

HONORING REVEREND LEON H. MATTHIAS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a devoted servant of God, the Reverend Leon H. Matthias who will retire from active ministry on December 31, 2011.

Sunday, December 8, 1946 seemed to be a perfect day for the arrival of Leon Henson Matthias to George and Ethel Matthias. His humble home provided his first real setting where Christian nurture would take place. The family were members of Gracefield Moravian Church in Cedar Grove and Adrian Joseph, the grandfather, was the sexton of this small-congregation.

After primary and High School he gained four subjects at Ordinary Level from the University of London. In September 1967, he entered the teaching profession and was appointed as an uncertified teacher at the St. James Government School in Cedar Grove where he had received his early primary education.

At 19, he was elected as chairman of the Board of Stewards at Gracefield. The members of the congregation recognized that God was calling him to a special task in His church.

Leon Henson Matthias began his theological training on the island of Trinidad in 1970 and in 1974 he completed the Licentiate in Theology at the United Theological College of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica. He served as student pastor in the Antigua and Tobago Conferences and on August 24, 1975 Brother Matthias was ordained a Deacon. On September 1, 1975, he began his first appointment as a Moravian Pastor in St. Kitts. Six years after his ordination as a Deacon in the Moravian Church, Rev. Matthias was consecrated a Presbyterian.

On August 28, 1976, Rev. Leon Matthias made another decision in his life. He joined in matrimony to Mable Hall in that beautiful western Jamaica Town of Montego Bay. God blessed this marriage with three wonderful sons, Lennox, Leon Jr. and L Richard.

From all accounts, Brother Leon was as popular as he was active. He has always had an abundance of energy that seems contagious, and this has manifested itself throughout his life and the life of anyone with whom he has had contact. As an executive of the Rivals Sports Club in Cedar Grove, where he was a serious cricketer and concert performer, to Youth Soccer Coach in Richmond, Virginia, he displayed versatility and his love of sports.

Rev. Matthias has always enjoyed leadership roles in the church and the community. He however developed a new interest in 1992. In 1990, he was invited by the Lutheran Church in the United States Virgin Islands to participate in an oral history workshop led by Judy Saxton of Baylor University. This opened for him a vast new field of inquiry and an unquenchable thirst for the unwritten folk history of his people. This he has pursued in his visits to Tanzania, London, Johannesburg and Cape Town.

The versatility of the good Reverend has also been manifested in his editing of many

publications including Rapport' magazine and the writing of four books—Boy from Popeshead (1995), Against the Odds (1996), A history of the Friedensberg Moravian Church, Tales from the Hill (1997) and Winds of Change (1999) Gracefield—A Northern Star(2005)Down Punty Hill(2008)A Cloud of Great Witnesses (2011).

Brother Matthias holds a Licentiate in Theology from the University of the West Indies and a Master of Arts Degree from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education. In 2002 he obtained an, MLS Degree from Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, specializing in Archival Studies.

His ministry has spanned forty years and the Western Hemisphere—beginning in Jamaica as a Student Pastor in 1971, serving the Virgin Islands Conference in St. Croix from 1988 to 1996 and St. Thomas and Tortola from 1996 to 2000, then New York from 2002 to 2009 and lastly in Washington DC.

In that time he has served in many positions of church leadership, has mentored many young pastors and served every congregation and community with excellence, dedication and compassion. We are thankful to God for his service, which overcame many obstacles over the years, and for his family who served by his side these many years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in asking God's blessings on Reverend Leon H. Matthias, his wife, Mable and the entire family with gratitude for a life of exemplary service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on December 6, 2011 I voted "no" on H.R. 2471; I intended to vote "yes."

THE PASSING OF MY DEAREST FRIEND AND CBC FOUNDATION FOUNDING MEMBER, OFIELD DUKES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I have been blessed to call many wonderful people my friend, but none more than Ofield Dukes. I am extremely saddened by the passing of such great man who had significant impact in not only my life, but that of my Colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, dating back to its founding. Aside from his many accomplishments in business, politics and his personal life, Ofield was simply a true and kind person who sought to make our country a better place for all. I will forever miss his virtue, justness and sincerity.

Ofield was the best communications strategist in Washington. He helped organized the first Congressional Black Caucus (CBS) dinner in 1971 and served as an advisor to numerous CBC chairpersons. He was a founding member of the CBC Foundation and served on the Foundation Board (CBCF) for 14 years. As the

first chairman of the Foundation's Finance and Fundraising Committee, Ofield was instrumental in developing strategies for fundraising including recruiting business support and active involvement.

