

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN JEROME

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 45th year of Mr. Stephen Jerome's work as president of Monroe College, who has given four and a half decades to providing service to the faculty, staff, and students. Mr. Jerome's efforts have been truly outstanding. Because of his work, Monroe has become a regionally-accredited college that provides a core value of unmatched personal and professional service to more than ten thousand students. He achieves this by providing an environment that solidifies the fullest potential of each student.

As President, Mr. Jerome has fostered many new applications to the university. These new programs include the introduction of the college's championship-caliber athletic programs and a unique foundation that can only be described as an excellent work environment; this has led to the college becoming the number one provider of undergraduate degrees to minority students in New York State. As well as supporting award-winning student academic organizations, Mr. Jerome is thoroughly involved in the community. He has helped to provide lighting, security, street cleaning, and holiday parties for children. Mr. Jerome also provides entrepreneurial assistance to the local neighborhood residents and businesses. In accordance with his community efforts, Mr. Jerome has offered college-level classes at the high school level, through the Jumpstart program, to encourage young students to attend college.

Even as the active President of Monroe College, Mr. Jerome continues to assume many leadership roles. He is currently the President of the New York State Association of Proprietary Colleges and has held this position for over two decades. He also holds a position as a Trustee of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Jerome has formerly been a member of the College Presidents' Council for the Governor's office on New York State Financial Aid and been the former Commissioner of the Accrediting Commission of the Association of Independent Colleges and Schools. As a former member of the New York State Education Commissioner's Advisory Council on Higher Education and the former President of the Fordham Road Area Development corporation, it is apparent that no amount of work can deter Mr. Jerome's efforts in providing for the community and improving many systems of education.

With all of the years of service Mr. Jerome has given, and all of the leadership positions that he has taken upon himself, he still remains a family man. With his wife Leslie, he instills the importance of hard work and education to their three children: Marc, Evan, and Laura, who pass along his teachings to his 9 young grandchildren. Stephen Jerome has gone above and beyond for Monroe College and the community. This 45th anniversary of his time at the college can act as a reminder to all who were ever inspired, given an opportunity, or thrived within the higher standards he implemented that these effects came from the hard work and drive of one man, the President of Monroe College, The Leader of

many institutions, the family man, Mr. Stephen Jerome.

TRIBUTE TO JOE FRAZIER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a notable South Carolinian, who rose from humble beginnings to make an indelible mark on the world. Smokin' Joe—Joe Frazier—passed from this life on November 7, 2011, but his legacy lives on through his extraordinary achievements in the boxing ring.

Joe Frazier was born to sharecroppers in Beaufort, South Carolina, on June 22, 1944. He was one of 13 children, who never had "a little-boy life." He grew up helping his father chop wood. His father had lost his left arm after being shot as a young man, and Joe always took the left handle on a two-handed saw, which he attributes to helping him build his devastating left hook.

Most people know of Joe Frazier's athletic accomplishments as America's first gold-medal winning boxer and his thrilling defeat of Muhammad Ali in March 1971. It was what occurred on April 7, 1971, that provided me my greatest memory of the boxing legend.

At the time, I was the first African American to hold an advisory position with a sitting South Carolina governor. Governor John West hired me in January 1971 and just three months later, the governor and the South Carolina Legislature invited Joe Frazier, fresh off his defeat of Ali, to come speak to the South Carolina General Assembly.

This was a remarkable occasion. In January 1971, the first three African Americans since Reconstruction were sworn in as members of the South Carolina House of Representatives. Desegregation was just beginning to take hold in many public schools in the state. And the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission had not yet been established to eliminate and prevent unlawful discrimination.

Joe Frazier was the first African American since Reconstruction to receive an invitation to speak to the South Carolina General Assembly. As World Heavyweight Champion, he could have easily declined the opportunity. Instead, he chose to embrace it. He used the opportunity to try and build bridges and encourage race relations.

In his remarks, Smokin' Joe said our country could get beyond our racial problems if blacks and whites would "play together, work together and pray together." He went on to say, "We must save our people, and when I say 'our people' I mean white and black. We need to quit thinking about who drives the fanciest car or who is my little daughter going to play with, who is she going to sit next to in school. We don't have time for that." His 10-year-old daughter then stole the show by exclaiming, "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee. My daddy is the one who whipped Muhammad Ali."

But Joe Frazier's most poignant comments were when he talked about attaining his dreams. "I am here today as a young man whose boyhood dream was realized when I won the heavyweight championship of the world." That was proof he said "you can do

anything you want to do if you really put your heart and soul and mind into it."

