

lovable and well-respected legal figures in the Western New York community.

A lifelong Buffalonian, Judge Sedita is the scion of one of the most famous and well-respected 20th century Buffalo political families. While the Judge's father was one of Buffalo's most well-liked 20th century political figures and someone looked back upon nostalgically as one of Buffalo's most favorite mayors; Judge Sedita's career as an attorney and a jurist has been tremendously substantial, as have been the Judge's contributions as a public servant to the hometown region he loves so much.

Born and raised in Buffalo, Judge Sedita was graduated summa cum laude from the Canisius College of Buffalo, and in 1960 earned his J.D. at the University at Buffalo Law School. During extensive legal practice in the office of the City of Buffalo's Corporation Counsel, Judge Sedita developed substantial expertise in the area of education law, serving for many years as the counsel to the city's Board of Education.

Judge Sedita's career on the bench began in the mid-1970s, upon his election as an Associate Judge of the Buffalo City Court. Following successful service as a Judge of the Erie County Family Court, he was elected as Chief Judge of the Buffalo City Court, administering the city's court system within the very building named for his late father. During this period, Judge Sedita assumed responsibility for the city's Housing Court, raising that court's profile and restoring its work to its rightful level of prominence. His work in that court was probably among the most impactful judicial work performed in Western New York during that period, and resulted in Judge Sedita's selection as a Buffalo News "Citizen of the Year."

For the better part of the past two decades, Judge Sedita has served with tremendous distinction as a Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, continuing to bring honor to not only his own career but also to his storied family name. Notwithstanding his retirement, all residents in Erie County are fortunate that the Sedita family's tradition of effective public service will continue—hopefully for many years to come. In 2012, the judge's son—Frank A. Sedita III, will complete his first term as Erie County's District Attorney. Frank Sedita III has proven a tenacious and effective prosecutor throughout his legal career, and he too, like his father the judge, continues to be a credit to his family, and to the community that he serves with such effectiveness.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask that the whole House join with those of us in Western New York who wish good luck and Godspeed to New York State Supreme Court Justice Frank A. Sedita, Jr., upon the occasion of his retirement from the bench.

HONORING THE SEVENTH CYCLE BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY OF KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the people of Thailand in celebrating the seventh cycle birthday anniversary

of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on December 5th. During his reign of over 65 years, Thailand continues to be the United States' long-term military ally, trade and economic partner, and friend in southeast Asia.

King Bhumibol holds a special relationship with our country beginning with his birth in Cambridge, Massachusetts while his father was attending Harvard University. As part of his continuing efforts to strengthen the ties between the United States and Thailand, the King visited America in 1960 and 1967. Under King Bhumibol's stewardship, Thailand has become a model of democracy and economic development in the region. Thailand's role as a regional democratic leader is a critical factor in the development of a stable Bangkok-Washington relationship.

I had the distinct honor and privilege of visiting King Bhumibol on my past visits. His continued efforts to provide guidance to improve the lives of his people were evident. Fittingly, he was awarded the United Nations Development Programme's first Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my best and warmest wishes on his 84th birthday and for a long life of good health. I am pleased to join our Thai friends in recognizing this special day.

IN SUPPORT OF THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. This campaign draws attention to the impact of violence against women around the world.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign of activism. It lasts for 16 days and starts on November 25, which is the International Day Against Violence Against Women, and ends on December 10, International Human Rights Day. The campaign highlights the links between violence against women and human rights, and stresses that this type of violence is a violation of human rights.

Since 1991, over 3,700 organizations in approximately 164 countries have participated in the 16 Days of Activism campaign.

Violence against women remains a serious problem both domestically and throughout the world. It has been estimated that nearly a billion women globally will be beaten, raped, mutilated or otherwise abused during their lifetimes. That is 1 in 3 women. Those statistics are extremely frightening for both men and women and are simply unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join the call to end violence against women and girls around the world.

A TRIBUTE TO KEITH HICKS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Keith Hicks for his leader-

ship throughout his community and focus on education and professionalism.