Ofield's devotion to his craft was esteemed by everyone. In 1988, Ofield was selected by CBC Chairman Julian Dixon to serve as chairman of a historic black-tie dinner in salute of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. When the CBC Chairman Clyburn needed a person to organize and edit the first news letter of the CBC-CBCF, he called Ofield and for seven years he did a superb job in editing the CBC-CBCF newsletter.

In addition to his work with the CBC & CBCF, Ofield was dedicated to fighting for racial equality. He served for 10 years on the board of the MLK, Jr. Committee for Non-Violent Social Change and as an advisor to Mrs. Coretta Scott King. He also served as an advisor to Dr. Leon Sullivan, organized the first Stevie Wonder March to make Dr. King's birthday a national holiday and was an advisor to Alex Haley, author of the epic book "Roots" which provided the impetus for the historic TV series.

Aside from all his public service achievements, Ofield always find time to nurture the next generation of communicators and political minds. As an adjunct professor for 25 years at the Howard University John H. Johnson School of Communication, Ofield is credited with influencing hundreds of students to enter the field of public relations. He also taught public relations at the American University for eight years.

In politics, Ofield served as a communications consultant to the Democratic National Committee in six presidential campaigns. In 1998, Ofield worked very closely with me in developing the national African American media strategy that helped generate a large black voter turnout that helped Democrats to gain control of the House of Representatives.

Ofield is credited with having tremendous impact on the professional lives of many. Radio One Founder Cathy Hughes says there would not be a Radio One without the early support and continuing advice of Ofield. Upon receiving his graduate degree from Princeton University, Robert Johnson called Ofield who arranged the first two jobs for Johnson in Washington, D.C. prior to his founding BET.

In 2001, Ofield became the first African American to win the Public Relations Society of America's Gold Anvil, the highest individual awards given in the public relations industry. In 2004, PRWeek named him one of this nation's top five national communicators. In 2009, Dukes succeeded Dr. C. Delores Tucker as President of the Bethune-DuBois Institute.

Ofield's other professional recognition includes: being named by the Washington Post as one of the top five PR persuaders in Washington; among the first to be inducted into the Washington, D.C. Public Relations Hall of Fame; inducted into the Commonwealth of Virginia Communications Hall of Fame; and receiving the Wayne State University 2010 Alumni Achievement Award.

Ofield's list of accomplishments goes on and on, but what his friendship meant to me and so many people is immeasurable. I want to express my deepest condolences to his beautiful family. Ofield Dukes was one of a kind and he will be deeply missed. His legacy will last throughout Washington and our country.

A TRIBUTE TO ALBERT
WILTSHIRE

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 Albert Wiltshire for his unwavering service.

Mr. Wiltshire's career would not be as successful as it is if it weren't for his stellar academic track record. He graduated from Brooklyn's Boys High School when it was regarded as one of the city's top schools for learning. Mr. Wiltshire then received his Bachelor's degree from St. Francis College, a Masters in Public Administration from New York University, and a Senior Managers in Government Program Certificate from the prestigious Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Mr. Wiltshire's illustrious career began with the New York City Police Department, where he served for 20 years during the civil rights era. Following his retirement, Mr. Wiltshire worked for 13 years at the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation serving as President and CEO. It was here that he made an indelible mark by strengthening the company's financials while also providing countless opportunities for minorities and women to enter the business community.

Mr. Wiltshire went on to work as Vice President Keyspan Corporation, one of the nation's largest energy conglomerates. He would work as a liaison between the company and the government to ensure the needs of the community were met, and to spearhead environmental awareness.

Since 2007, Mr. Wiltshire has worked as my Chief of Staff, helping me represent the people of New York's 10th congressional District in Brooklyn. Managing personnel in two Brooklyn offices and the nation's capitol, Mr. Wiltshire is one of my most trusted advisors on key legislative issues and public policies. Mr. Wiltshire's vast experience with the community in Brooklyn has been invaluable, providing sound leadership and direction in the 10th district.

While his service in the public and private sector has consumed most of his time, Mr. Wiltshire continues his involvement with the Madison Boys and Girls Club, Brooklyn School of Music, and the vestry of the Church of St. Luke and St. Matthew.

