

HONORING THE LIFE OF JERRY WORKMAN

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jerry Workman. Brother Workman, as he was called by the almost 5,000 students he taught, was a beloved science teacher for over 40 years at Pecos High School in Pecos, Texas. After battling colon and abdominal cancer, Mr. Workman passed away on October 6, 2011. However, his memory will live on through the thousands of students he mentored and inspired through his love of teaching.

Jerry Samuel Workman, Sr. was born on March 7, 1940 in Angel-Flatts, Texas. Mr. Workman moved to Pecos in 1965 to pursue a job opportunity after serving in the U.S. Army and the National Guard. Unable to find the job he was seeking, he was invited to apply for an opening as a teacher at Pecos High School and teach "for a year or two." Forty-six years later, he was still teaching. Over the years Mr. Workman selflessly taught thousands of students and coached numerous UIL Science teams; drove countless miles in a school bus, and helped students find scholarships to attend college.

When Jerry Workman was diagnosed with cancer, his family set up a Facebook page to update past and present students on his health. The page called, "Jerry Workman taught me more than Chemistry," has become populated with friends, family, and former students sharing memories of Brother Workman. Jerry Workman dedicated his life to serving the youth of Pecos, Texas. His passing is a great loss to not only the community, but the entire State of Texas.

IN HONOR OF MR. HERB THOMAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Herb Thomas, a photojournalist and news videographer for Cleveland's WJW, who is being honored by the Press Club of Cleveland with the 2011 Chuck Heaton Award.

Herb attended Thomas Edison High School in Cleveland, Ohio before joining WJW in 1969 as a set designer. Throughout the years Herb has worked in a number of capacities for the station including director of print operations, member of the studio camera crew, photojournalist and videographer. He is also responsible for creating WJW's sign off programs "Meditation" and "Celebration."

Herb is a local celebrity in Cleveland and played "Soul Man" on the Big Chuck and Little John Show for many years. He has been featured in PM Magazine, listed in the "Who's Who" in Success Magazine and named "One of Cleveland's Most Interesting People" in Cleveland Magazine. Herb is also the founder and president of thomavisions and of the performing arts choir, "Prayer Warriors."

Herb has been honored in the past as well for his quality of work and dedication to jour-

nalism. He has won 12 Emmys, two International Gabriel awards and documentary honors by the Ohio Society of Professional Journalists. Herb was also inducted in the Ohio Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2000.

In addition to being inducted in the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame, Class of 2011, Herb is this year's recipient of the Chuck Heaton Award. The Chuck Heaton Award honors an individual who best exemplifies the qualities of the Plain Dealer's longtime sports writer and columnist, Chuck Heaton. Mr. Heaton was known for his dedication to journalism and community.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating WJW's Herb Thomas as the Press Club of Cleveland names him the 2011 Chuck Heaton Award recipient.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 812, I had district work that required my presence. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING MR. MAURICE VEISSI

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Maurice "Moe" Veissi, an outstanding realtor and person who has supported the Miami community for over 40 years. Having known Moe for several years, I can attest to his exemplary character and his commitment to his profession and the people he serves.

Moe is the 2011 President-Elect of the National Association of Realtors (NAR), and broker-owner of Veissi & Associates located in Miami, FL. He served on the Strategic Investment Reserve Advisory Board for NAR, also serving as a regional vice president for Region V in 2005. Moe has served on NAR's Board of Directors since 1999, along with numerous NAR committees.

Moe was also elected president of the Florida Association of Realtors (FAR) in 2002, and in 2003 was named "Realtor of the Year". On the local level, he has served as president of the Realtor Association of Greater Miami and The Beaches, and was twice appointed to as the Economic Development Chairman. Active in his community, Moe founded the Silent Angels Charitable Foundation, has coached several youth sports teams and also volunteers for numerous organizations such as Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Maurice Veissi for his continued service to the Miami community. It will be great to have a model South Floridian representing such a well-respected national organization. He is an exceptional leader for the community, and I am privileged to call him my friend. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual.