Mr. Hicks was born the youngest of five children, to his parents John Henry and Marie Antoinette in South Jamaica, Queens. As a child Mr. Hicks learned to cultivate a strong sense of leadership that would transcend into his future career.

In his early career, Mr. Hicks joined the Private Industry Council, an organization committed to youth development. As a program monitor, he completed his BA degree at John Jay College. He would also serve as instructor before moving to the Fortune Society, focusing his efforts on developing both the educational and professional lives of former prisoners. His career focus of providing resources to assisting the economically disadvantaged and at risk youth would continue with stops at the Hope Program where he served as Learning Center Director and the WAY Program where he served as Assistant Director, and Director.

Mr. Hicks' continued leadership role would extend to the YMCA, when he served as Director of the Cross Island branch in Queens. At the YMCA, Mr. Hicks ascended to serve as the Assistant Executive of the Northern Brooklyn branch and now as the executive Director of the Greenpoint Brooklyn branch, where he continues to serve. In this capacity, Mr. Hicks manages a budget in the millions, over 100 professional staff members, and offers services to thousands.

While serving at the YMCA, Mr. Hicks had the opportunity to pursue his Masters Degree from Queens College, further providing a great example to those he has influenced over the years. Mr. Hicks' accomplishments at the YMCA and throughout his career are extensive, but professionally he remains most proud of the role he has been able to play in the lives of our youth.

Mr. Hicks is the proud father of a daughter Tyler Marie Hicks who is presently a senior at Townsend Harris School and will enter college next year. Mr. Hicks' favorite scripture serves as a guiding force in his life, Hebrews 12:1: "wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us".

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. Keith Hicks.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF RUBY HARTLEY BARTON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the special life of Ruby Hartley Barton of Talladega, Alabama.

Mrs. Barton was born on December 15, 1911 in Georgia to James and Victoria Hartley. Mrs. Barton's father died while she was a baby, and her mother raised her and her six brothers and sisters. Mrs. Barton grew up in a fanning and textile family.

She was married to the late B.W. Barton for over 50 years and was blessed with two sons,

Charles D. Barton and Larry H. Barton and one daughter, Edith Barton Bishop. Mrs. Barton now has three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Mrs. Barton worked at Bemis Mills for close to 40 years and has spent her life serving God and volunteering in her church as a Sunday School teacher, choir director and pianist.

On December 15th, her friends and family will celebrate her birthday in her room at Talladega Health Care in Talladega. Today I would like to wish Mrs. Ruby Hartley Barton a very Happy 100th Birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during the rollcall vote No. 875, on December 1, 2011.

On rollcall vote No. 875 I would have voted "yes."

MERGER OF TRANSPORTATION COMMUNICATIONS UNION AND INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the January 1, 2012 merger of the Transportation Communications Union (TCU) and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW).

These two great unions, with railroad roots, are on pace to become one strong voice for hundreds of thousands of middle-class working men and women across our great nation.

It was in 1888 that 19 Machinists meeting in a locomotive pit in Atlanta, Georgia formed what is now the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, commonly known as the "Fighting Machinists".

Today's TCU is one union made of many. At its core is the Union founded in 1899, which became the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks. Then in 1919 the name expanded, becoming the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees. To further reflect the diversity of the union's membership, the delegates at the 1987 Convention voted to become the Transportation Communications International Union (TCU).

TCU, joining the ranks of the Machinists, makes its membership and the labor movement that much stronger. Both of these unions are constantly fighting for the dignity, welfare and prosperity of their members. Workers are the foundation of our nation; they drive our economy and our country forward. TCU and the IAM understand the values of hard work, faith, family and community—they are the keys of success. These four pillars are what make TCU and IAM stronger.

This merger not only unites two unions but two dedicated union presidents as well. The

determination of these two men to fight for the rights for fair wages and working conditions for everyone has its roots in Tom Buffenbarger, who started out as a journeyman tool and die maker at GE's jet engine plant in Evendale, Ohio. In 1997 he was the youngest IAM President in its history. And Bob Scardelletti, a life-long railroader, started out as a yard clerk in Cleveland with the New York Central Railroad in 1967; in 1971 took on his first union position and by 1991 was elected president and has been re-elected by acclamation four times.

