, most recently, has coached the Suffern High School varsity bowling team.

Bill and his wife Ada have two children; Eric a graduate of Syracuse University, and Alexandra, attending Siena College.

I want to congratulate Bill Gonzalez for his great service over so long a period to the people of New York. He has truly earned a happy retirement.

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HONORING BISHOP QUINCY  
LAVELLE CARSWELL

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**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 24, 2011*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas, Bishop Quincy Lavelle Carswell, is celebrating fifty (50) years in preaching the gospel this year and has provided stellar leadership to his church on an international level; and

Whereas, Bishop Quincy Lavelle Carswell, under the guidance and calling of God began preaching the word of God as a child and has transformed over the years as pastor of the historic Tabernacle Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, from 1975–1992, founding Covenant Ministries of Metropolitan Atlanta in 1993; and

Whereas, from Miami, Florida to Atlanta, Georgia, he has transformed, trail blazed and taught the gospel on a national and international level wherein the lives of many have been touched; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has been and continues to be a blessing to us as a spiritual leader, an educator and a community leader who not only talks the talk, but walks the walk; and

Whereas, Bishop Carswell is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our District and the world his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Bishop Quincy Lavelle Carswell, as he celebrates his 50th Pastoral Anniversary;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim October 23, 2011, as Bishop Quincy Lavelle Carswell Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 23rd day of October, 2011.

IN HONOR OF THE TWENTIETH  
ANNIVERSARY OF ILLYRIA

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 24, 2011*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Illyria, the Albanian-American newspaper. Illyria has been in the forefront of supporting the aspirations of the Albanian people in The Balkans for 20 years.

As the Albanian people of Kosova in the former Yugoslavia emerged from the domination of Serbia, and Albania emerged from the shadow of communism in 1991, Albanian-Americans were in need of information about their homeland, and a common voice to bring their community together. In that time of great transition, Harry Bajraktari, an Albanian immigrant from Kosova who had built a successful real estate business from scratch in the Bronx, founded and published Illyria, and published it twice weekly in both English and Albanian.

From the beginning, Illyria provided a valuable bridge among Albanians in the U.S. and abroad, and our leaders in the United States. Through the dedication and passion of Mr. Bajraktari and his colleagues, Illyria championed the causes of human rights, democracy and freedom for the people of Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro and for a free and independent Republic of Kosova. During the Yugoslav wars and the struggles of Albanians in Kosova against the regime of Slobodon Milosevic, Illyria promoted peaceful solutions for Albanians and their neighbors. Diplomats at the United Nations, members of Congress, officials at the State Department, the White House and think tanks in Washington were among those who used Illyria as a resource.

Now in more peaceful times for Albanians, Illyria, true to its immigrant roots, continues to build ties between the Albanians and the United States, promoting friendship between our countries and highlighting the contributions of Albanian immigrants to the United States. The long list of distinguished Albanian-Americans introduced to readers by Illyria includes a Nobel-Prize winner, an engineer who oversaw the flight of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon, a former NASA astronaut who flew into space on the Space Shuttle *Endeavour*, famous actors, directors and TV personalities, and successful professionals of various fields.

The torch of owning and publishing Illyria was passed from Mr. Bajraktari to Ekrem Bardha, a successful Albanian-American businessman from Michigan and then to Vehbi Bajrami, a dedicated publisher. Through two decades and three owners, Illyria has been a consistent voice for tolerance and truth. As Ismail Kadare, the internationally-renowned Albanian writer said, Illyria has kept "only one passion as sacred: its dedication to the freedom and the happiness of the Albanian people." Mr. Speaker, these are two of the principles that have made this country the greatest democracy in the world, and which unite Albania and the United States in friendship today.

With thousands of readers from New York to Alaska, Illyria newspaper is truly an American institution—politically independent and true to the best values of American journalism. In short, Illyria embodies the American dream.

I join with Harry Bajraktari and with Albanian-Americans in the United States and around the world, in wishing a happy 20th anniversary to Illyria newspaper.

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IN HONOR OF MR. RANDELL  
MCSHEPARD

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 24, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Randell McShepard, the vice president of public affairs for RPM International, Inc., for being named the 2011 Black Professional of the Year by the Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation (BPACF).

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. McShepard graduated from John F. Kennedy High School. He later earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in psychology and communications from Baldwin-Wallace College before attending Cleveland State University's Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs to obtain a Master of Science degree in urban studies. He has since been inducted into the John F. Kennedy High School Hall of Fame and named a Distinguished Alumnus of Cleveland State University.

Prior to taking on his role as vice president of public affairs for RPM International, Inc., Mr. McShepard has held a number of roles in the non-profit sector. After graduating from Baldwin-Wallace College, he began working as the manager of the training services division for Vocational Guidance Services. Randell was responsible for the creation of a number of job training and placement programs for the vocational rehabilitation facility. He later began working for the Cleveland Bicentennial Commission as the assistant director of administration and program development. In May, 1997 Mr. McShepard became the executive director for City Year Cleveland where he led more than 220 corps members. He was hired by RPM International Inc. at the beginning of 2001 as their director of community affairs. In October 2007 he was promoted to his current role as vice president of public affairs.

In addition to his career, Mr. McShepard is an active member of the Greater Cleveland community and volunteers his time with several organizations. He serves as the Chairman-Emeritus for the Sisters of Charity Foundation, vice-chairman of the Fund for Our Economic Future, and is involved with Business Volunteers Unlimited, the Cleveland School of Science and Medicine and Baldwin-Wallace College.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Randell McShepard on being named the 2011 Black Professional of the Year.

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HONORING DENNIS ZIEMIENSKI OF  
GLENN ELLEN, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 24, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative