

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MONICA'S CHURCH

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to St. Monica's Catholic Church in San Francisco's Richmond District on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. The Anniversary Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Robert McElroy and Fr. John Greene, pastor of St. Monica's Church and chaplain to the San Francisco Fire Department.

The Richmond District of San Francisco had expanded after the 1906 earthquake and its Catholic residents needed a congregation. St. Monica's Parish was founded in January 1911 and the church was built in 1918 funded by donations of the parishioners. From its humble beginnings, when the Richmond District was made up of mostly Irish-American and Italian-American residents, the parish has become a spiritual home to an ethnically and culturally diverse population.

St. Monica's School was founded in 1919 by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. It is a co-ed Catholic elementary school that welcomes students from all faiths and cultural backgrounds and well represents the cultural diversity of its neighborhood.

It was my privilege to attend the June 2011 funeral Mass for fallen firefighters Anthony Valerio and Vincent Perez officiated by Fr. John Greene. Each year a Mass is held to commemorate the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center. Many of these masses are held at St. Monica's because it is a favorite church of San Francisco firefighters for weddings as well as funerals.

All San Franciscans are grateful for Fr. Greene's leadership and his dedication to our first responders. The individuals and families in Fr. Greene's parish have been blessed with a Pastor who has strengthened their church and school, built community and inspired their love for service and their love of God.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EMPOWERING AND STRENGTHENING OHIO'S PEOPLE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP), an organization dedicated to providing assistance to homeowners who are facing foreclosure, or struggling to make their monthly mortgage payments due to a predatory lending or hardship situation.

The East Side Organizing Project was founded by Inez Killingsworth in 1993 as a means to address the unsafe conditions of her Union-Miles neighborhood. During the early 1990s, ESOP, under Ms. Killingsworth's leadership, began to rally against the lack of credit available to African Americans in the community. When predatory lending in the area increased and more and more community members were facing mortgage payments they could no longer afford, ESOP turned its focus

to addressing this growing problem. ESOP became a statewide venture in 2008, when it opened 10 offices throughout the state of Ohio. The organization was then renamed Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People. ESOP acts as a foreclosure counseling agency. Through tactics varying from protesting banks to negotiating agreements between lenders and borrowers to taking financial executives on tours of the collapsing neighborhoods that are in peril due to predatory lending, ESOP has helped thousands of families in Ohio avoid losing their homes. In 2010, ESOP helped save more than 3,200 homes from foreclosure.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People and its advocacy work on behalf of Ohio homeowners.

RECOGNIZING GENE DEWS

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exemplary individual—Gene Dews—who has dedicated much of his lifetime to cultivating student athletes in the state of Alabama.

Dews is a Fort Gaines, Georgia, native and a graduate of Clay County High School. He also earned degrees from Georgia Southwestern College and Troy State University.

Dews began his career in coaching as an assistant baseball coach at Troy State University in Troy, Alabama. He held that position for 13 years before becoming the head baseball coach at Wallace Community College in Dothan, Alabama in 1990. The next year Dews also became the athletic director at Wallace, a position he held until his recent retirement.

In 2001, Dews switched from the baseball diamond to the softball field and established one of the top community college softball programs in the nation. During his tenure, Wallace Community College won nine consecutive Southern Division championships, three state championships—which included trips to the Junior College World Series. Under Dews' leadership of Wallace's softball team, there were 15 All-Americans for player performance and nine selected as Academic All-Americans.

In 2008, Coach Dews was inducted into the Wiregrass Sports Hall of Fame—an acknowledgment of his significant and successful career. I applaud Dews for his dedication to student athletes and his involvement with college athletics for 35 years.

I wish Coach Dews the best in his retirement as he spends more time with his wife, Mary Ann, their children and grandchildren—and continued involvement with his church as a Deacon at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Headland, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Gene Dews. I am grateful for his service, and proudly recognize his contribution to the betterment of student athletes, and others, in the great state of Alabama.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SHERIFF JIM LOWMAN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the life of retired Escambia County Sheriff Jim Lowman. Sheriff Lowman was an esteemed leader in Northwest Florida, and I am proud to honor his lifetime of dedication and service.

