

the help of Brother Carter, Deacons Steve and Sally Wilson, Francis Green, Sister Bertie Mae Hamilton, Meryl Berry, Melvin Robinson, Phyllis Lovaretta, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church was first led by the inspiring Pastor Dr. P.B. Mdoona and his wife First Lady Willie Pearl Mdoona. A few years later, under the leadership of Pastor W.R. Erwin and his wife First Lady Winifred Erwin, property was purchased on West Mill Street to build a new permanent home. In 1989, Dr. Earl James became Pastor, and along with his wife First Lady Sydney James, worked hard to expand the church and its ministries by adding an additional forty-five hundred square feet to the church. In 2007 Pastor James retired and placed the church's reins in the capable hands of Pastor Henry L. Lewis, Jr. and his wife Sister Agatha Shorter-Lewis. Since then, they have centered their work on empowering the community by empowering the family.

For half a century, the ministries at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church have supported Central Coast families, neighbors, and even strangers. It has been a steady source of solace and provided selfless service to the elderly, homeless, and our youth. In fact, many of the church's congregants can be found volunteering at a homeless shelter, singing to the sick, or bringing young adults in the community together in a safe environment.

Mr. Speaker, each day New Hope Missionary Baptist Church lives up to its name, bringing hope to all it touches. With the burning of its mortgage in 2001, we all are very pleased to have the certainty this carries to the congregation and to the Central Coast.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking and celebrating New Hope Missionary Baptist Church for its leadership and service to our community. I am confident the church's fine work will continue to provide comfort and inspiration to all of us on the Central Coast.

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE
JUDGE PATRICK CARROLL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Honorable Judge Patrick Carroll of the Lakewood Municipal Court, who is being recognized at Recovery Resources' Bronze Key Gala on November 17, 2011.

Judge Carroll attended Cleveland State University, and graduated in 1974 with a bachelor's of arts degree, majoring in economics. In 1977, he earned his Juris Doctor degree from CSU's Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and was admitted to the Ohio Bar Association the same year.

Following graduation, Judge Carroll served as a law clerk to the 8th District Court of Appeals from 1977 to 1979. He then worked as an assistant county prosecutor for the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's office from 1979 to 1984, and from 1979 to 1990 worked in private practice.

Judge Carroll has been the presiding judge for the Lakewood Municipal Court since 1990, and has been serving in that position for 21 years. During his tenure, Judge Carroll has been a notable advocate of the Community Work Service Program, Alcohol Awareness

Program, Expedited Civil Cases Procedure, Housing Court Task Force, nigh Court Sessions and Mediation Task Force. He also supports Recovery Resources, a nonprofit organization that helps people with mental illness, substance abuse, and other addictions, and for which he is being recognized for his support and work at their Bronze Gala.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Honorable Judge Patrick Carroll of the Lakewood Municipal Court as he is recognized at the Bronze Key Gala for his support of Recovery Resources.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ACT OF 2011

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2011, Universal Pre-K, to begin the process of providing universal public prekindergarten. The bill is meant to fill a gaping hole in the "No Child Left Behind Act" which requires elementary and secondary schools to meet more rigorous standards yet ignores the prekindergarten years, among the most critical years for children's brain development. My bill is particularly necessary today because legislation pending to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act solely targets K-12. My bill makes a breakthrough in elementary school education by providing the initial funding for states to encourage local school districts to add prekindergarten for children four years of age and younger, so that every child can excel. We cannot afford to continue to allow the most fertile years for childhood development to pass, only to later wonder why we cannot teach Johnny to read.

The bill responds both to the great needs, which are still growing, of parents who seek early childhood education, as well as new science, which shows that a child's brain development begins much earlier than previously believed. However, many parents are unable to afford the stimulating educational environment necessary to ensure optimal brain development. The bill would add prekindergarten for children four years of age or younger, similar to kindergarten programs for five-year-olds, that are now routinely available in public schools. The bill would eliminate some of the major shortcomings of unevenly available commercial day care and, importantly, would ensure children access to qualified teachers and the safe facilities of public schools.

This bill reflects what jurisdictions increasingly are trying to accomplish, but lack the leadership and the start-up funds to see through. The District of Columbia, for example, is attempting to achieve more extensive integration of early childhood education as part of a larger effort to improve the D.C. public schools. A recent report highlighted the economic benefits of early childhood education, emphasizing its role in expanding job opportunities and in decreasing the amount of money spent on programs to address teen pregnancy, crime, and the like.