That young man with his dream fulfilled used that same trip back to South Carolina to purchase his mother, Dolly Frazier, a new home to fulfill one of her dreams. He moved his widowed mother and his sisters, who remained at home, into what became known as the Frazier Plantation near Yemassee, South Carolina. This was a far cry from the small home he grew up in without indoor plumbing and holes in the roof.

I had the great fortune of visiting and dining with Joe, his mother and sisters in the new Frazier homestead. They were great supporters of my political endeavors, and they remained salt-of-the-earth people despite the success of the youngest Frazier son.

Joe Frazier died at the age of 67 in his adopted home of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He, like so many other young African Americans born in the segregated South, left to find better opportunities in the world. In doing so, Smokin' Joe made the world a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the remarkable life of Joe Frazier. He will always represent the extraordinary combination of talent and tenacity. He was blessed with tremendous determination and a mental toughness that served him well as a boxer and outstanding human being. He served as an inspiration to so many, and that is a true sign of a life well lived.

HONORING RON GASTIA FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF BANGOR, ME

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bangor Police Chief Ron Gastia for his remarkable leadership in raising awareness on the bath salts crisis that is currently sweeping through the nation.

Chief Gastia has been a trusted and effective member of Maine law enforcement for nearly three decades. Since becoming chief of Bangor PD in 2007, Ron has gone above and beyond to make the city safer for its residents. In particular, his exemplary response to the sudden emergence of the synthetic drug known as "bath salts" illustrates the impressive scope of his leadership.

In the last year, Bangor and several surrounding areas have been flooded with a synthetic hallucinogenic stimulant known as "bath salts." Although largely unknown a year ago, bath salts have become one of the preeminent health and safety issues in Maine. The reported incidents involving this highly dangerous drug have skyrocketed in recent months, reaching epidemic levels in Maine and throughout the country.

Chief Gastia's efforts to raise awareness about this crisis have been remarkable. In addition to being vocal in the media, he was instrumental in working with state legislators to criminalize the drug in Maine. Further, on October 20, 2011 Chief Gastia briefed me, the Office of National Drug Control Policy Deputy Director Benjamin Tucker and an assembled body of federal law enforcement officials on

Bangor's experience with bath salts. His testimony will be a valuable resource as drug enforcement agencies develop comprehensive strategies to address the emergency of synthetic drugs like bath salts.

While much work still needs to be done to address the threat of bath salts, I know that the Bangor community and the State of Maine are fortunate to have Chief Gastia on watch. I wish him and the Bangor Police Department the best of luck as we continue to tackle this important problem.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Chief Ron Gastia for his tremendous service to the people of the City of Bangor and the State of Maine.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 4, 2011, I was unable to be present for part of a series of recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"No" on rollcall vote No. 830 (on agreeing to H. Res. 455, providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 2838);

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 831 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3321);

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 832 (on agreeing to the Cummings amendment to H.R. 2838);

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 833 (on agreeing to the Thompson amendment to H.R. 2838);

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 834 (on agreeing to the Napolitano amendment to H.R. 2838);

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 835 (on agreeing to the Bishop amendment to H.R. 2838); and

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 836 (on agreeing to the Slaughter amendment to H.R. 2838).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall votes on November 4, 2011 and would like the record to reflect that I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 829: "no"; rollcall No. 830: "no"; rollcall No. 831: "yes"; rollcall No. 832: "yes"; rollcall No. 833: "yes"; rollcall No. 834: "yes"; rollcall No. 835: "yes"; rollcall No. 836: "yes."

THE PASSING OF "MR. WINCHESTER," BEN DUTTON

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I share with the House today the sad news of the passing of iconic Winchester, Virginia, native, Benjamin Dutton, Jr., 86. Known as "Mr. Winchester," Ben died November 9 at his home with his wife Jean, fondly called "Whip," at his side.

A man of honor and the highest moral character, Ben was one of the finest Virginia gentlemen that I have ever known.

After Whip and their three daughters and their families, Ben's lifelong love was Winchester and especially the annual Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival. He was one of the festival's longest serving contributors, holding positions of executive director, president, and board member. Ben continued to be involved in "the Bloom" up until his passing.

The son of the late Dr. Benjamin and Ann Dutton, Ben attended Winchester public schools, graduating from Handley High School in 1943. He served his country in the U.S. Army infantry from 1943–46 and afterward attended the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, receiving an A.B. degree in 1950. After college, he began a career in the insurance industry, serving as an agent in Louisiana and Roanoke, Virginia, from 1951–63. But the tug of his native city brought him back to Winchester in 1963 and he became associated with J.V. Arthur Inc. as a vice president and partner, retiring from there in 1987.