Sheriff Lowman was a respected and vital member of the Northwest Florida community. He served as dean at Woodham High School in Pensacola, Florida, before working as a counselor at the Juvenile Center. Although Sheriff Lowman did not have any prior experience serving in public office, he possessed a vast deal of first-hand knowledge of local law enforcement through his work as a juvenile counselor. In 1992, Sheriff Lowman decided to run for Escambia County Sheriff, and his highly successful campaign reflected his ability to work closely with the citizens of Escambia County to improve the local community. He was elected Sheriff and served in that capacity from 1993–2000.

When Sheriff Lowman's term began in January 1993, he undertook a thorough assessment of the department and concluded that the department was understaffed. In order to facilitate the recruitment of new deputies, Sheriff Lowman encouraged the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners to enroll in the Public Hiring Supply Program. The Commission agreed and during Sheriff Lowman's tenure the force was increased by nearly 60 percent.

Under Sheriff Lowman's direction, the Escambia County Sheriff's Department also undertook important measures to tackle alcohol and drug abuse. They forged a close working relationship with the Community Drug and Alcohol Program. Additionally, the Sheriff's Department identified key areas of drug trafficking and worked with the managers of these properties to develop a security plan. Gatekeepers, often off-duty Sheriff's deputies, patrolled the area to ensure that outside drug traffickers could not set up distribution points within housing developments.

Sheriff Lowman also oversaw a \$2 million expansion of the County Jail. This expansion improved county facilities and helped to lessen crowding in the jail. Despite overseeing substantial improvements, Sheriff Lowman was able to run his department in a fiscally responsible manner, and in his final year he returned nearly \$900,000 in unused funds back to the County.

While Sheriff Lowman was an invaluable member of the Northwest Florida community, and many will remember him for his tireless effort combating crime and improving the lives of Escambia County's citizens, he was first and foremost a family man. He was a loving and dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife Sue, their four children—Jamie, Jennifer Sue, Lesley, and Scott—and their grandchildren, Gavin and Jay Scott.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize the life and service of Sheriff Jim Lowman. A committed community leader and loving family

man—he will be missed by many, but his memory will live on through the timeless legacy he left. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our thoughts and prayers to the entire Lowman family.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. MICHAEL JOSE CHARLES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Dr. Michael Jose Charles for his many accomplishments in the health care field for the residents in my district of Brooklyn, New York.

Michael Jose Charles was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti where he attended Father Andre's college Canado Haitian and College Classiques D'Haiti. Following an excellent high school career, Michael's outstanding scholastic achievement earned him entry into the school of Medicine at North East University Tampico, Tamps, Mexico where he graduated at the top of his class. While in Mexico, Dr. Charles served as General Practitioner, Counselor and Advisor, while performing various preventative medicine functions as a Public Health Agent at the General Hospital at Tampico.

In 1986, Dr. Charles migrated to New York and completed his Postgraduate studies at Columbia University. He also completed a residency program in Internal Medicine and a fellowship in Gastroenterology at the SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. Dr. Charles is also Board Certified as an Internist and Gastroenterologist.

Dr. Charles' professional accomplishments are notable. He served as an attending physician in the Department of Health and Emergency Medical at Ryker's Island, Kings County Hospital, VA Brooklyn, SUNY Downstate, Brookdale Hospital and Paul Cooper Drug Rehabilitation Program. Currently, Dr. Charles serves as attending physician and program director at Brookdale Hospital, while maintaining a thriving private practice. He also volunteers on several medical missions venturing to Haiti, Guyana and the Dominican Republic.

From a physician's perspective Dr. Charles notes that injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane form of discrimination. As a person, he recognizes that ethnicity and social class often determine these disparities. With this knowledge in mind, he goes out of his way to show compassion and concern for humanity, especially to the underprivileged, and he has dedicated his life to provide service to those needy people.

Dr. Charles is humbled by his success and gives credit to his mother. Most important, he thanks his wife of over twenty-five years and his immediate family for their undying love and support. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Charles for his accomplishments in the area of health care and his service to Brooklyn and New York.

IN COMMEMORATION OF MR. JOHN KEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. John Key, a resident of Long Branch, New Jersey. Mr. Key was an active member of the Asbury Park, New Jersey community and passed away at the age of 37 during a tragic accident on the Garden State Parkway in New Jersey. His positive spirit and inspirational leadership as a football coach and educator are undoubtedly worthy of this body's recognition.