IN HONOR OF U.S. ARMY SERGEANT FIRST CLASS HOUSTON M. TAYLOR

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Army Sergeant First Class Houston M. Taylor who was killed on October 13, 2011 in Kunar Province, Afghanistan. He was working in support of Operation Enduring Freedom while serving with Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division based at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Sergeant First Class Taylor was posthumously promoted to Sergeant First Class and awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his actions.

Sergeant First Class Taylor was 25 years old, attended Azle High School, in Azle, Texas, and enlisted in the Army in 2005. His first assignment was to Fort Lewis, Washington, with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. Sergeant First Class Taylor deployed to Iraq in 2006 and 2008 before deploying to Afghanistan in early 2011. Sergeant Taylor was killed during his third combat tour. He leaves behind his high school sweetheart and wife, Kelsey Rae Taylor, and two young children, Rylan, and Avery.

Sergeant First Class Taylor gallantly and selflessly gave his life in the service of his country when insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire while they were on foot patrol in Afghanistan. Major Dave Eastburn, a spokesman for the brigade in which Sergeant First Class Taylor served, said Sergeant First Class Taylor "was a warrior, a great leader, and will be truly missed." This affirmation only confirms what his family and friends already knew about Sergeant First Class Taylor. His mother knew from an early age that he was destined for the service and his wife said that "he never complained about anything he had to do" in the Army.

I wish to extend my condolences to Sergeant First Class Taylor's wife, Kelsey Rae, his children, Rylan and Avery, his parents, and all of his family and friends. I hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on both this grateful nation and his fellow soldiers.

MAKING PROGRESS ON PAID SICK LEAVE

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support employers and businesses that provide paid sick leave to American workers across the country. Workers should be able to take care of themselves or family members who are sick without risking losing their jobs or a day's wages. The businesses in my district have worked closely with the City of Seattle, and particularly Seattle City Councilmember Nick Licata, to be leaders on this issue. I want to commend the City of Seattle for recently adopting paid sick leave for workers, demonstrating direct support for working families

and protecting public health. Seattle joins with San Francisco, Milwaukee, Washington, DC and Connecticut in taking a big step to ease some of the burden on working families. I also applaud the work of the many coalitions across the country that are building support for implementing paid sick leave for the forty-four million workers who cannot take the time off they need.

Representative ROSA DELAURO of Connecticut recently sponsored H.R. 1876, The Healthy Families Act, which I support. This piece of legislation requires certain employers to allow workers to earn an hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours they work. The Healthy Families Act provides workers with the flexibility to address their own health needs as well as those of their family members. This Act also keeps public and private health care costs low by enabling workers and their families to seek early and routine medical care. This creates a vital safety net for working parents who shouldn't have to risk a day's wages or losing their jobs when they or their family members get sick. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

RECOGNIZING SHEKEMA SILVERI,
WINNER OF THE 2011 NATIONAL
MILKEN EDUCATOR OF THE
YEAR AWARD

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor a hard-working and talented educator in my district, Ms. Shekema Silveri.

Ms. Silveri teaches Language Arts at Mount Zion High School in Jonesboro, Georgia, and she received the Milken Educator Award on Friday, October 21, 2011 at a surprise ceremony held at the school. This award is one of the most prestigious national honors an educator can receive. The Milken Educator Award recognizes extraordinary educational talent, models of excellence, and great potential for professional and policy leadership.

Ms. Silveri is an outstanding example of excellence in teaching. She continues to innovate and strives to motivate her students to become visionaries. At a school with a large at-risk student population, Ms. Silveri's students are doing exceptionally well—all of her students passed the Georgia American Literature End of Course Test. She is also a leader outside the classroom, mentoring fellow teachers and leading the implementation of a remediation program for seniors.

Ms. Shekema Silveri is an inspirational role model not only to her students, but also to her fellow teachers. Mr. Speaker, honorable colleagues, I invite you to join me today in recognizing this exemplary educator for all of her achievements. I look forward to hearing news of her future success.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
AND SERVICE OF DANIEL E.
MULLINS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daniel Mullins, upon his retirement from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), Santa Rosa County Extension Office. For over 40 years, Daniel Mullins has dedicated his career to educating and serving the Gulf Coast region through his passion for horticultural science.