TCU and IAM were fundamental in building the American middle-class, and have a vital role today in preserving the American dream for working families. Their unions were unified by a common purpose: to do the very best they can—every single day—for the members they serve. The TCU/IAM merger now creates a powerful force representing close to a million active and retired Americans. Their combined strength will provide leadership throughout the labor movement; particularly, the transportation industry. TCU/IAM is now one of the largest rail unions in the United States.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this historic merger for the betterment of the hard-working middle-class men and women of our country.

HONORING THE SCOTLAND HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM ON ITS 2011 NORTH CAROLINA 4-A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Scotland High School football team in honor of the school's first-ever North Carolina 4-A State Football Championship. The Fighting Scots rallied for 35 points in the second half on their way to a 42-16 victory over a talented and determined Porter Ridge High School team, Saturday, Dec. 3.

Scotland finished the 2011 season with a perfect 15-0 record, the first undefeated season in school history. I congratulate Scotland head coach Chip Williams, who in his fourth year leading the program, posted an undefeated record, won the Southeastern 4-A Conference title and brought home a State Championship to Scotland County, the county's first football state championship since 1944, when Laurinburg High School captured the Class-A state title.

Game Most Valuable Player honors were awarded to Scotland quarterback Kwashaun Quick, who threw for 172 yards and two touchdowns in the second half. Running back Tony McRae, who received offensive MVP honors, rushed for 75 yards and two scores. Defensive MVP honors were awarded to nose tackle Kris Tyndall. Scotland's superb defense forced four Porter Ridge turnovers and allowed just 161 yards of offense.

I recognize the Scotland County community and congratulate them on the success of their team and the support they have given these young men throughout the year. In the days following his team's victory, Coach Williams has cited the community's support as a driving force behind this year's team. It is always

great to see a community get behind a program that supports and encourages young people and teaches them the value of perseverance and teamwork. Before Congress and our great nation, I am proud to recognize Coach Williams, his dedicated coaching staff and players, and the Scotland County community as a whole for their championship season. Thank you.

FIGHTING MALARIA: PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, which I chair, held a hearing on malaria, one of the most serious health issues facing the developing world, and particularly Africa, today.

For the last century, America has been a leader in the fight against malaria. While the United States and several other countries have been able to eliminate malaria, this deadly disease still presents a serious challenge to other parts of our world.

The World Health Organization estimates that 781,000 people died from malaria in 2009 and that 225 million people suffered from infection. Malaria is the fifth leading cause of death from infectious diseases worldwide. It inflicts a particularly severe toll on the people of sub-Saharan Africa, where ninety percent of deaths are caused by malaria. Moreover, approximately 85 percent of malaria deaths occur in children under 5 years of age. Every 45 seconds, a mother and father in Africa lose their child to malaria.

There is also a far-reaching impact on the wealth and development of countries with endemic malaria. Africa may lose up to \$12 billion in productivity due to malaria each year due to the disease, while the disease in turn consumes about 40 percent of Africa's public health expenditures. These numbers and statistics are staggering, but they have a greater impact when one has been to Africa and met the individuals who must live with the disease.

Anyone who spends any meaningful amount of time in Africa and mingles with the African people will soon notice the prevalence of malaria. When you ask someone whether he or she has ever had malaria, they likely will respond not with a yes but with the time that has passed since they last suffered from it.

More astounding than the sad reality that malaria is killing or harming so many millions of people is the reality that malaria is preventable and treatable. The world has the tools to prevent and treat malaria. No one in the twenty-first century should have to suffer from it, let alone die from it.

When I last visited Uganda, I visited several homes, including a home in the remote region of Bushenyi. The three-room dwelling of white-washed walls and dirt floors was practically empty, and this made the insecticide-treated mosquito net over the floor mats all the more striking. These nets may seem like insignificant items when listed on paper, but they are noticeably visible in the modest homes of those families who rely on them for protection from this ravaging disease.