John Key dedicated his life to the development of his students on and off the football field. A star running back and linebacker at Ocean Township High School from 1988 to 1991, Mr. Key conveyed his knowledge and love for football to his students. As early as 1997, Mr. Key accepted an Assistant football Coach at Ocean Township High School. He continued to accept various coaching positions, which included a running back coaching positions at the University of Connecticut. He eventually led this team to the County Fair Championship in 2004. Mr. Key served as Assistant Head Coach of the Monmouth Regional High School Track team before accepting his current position with the Asbury Park High School football team as Assistant Coach. Throughout his career, Mr. Key brilliantly managed day-to-day operations for various football teams, planned and organized football practices and games and supervised various offseason strength and conditioning programs. John Key is a proud alumnus of the University of Delaware and also served as a teacher with the Asbury Park School District since September 2000. He recently earned a principal certificate and admirably began to pave a bright and successful future.

Members of the Asbury Park School District remember John Key as a tenacious and altruistic role model who continued to believe in himself and the student athletes he mentored. Colleagues, friends and loved ones remembered him as an outstanding and positive individual with a contagious smile and kind spirit. He is survived by his parents and two children. Mr. Key's outstanding rapport with students was evident through his actions and has undoubtedly touched the lives of countless individuals throughout Monmouth County.

Mr. Speaker, John Key dedicated his life to mentoring and coaching students and athletes. His legacy has served as an inspiration to us all and he will truly be missed.

MALAWI: HOSTING A WAR CRIMINAL WITH IMPUNITY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record a copy of a letter I sent to all of the Board Members of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) urging that Malawi immediately cease to be an MCC recipient in light of the government's decision to host Sudanese

President Omar al-Bashir—an internationally indicted war criminal. I also submit two news stories about the visit.

I take no comfort in the fact that on July 26, MCC placed a hold on Malawi's compact activities "due to concerns about the government's commitment to good governance, rule of law, and human rights." This decision was made prior to Bashir's visit. If anything, Malawi's recent red carpet welcome of Bashir is further evidence that they are ill-suited to receive MCC funding, especially in the face of economic challenges here at home.

An October 20 BBC story reported that, "Mr Bashir was welcomed by a military guard of honor when he arrived in the capital, Lilongwe, for a trade summit last weekend. . . ." This is unconscionable—Bashir has blood on his hands from the genocide in Darfur as well as the unfolding atrocities in the Nuba Mountains.

And yet, the administration has been publicly silent. If Malawi's actions don't prompt a response, I don't know what does.

Martin Luther King famously said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." The long-suffering people of Sudan will not soon forget our silence.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 18, 2011.

Hon. RON KIRK,
U.S. Trade Representative,
Washington DC.

DEAR MR. KIRK: I write today to share with you the enclosed letter I sent to President Obama, Secretary Clinton, and Mr. Yohannes last week. I am deeply concerned that the Malawi government welcomed Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on Friday, essentially rolling out the red carpet for this internationally indicted war criminal. I believe this should be of concern to you, too.

As I stated in my letter, Malawi should be dropped immediately from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) compact. The MCC compact with Malawi should not just be put on an operational hold but should be cancelled indefinitely. The very thought of U.S. taxpayers providing money to a country that has opened its doors to a wanted war criminal should be reason enough to cancel both MCC and American foreign aid funding altogether for Malawi.

As you know, Bashir is responsible for the deaths of thousands of Sudanese people. If funding for Malawi is not cancelled, the MCC will be complicit in aiding a country that has supported a genocidal government and would henceforth lack legitimacy and should be completely shutdown. The American people should expect nothing less.

Bashir's warm welcome by the Malawian government is a clear demonstration of its lack of commitment to good governance—a core principle of MCC partnerships. Every time a country allows Bashir to enter, it provides this war criminal with credibility. The longer he is in office, the more people will be killed.

Bashir is strikingly similar to Slobodan Milosevic, except that this tragedy is not taking place in Europe but rather among the poorest of the poor in Africa. As you may know, I was one of only 16 Republicans to vote against a 1999 resolution to try to cease military operations in Yugoslavia after President Clinton had intervened to end the genocide—similar to that of what is taking place in Sudan today.

I have enclosed several new photos that I received from a contact living in the Nuba Mountains. He continues to document the destruction and terror inflicted upon innocent people on a daily basis by Bashir's