A graduate of Mississippi State University, Daniel Mullins joined the University of Florida IFAS Extension office in Escambia County in 1970 and became the first horticulture agent in the Florida Panhandle and west of Tallahassee. He established a weekly gardening clinic, local nursery association chapter, published a weekly gardening column in the Pensacola News Journal, and served as part of a team documenting Northwest Florida beach dune plants. He also visited Europe to study cut flower production in Holland and applied those lessons to Florida. After seven years in Escambia County, he returned home to his native Mississippi to open his own landscape business, The Country Gardener.

Returning to Florida in 1989, Mr. Mullins began work with the Santa Rosa County Extension Office as the Commercial Horticulture Agent. Mr. Mullins was responsible for Extension educational programs for specialty crop producers of fruits and vegetables and the horticultural services industry, including nurseries, garden centers, and landscape professionals.

In Santa Rosa County, Mr. Mullins helped establish the Florida Digital Diagnostic System, designed a diagnostic lab that was included in the Santa Rosa County's Extension facility, taught plant grafting to nursery personnel and 4-H youth for more than 15 years and helped establish the Panhandle Butterfly House. He was the first person to identify chestnut blight on Chinquapin in Florida, and established a low-chill apple demonstration orchard to teach the importance of variety selection.

Throughout the course of his career, Mr. Mullins has received over fifty awards and honors, most at the state, Southeast regional, or national levels. Mr. Mullins also wrote over 1,200 newspaper columns, conducted over 3,000 field visits, and served as the National Horticulture Chair for the National Association of County Agricultural Agents in 2002, as well as both the Audit Committee Chair and Communications Committee Chair for the Florida Association of County Agricultural Agents. As he begins retirement, he leaves behind a remarkable career full of accomplishments and one through which he has touched the lives of thousands in Northwest Florida.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to congratulate Daniel Mullins on his retirement and thank him for his service to the Gulf Coast. My wife Vicki and I wish him and his wife Vickie, and their three children, Katie, Sarah, and Jackson, all the best.

SOUTHEAST ARIZONA LAND EX-
CHANGE AND CONSERVATION
ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1904) to facilitate the efficient extraction of mineral resources in southeast Arizona by authorizing and directing an exchange of Federal and non-Federal land, and for other purposes:

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chair, I rise reluctantly to oppose this legislation that authorizes a land exchange between the federal government and a private company to benefit that company's commercial interests. The bill conveys 2,400 acres of federal lands to Resolution Copper, an Australian mining company, in exchange for 5,300 acres of Resolution Copper's land to the federal government. In principle, I am strongly in favor of the privatization of federal government land and I only wish we would do more of it. This is not the way to privatize federal land, however. Rather than determine the real market value of the land, such as through a public auction process, the legislation names the company to receive the land with the stipulation that a yearly assessment of the land may result in a value adjustment payment to the federal government by that company. This additional fee would be paid to a special fund controlled by the Department of the Interior.

Absent any free market mechanism to determine the real value of the land being conveyed, this looks like a special deal for one company. Even with the best intentions and intelligence on the part of the government, only free market mechanisms can accurately determine value.

Also, doing the math on this bill it will result in the federal government controlling more land than before the bill! So rather than a privatization program it is an anti-privatization program.

I am all for privatization of federal lands, and I am all for private industry profiting from this country's labor and natural resources. However, setting up these public/private partnerships and special deals is not the way to go about it. I sincerely hope that we will rethink this approach in favor of an open and public auction where as many companies may compete as might have an interest, even if we must change existing laws to do so.

IN HONOR OF KELLY O'DONNELL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Kelly O'Donnell, a political reporter for NBC, who is being honored by the Press Club of Cleveland and inducted into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame, Class of 2011.

Born and raised in Euclid and Cleveland's University Heights neighborhoods, Kelly attended Northwestern University. After graduating in 1987 from Northwestern's School of