

future of the peace process. We must stand with Israel and veto this resolution in the United Nations Security Council.

CONGRATULATING KIRK WHALUM FOR RECEIVING THE 2011 GRAMMY AWARD FOR BEST GOSPEL SONG

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate jazz saxophonist Kirk Whalum for receiving the 2011 Grammy Award from The Recording Academy for Best Gospel Song. The award winning song, "It's What I Do," is from his album, The Gospel According to Jazz Chapter III. Kirk Whalum, a Memphian, is the son of the late Reverend Kenneth Whalum, Sr., and Dr. Rosie Whalum. The Whalum family is known for their musical, spiritual and community involvement in the Memphis area. In addition to receiving the Grammy Award, Mr. Whalum was named the President and Chief Financial Officer of the Memphis-based Soulsville Foundation in April of 2010.

Mr. Whalum has been part of the music community for many years, and it is great to see him be recognized for his tremendous talents. Over the years, he has received multiple Grammy nominations and has won many other awards. He has received two Dove Award nominations, a NAACP Image Awards nomination and has won two Stellar Awards. In addition to his awards, Mr. Whalum has worked with impressive musical artists including Barbara Streisand, Al Jarreau, Luther Vandross, Larry Carlton, Quincy Jones and Whitney Houston.

Kirk Whalum and the Whalum family are no strangers when it comes to community service and musical talent. His father was a prominent minister at Memphis's Olivet Baptist Church and also served two terms on the Memphis City Council. Kirk Whalum's brother, Reverend Kenneth Whalum, Jr., took over their father's post at the Memphis church and is also the father of recognized saxophonist, Kenneth T. Whalum III. Kevin Whalum, the third Whalum brother, is known for his talents as a jazz vocalist. Kirk Whalum's uncle, Hugh "Peanuts" Whalum, is a recognized singer, composer and multi-instrumentalist.

Kirk Whalum is a true ambassador of the city of Memphis. He is doing great things with his new post at the Soulsville Foundation, which oversees the Stax Museum of American Soul Music, the Stax Music Academy and The Soulsville Charter School. Through the Soulsville Foundation, he is able to further enrich the musical talents of the youth in Memphis and serve as a mentor to budding musicians. His dedication to music and musical talent has led him to receive not only many awards but has earned him much deserved accolades from the music community. Mister Speaker, I ask the House to join me in congratulating Kirk Whalum for receiving the 2011 Grammy Award for Best Gospel Song.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on February 16, 2011. If I were present, I would have voted for the following: Lummis (WY) amendment (No. 193)—rollcall No. 61: no; Moran (VA) amendment (No. 338)—rollcall No. 62: no; Flake (AZ) amendment (No. 376)—rollcall No. 63: no; Pompeo (KS) amendment (No. 376)—rollcall No. 64: no; Reed (NY) amendment (No. 379)—rollcall No. 65: no.

HONORING ROBERT "BOB" WOODSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, Robert "Bob" Woodson, the eighth of nine children, was born in Carroll County, Mississippi, to the late Mamie Dixon Woodson and John Woodson.

During his infant years, Bob's family relocated to Yazoo County, Mississippi. His dad being a sharecropper, Bob was raised on a plantation.

Bob attended a one-room country school from first through eighth grade, then was bused more than 70 miles, one way, to attend high school in Yazoo City. Although a high school was closer to where he lived, busing was used to maintain segregation. After graduating from high school in 1956, Bob was ordered to report for induction into the United States Armed Forces. However, being the only son at home to assist his dad with farming, the plantation owner was able to secure a permanent deferment.

Because of Bob's father's failing health, the family gave up farming to relocate to Jackson in the late 50's. Migrating from an agricultural to an industrial society, his first work experience was a carpenter's helper. Being impatient and discontent, Bob shortly thereafter obtained a job with Swift & Company, where he got his first exposure to the labor movement when he joined the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workers, AFL-CIO.

Because of seasonal work, in July 1959, Bob became employed at Mississippi Products, a furniture manufacture facility, as a finish sprayer. At the time of employment, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners (UBCJ of A) of the AFL-CIO was in its initial stages of trying to implement a union organizing campaign. Due to the vicious anti-union climate, Bob became quietly involved trying to convince his fellow workers of the advantages of labor unions.

After 3 years of much agony and frustration to overcome racial hatred promoted by company management, and then Mississippi's Governor Ross Barnett and the entire business community to keep the work force divided; finally in 1963, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America won an election at Mississippi Products and was certified as bargaining agent for the plant by the National Labor Relations Board, NLRB.

After negotiating a contract, workers were afraid to become union members. Due to the lack of participation within the union by employees, in September of 1965, Bob became employed full-time for the Union for the sole purpose of recruiting workers to become union members. During the first year of his activity, door to door soliciting increased the membership from 20 percent to over 60 percent. For the next 17 years, Bob held the combined positions of vice-president and business agent; and president and business agent of the Local Union. This was the beginning of many firsts for Bob Woodson.

In 1966, Bob was the first black elected to the executive board of the Mississippi AFL-CIO. He participated in civil rights marches, "not out front," but concentrating more on voter registration.

In 1968, Bob was a "Loyalist" delegate to the Democratic National Convention. In 1972, Bob organized the Mississippi A. Philip Randolph Institute, and was named chairman. In 1974, Bob was a delegate to the Historical National Democratic Charter Convention in Kansas City, Kansas. In 1975, Bob was the first black named to the "Regular" Hinds County Democratic Executive Committee. In May 1983, Bob continued his services as an International Representative traveling many thousands of miles on job assignments in several states, including: DC, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Illinois, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

During Bob's career of more than 30 years as a full-time Union Representative, he received many hours of specialized academic training provided by the National Labor Relations Board in the George Meany Center for Labor Studies, in the area of contract negotiations, grievance and arbitrations, handling unfair labor practice proceedings and many other labor management relations.