The bill encourages school districts across the country to apply to the U.S. Department of Education for grants to establish prekindergarten. Grants under Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act would be available for educational activities for children four years of age or younger to public school systems that agree to phase in, where possible, a prekindergarten program that is taught by teachers who possess equivalent or similar guidelines to those in other grades in the school system.

The success of Head Start and other prekindergarten programs, combined with new scientific evidence concerning the importance of brain development in early childhood, virtually mandates the expansion of early childhood education to all children. Traditionally, early learning programs have been available only to the affluent, who can afford them, and to low-income families in programs such as Head Start. My bill provides a practical way to gradually move to universal public preschool education. The goal of the bill is to afford the great majority of the American working poor, lower-middle-class, and middle-class families, most of whom have been left out, with the benefits of early childhood education.

Considering the staggering cost of daycare, the inaccessibility of early childhood education, and the opportunity that early education offers to improve a child's chances in life, schooling for three- and four-year-olds is overdue. The absence of viable options for working families demands our immediate attention.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF ST. ANGELA
MERICI SCHOOL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Saint Angela Merici School, a recipient of a Federal Blue Ribbon Award.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program is a program designed to highlight schools which have proven records of academic excellence. These schools have demonstrated a dedication to their student bodies which prepare their students for higher education and life beyond the classroom. Such institutions serve as examples to be emulated in schools across the nation.

The Saint Angela Merici School is one of 305 schools in the nation to be awarded the title of a Blue Ribbon school. The school is located in Fairview Park, Ohio and enrolls 520 students from pre-Kindergarten to Eighth grade. The school was founded in 1923, and is a Roman Catholic school in the Saint Angela Merici Parish.

The Saint Angela Merici School has a strong academic focus and high standardized test scores that exceed the national average. In 2010, the entire eight grade class was in the top fifteen percentile in reading and mathematics, and a majority of the class placed in the top tenth percentile. The rest of the school scored above the eighty-sixth percentile.

The school provides a broad curriculum, with religious studies, world languages,

wellness programs and performing arts as well as mathematics, sciences, social studies, English and technology. The vast range of curriculum in the school follows from the goal of the school, to help the students achieve the highest standards of academic excellence.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me recognition of Saint Angela Merici School, a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School.

RECOGNIZING THE MORRIS FAMILY AS THE 2011 WASHINGTON COUNTY OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to rise today to recognize the Jerry Morris family for being selected as the 2011 Washington County, Florida Outstanding Farm Family of the Year.

Jerry, son of Arvel and Ethel Morris and one of nine children, is a fourth generation farmer. He found his passion for love and farming in the middle of cotton country of Cherokee County in northeast Alabama along the Coosa River. In 1981, Jerry moved to Florida and bought a farm south of Chipley. It was here, where he found his second and most important love, Lynell Kellum, a local farm girl from Jackson County who he married in 1989.

Just north of Chipley, Lynell grew up and learned to drive a tractor pulling watermelon wagons through the field and fed the family's livestock. After working at the Bank of Jackson County for 39 years, she now enjoys farming with Jerry full time, along with cooking and canning, making jelly and sewing.

Jerry and Lynell both work hard to embrace new technologies, new varieties and better production practices. After becoming interested in no-till planting, they bought a rip-strip planter. It proved to be successful for planting corn and soybeans. This method prevented erosion and left ground cover to hold moisture. They started planting twin-row peanuts 10 years ago and made better production. They found this to be successful and implemented planting his soybeans in twin-rows.

Just this year, they planted 239 acres of peanuts, 128 acres of corn, and 234 acres of soybeans. Jerry has become known as one of the top corn producers in Washington County.

Aside from the farm and their love for the outdoors, Jerry and Lynell are members of the Washington and Florida Cattlemen's Association, Florida Peanut Producers Association, and enjoy spending time singing in the choir at Piney Grove Freewill Baptist Church and spending time with their family. Jerry and Lynell have four grown children and five grandchildren: Alan Kellum and wife Diane, who have two sons live in Nicholasville, Kentucky; Amy Hatcher, husband, Clint, and son, Logan, of Wicksburg, Alabama; Ladonna Kellum of Graceville, Florida; and Saranda Headland and husband, Austin, who have two daughters and live in Dothan, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, our great nation was built by farmers and their families. The Washington County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year award is a reflection of the Morris family's tireless work and love of farming. On behalf of

the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Morris family for this great accomplishment. My wife Vicki and I wish them the best for continued success.