Mr. Wiltshire is a proud father, grandfather, and mentor to many. The life he chose to lead is one that is admired by many and should be emulated by all. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many achievements of Mr. Albert Wiltshire.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, and 888 I am not recorded because I was absent due to a family event. Had I been present the week of December 2nd, I would have voted "aye"

on rollcall No. 888. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, and 887.

IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Motion to Instruct Conferees, which instructs House conferees to insist on the inclusion of certain amendments intended to improve the sexual assault prevention and response in the Armed Services that were contained in the version of National Defense Authorization Act passed by the House on May 26, 2011.

While 1 in 6 women in the United States will experience some type of sexual assault in her lifetime, as many as 1 in 3 veteran women report that they have experienced some form of Military Sexual Trauma during their service. Due to shame, guilt or fear of not being believed, countless victims do not report their assault and it has been reported that as few as 13 percent of these sexual assaults are reported to the proper authorities.

Mr. Speaker, not only do cases of sexual assault largely go unreported, but response protocols necessary to protect victims of assault need to be improved.

In addition, more must be done to protect these victims after they report their abuse. Victims of sexual assault face a lack of confidentiality, protection, support, and access to legal counsel once an incident is reported.

Currently, victims of rape or sexual assault do not have the right to a unit or duty location transfer following an assault. The result is that victims of these unspeakable crimes often have to continue serving alongside their assailant. As of this date, the Department of Defense has not yet adopted policies that will enable sexual assault victims to escape constant contact with their attackers.

Mr. Speaker, this is a huge problem. Something must be done.

Fortunately, the problem of rape and sexual assault in the military has been addressed by provisions in both the House- and Senate-passed versions of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2012 (NDAA). In both the House and Senate versions, the NDAA makes improvements in the military's response to sexual assault and to provide greater protections for our service men and women in the armed forces. Our hope is to ensure zero tolerance for sexual assault in the military.

However, the House and Senate versions of this act differ significantly. The House version of the NDAA has stronger provisions regarding sexual assault in the military by strengthening legal protections for the victims, providing support and guidance to victims, and by strengthening the systems in place to prevent future assaults. That is why the Motion to Instruct directs House conferees to insist on the inclusion of these provisions in the compromise legislation negotiated in the Conference.

Among the House-passed improvements are provisions:

ensuring that sexual assault victims be afforded legal counsel if desired;

protecting the confidentiality and victim advocates;

requiring that commanders transfer duty stations; and

requiring adequate training and education programs to prevent sexual assault.

Mr. Speaker, we have a duty to protect our men and women in the military, who put their lives on the line for our country. We have a duty to make our armed forces safe for all men and women who wish to serve. It is dangerous enough risking one's safety in defense of our country on foreign shores. It is simply intolerable for American servicewomen and men to have to assume the risk of sexual assault from their comrades.

The provisions in the version of H.R. 1540 passed by the House reflects a zero tolerance policy when it comes to the sexual assault of members of the Armed Forces by members of the Armed Forces. That is why I strongly support this Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1540. I urge all of my colleagues to do likewise.

MR. CHARLES L. NEUBERT

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Charles L. Neubert of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, for his faithful and dedicated service to the United States of America through turbulent times.

Charles Neubert was serving in the National Guard in the State of Washington when he decided to transfer to active duty in 1941. He was assigned to the 16th Truck Company, Quartermaster Corps. At the time, Charles Neubert was only 20 years old. He was stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Mr. Neubert was working in the motor pool during the surprise military attack conducted by the Imperial Japanese Navy on the morning of December 7, 1941. Mr. Neubert watched helplessly as 353 Japanese fighters and bombers launched their assault on the naval base. When he recalls this day, Charles Neubert can remember thinking that the planes just kept coming and coming. More than 2,400 American lives were lost on that day, and almost 1,300 were injured.

Charles Neubert continued to serve his country in the 357th and the 356th Truck Companies on both Pearl Island and on Tinian in the Marianas Islands.

Charles Neubert would be discharged from active duty in the Army in June 1945, just a few months before the end of the war. He would join the Naval Reserves in 1950, and he served aboard the USS *Douglas H Fox* (DD779) for 15 months during the Korean War. He was discharged in 1953.

Mr. Speaker, Charles L. Neubert, who only a few months ago celebrated his 90th birthday, is a fine example of the faithful and dedicated men and women that make up our armed forces. His selfless actions, and those of his generation, should forever be remembered and cherished by a grateful nation.