Never one to sit idly, Ben soon found a second career as a public servant. He first served as the field representative in the Winchester office of our former colleague, the late D. French Slaughter Jr., who represented Winchester and Frederick and Clarke counties until 1991 when the area was part of the 7th Congressional District, and later served in the same position for George Allen, who succeeded Congressman Slaughter for a year before his successful election as governor of Virginia. When redistricting in 1992 brought that area of Virginia into the 10th District, I was proud that Ben became a member of my constituent services staff in my Winchester office, serving for 15 years until his retirement in 2010.

Ben was a "people" person. When you met Ben, you became his friend for life. He had a warm and infectious smile and always made time for anyone who crossed his path. His foremost motivation in life was helping people and thousands of residents of Winchester and the surrounding area can attest to his servant's heart.

Ben also was a "doer." He was involved throughout his long life in city government and numerous civic and community organizations. Among his citations of public recognition were the Outstanding Citizen Award from the Winchester-Frederick County Chamber of Commerce and the President's Award for Community Service from Shenandoah University. I will submit for the RECORD, Ben's obituary from the Winchester Star, which includes greater detail on Ben's illustrious life.

Ben truly fulfilled in his life the biblical praise: "Well done, good and faithful servant." We are all better for having had the honor of knowing Ben and calling him our friend.

To Whip, his wife of 59 years, and their daughters Fay, Virginia, and Whipple, and their families, I express on behalf of the people of the 10th District our heartfelt sympathy and also our gratitude to you for sharing Ben with us.

BENJAMIN BLANTON DUTTON, JR.

Benjamin Blanton Dutton, Jr., 86, died on Wednesday, November 9, 2011, in his home in Winchester, Virginia.

Mr. Dutton was born in 1925, in Winchester, Virginia, the son of the late Dr. Benjamin and Ann Dutton. He attended Winchester

Public Schools and graduated from Handley High School, Class of 1943. Mr. Dutton served in the United States Army, in the Infantry, from 1943–1946 achieving the rank of Sergeant. He attended University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia where he received, an A.B. Degree in 1950. He was employed by Hartford Fires Insurance Company from 1951–1963 and served as Special Agent for The Hartford in Louisiana and Roanoke, Virginia.

Mr. Dutton returned to Winchester in 1963 to become associated with J. V. Arthur, Inc., as a Vice President and partner, remaining in that position until his retirement in June 1987. He was employed by Congressman D. French Slaughter, Jr., as Field Representative in the Winchester, Virginia office and served in that capacity until Mr. Slaughter's resignation in November 1991. Mr. Dutton continued as a Field Representative for Congressman George Allen during his tenure in congress, from November 1991 until December 1992. Mr. Dutton then became the Field Representative for Congressman Frank R. Wolf from January, 1993 until April, 1995.

He served as Executive Director of the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival from April 1995 until July 1997 and was then hired by Congressman Wolf as a Field Representative in July, 1997 until his retirement in 2010.

Mr. Dutton was a member of Christ Episcopal Church in Winchester, a member of the Winchester Rotary from 1963 to present and served on the Board of Directors several times as well as Secretary and Treasurer. He was active in the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival since childhood and was President of the festival in 1970, 1971, and 1972. He volunteered as Executive Director in 1972 and currently is on the Festival Board of Directors. Mr. Dutton was a two term President of the Winchester-Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, member of the Winchester Common Council for three terms, from 1966–1978, Winchester Parking Authority from 1966–1990 and Chairman 1980–1990; Winchester Transportation Safety Commission from 1968–1988. In addition he was a member of and Secretary-Treasurer of the Winchester Regional Airport Authority from 1987–1994; and served as Past Chairman of the Salvation Army Advisory Board.

Mr. Dutton was an Honorary member of the Winchester Medical Center Board; a licensed Amateur Radio operator and was licensed as a Glider Pilot.

His Virginia State activities include past chairman, State Insurance Board, Commonwealth of Virginia; past member, State Fire Services Commission, Commonwealth of Virginia; Past President, Independent Insurance Agents of Virginia, Inc.; past member, Board of Directors, Virginia Financial Services Corporation and past member, Regional Economic Development Advisory Council for District 5, Commonwealth of Virginia.

He was Past President of the Independent Insurance Agents of Winchester, Inc.; a member of the Board of Directors Emeritus and the Wayside Theatre, Middletown, Virginia from 1976–1979; and currently a member of the Corporation of Valley Health System, Inc and current member of the Advisory Committee of the Institute for Government and Public Policy at Shenandoah University.

Mr. Dutton was awarded the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels in 1970; Outstanding Citizen Award, Winchester-Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, 1975; Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow; Winchester-Frederick County Chamber of Commerce Transportation Award, 1992, and Presidents Award for Community Service (Shenandoah University), 2002.

He married Jean Rogers Whipple on June 14, 1952, in Vienna, Georgia.