HUIZENGA AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2838

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express concerns with the Huizenga amendment to H.R. 2838 and my fear that it could result in great damage to the efforts underway here in Congress to protect the Great Lakes from the many threats it faces, including invasive species and pollution.

There is no question that addressing the invasive species in ballast water is needed to protect the Great Lakes and other water bodies from these aggressive nonnative species that can destroy the natural ecosystem. Once these species are introduced, the costs to the environment and taxpayers only grow. Just look at the costs to the Great Lake states and the federal government to fight the sea lamprey and the current battle to keep the Asian Carp out of the Great Lakes. A strong federal ballast water treatment standard protects both the environment and the taxpayer.

We know ballast water is a primary vector for the introduction of invasive species. The bill before us would set a needed national ballast water treatment standard to protect our nation's waters. However, the Huizenga amendment would create one large loophole that would allow "historic" vessels to be excluded from complying with the new standards.

No science has been put forward to this body showing that these vessels—because of their historic nature—are not an avenue of introduction for aquatic invasive species. We should be less concerned about the historic nature of the vessel and more about the potential menace caused by hitchhikers in their ballast water. I don't have a problem with recognizing history or historic vessels. I just have a problem with absolving them from making efforts to prevent a historic invasion of non-native species.

Invasive species do not care about the character of the vessel through which they are brought into the Great Lakes and neither should any national ballast water treatment standard. I note the recent editorial by the Chicago Tribune about the failings of this amendment.

I urge my colleagues to work to make sure that this amendment is not included in a final bill as it would undermine long needed efforts to create a strong and effective national ballast water standard and ensure strong protections for our nation's bodies of water, including the Great Lakes.

[From chicagotribune.com, Nov. 15, 2011]

SINK THE BADGER (PROPOSAL)

Every day from May to October, the SS Badger, the last coal-powered steamship on the Great Lakes, ferries cars and tourists across Lake Michigan on a picturesque four-hour journey from Manitowoc, Wis. to Ludington, Mich.

Along the way, it leaves a souvenir in the lake: a total of about 509 tons of toxic coal ash, laced with arsenic, lead and mercury over a 134-day operating schedule. That's far more pollution than all the other 125 freighters plying the Great Lakes collectively leave in a full year, according to Coast Guard records.

In 2008, the U.S. EPA set a four-year deadline for the Badger's owners to sharply limit its pollution, the Tribune's Michael Hawthorne recently reported. Didn't happen. Instead, the Badger now is one step away from being protected—in all its polluting glory,—as a National Historic Landmark. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar must decide.

Hmmm. Let's see here. The Badger had four years to clean up. It failed to secure a \$14 million federal grant to convert its engines to diesel. Now it argues that those engines are a "historic propulsion system," so precious as artifacts that they should be protected from the EPA.

The 410-foot ferry wants to join the rarefied world of protected nautical national treasures, joining The Potomac, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's yacht, and the Nautilus, the world's first atomic-powered submarine.

We say, sure, drape the Badger in the cloak of treasured icons—provided it becomes a museum for tourists to tromp through, docked forever in a harbor.

"We cannot let Historic Landmark status be used to evade the federal regulations we rely on to protect public health and the environment," U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin recently wrote to Salazar. "This Great Lake cannot take any more toxic dumping, no matter how historic or quaint the source may be."

Exactly right.

The Badger pollutes the lake every time it makes the 60-mile crossing. A Badger spokesman tells us the ship's owners are exploring the possibility of converting its engines to run on cleaner natural gas. That would be an excellent move, but it is far from certain.

Republican U.S. Reps. Bill Huizenga and Dan Benishek, of Michigan, and Tom Petri, of Wisconsin, recently added an amendment to the Coast Guard budget that would prevent the EPA from imposing more stringent pollution limits on any ship that is "on, or nominated for inclusion on" the list of national landmarks. Guess how many ships fit that criteria? Just one. This is classic special-interest legislation that benefits a few at the expense of everyone else.

The answer here can't be a shrug over polluting the lake, the region's most precious natural resource. That was the way of the world in the early 1950s, when the Badger first started sailing Lake Michigan. That's not acceptable now.

The Badger, as Durbin says, was "quaint" back then. Today, it just fouls the water.

IN HONOR OF MRS. RUBY L. TERRY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Ruby L. Terry as she retires from the United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland, Inc. (UBF) where she served as the Executive Director for 19 years.

Established in 1981, by George W. White, the United Black Fund was the result of the merger of the Negro Community Federation and Blacks Organized for Social Services. The