Some of Bob's experiences include: Head Negotiator, Administrator, Fiscal Officer, Labor Management Specialist, OIC Board Chairman, Director of Minority Affairs of Mississippi AFL-CIO for 12 years, president of Mississippi A. Philip Randolph Institute 1972-1979 Program and Evaluation Committee for Jackson Manpower Planning Council, and the list goes on.

Bob was very active and influential in many political campaigns; and has received certificates of appreciation and recognition and several awards for his outstanding services, leadership and contributions to help improve working conditions for all people.

Bob retired in May 1996, as a full-time Union Representative, after more than 30 years of service.

CONGRATULATING MYASIA BURNS AND CHARLES ORGBON III

HON. ROB WOODALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I proudly submit this statement congratulating two young people from my district, Miss Myasia Burns and Mr. Charles Orgbon III, who were recently chosen as being among the top youth volunteers in the State of Georgia for 2011 in the

16th annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Program is an annual honor conferred on the most impressive volunteers in each State and the District of Columbia.

Miss Burns, age 17, of Monroe, Georgia, was nominated by her school, Monroe Area High School, for her work in raising more than \$16,000 for the American Cancer Society through the "Team Burns Charitable Foundation," an organization started in memory of Miss Burns' father.

Mr. Orgbon, age 15, of Dacula, Georgia, was nominated by Mill Creek High School for founding "Greening Forward," a national environmental awareness campaign, which he started in 2008.

Both of these individuals possess a servant's heart and a leader's mind. Ms. Burns and Mr. Orgbon should be proud to have been singled out from close to 29,000 volunteers who participated in this year's program. They are not only making a positive impact on our communities, but they are setting the standard for their peers and for future generations of young Americans.

HONORING PATRICK RINEY, SR.

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Patrick Riney, Sr. and to mourn upon his passing at the age of 73.

Born on April 9, 1937, Patrick Riney, Sr. was a man dedicated to his family, his community and his country. He admirably served as a defender of this great nation as a member of the United States Navy.

Regrettably, on February 14, 2011, Patrick Riney, Sr. passed from this earthly world to his eternal reward. He leaves to celebrate his life his beloved wife of more than 48 years, Patricia. Patrick is survived by his children Patrick, Jr., Shaun, Kelly and Kevin and also leaves the legacy of 12 grandchildren. As he departs this life to join his brothers, the late Raymond and the late Tom in eternity, Patrick Riney, Sr. will deeply missed by his treasured sister Joan. A benevolent and honorable man, Patrick leaves a lasting imprint on the lives he has touched.

Mr. Speaker, Patrick Riney, Sr. is remembered as a compassionate father, a dedicated husband, an author, a soldier and a friend. Patrick was a man who deeply treasured his family, friends, community and his country. Today, as we bid Patrick Riney, Sr. farewell, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and honoring his unwavering commitment to his family and his legendary service to our country and community.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the cuts to the Agriculture and FDA budget in H.R. 1. They are rashly made, and they will endanger both our food supply and our families.

During my time as Chair of this subcommittee, we worked hard to provide the resources to better improve the safety of food, drugs and devices. We expanded access to fundamental nutrition and hunger programs. And we invested wisely in key areas like conservation and rural development. This continuing resolution threatens to undo all of our hard work.

Instead of cutting special interest waste, like the subsidies that go to high-income farmers and corporate farms, this continuing resolution hurts everyone else. It hurts the economy, will cost us jobs, and it threatens the middle-class and working families we were elected to represent.

We are already playing a dangerous game in terms of food safety—Far too many of the dishes on our kitchen table get there uninspected. But under this continuing resolution, there would be 2000 fewer firm inspections—and 10,000 fewer import inspections—conducted by the FDA.

In fact, both the FDA and USDA would have to furlough thousands of inspectors under this plan. That is more than just a food safety problem. It means the nearly 6,300 meat and poultry plants across America would be legally required to stop operating—costing approximately \$11 billion. And it would mean, by the basic principles of the market, that the price of meat and poultry would increase for every single family in America.

In addition, this CR rolls back the budget of the Farm Service Agency—forcing a 40 day furlough of all employees and meaning long delays and less help for farmers and ranchers.

In cuts food aid to the lowest it has been in a decade, 15 million people would lose desperately-needed emergency food assistance, which will endanger our war efforts and the security of our troops in Afghanistan. And 2.5 million more women and children lose the vital aid provided by McGovern-Dole, a program with long bipartisan support.

There are many terrible ideas in this CR, but perhaps the unkindest cut of all is what will be done to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program and the Women with Infant Children feeding program. Instead of slashing subsidies for oil companies and saving \$40 billion, the majority has decided to deny over 100,000 low-income seniors from receiving food packages, and cut almost \$750 million from WIC, a program serving our most vulnerable citizens.

They are quite literally taking food from hungry seniors and children's mouths, and giving

it to the special interests—corporate farms and oil companies—who write their checks. It is unconscionable.

I urge my colleagues to vote against these reckless and irresponsible cuts, and to work together on a budget that better reflects our priorities as a nation.

HONORING MERDIS ANDERSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Merdis Anderson is a native of Amite County, Gloster, Mississippi, where she was reared by her maternal Grandmother, the late Mrs. Mary B. Spears. She is the devoted and caring wife of Mr. Samuel Charlie Anderson of Lexington, Mississippi, and the proud mother of 2 sons, Shawn Christopher Anderson and Kevin Keith Anderson. She is also the proud grandmother of 6 grandchildren. She is a member of Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church under the Pastorship of Reverend Walter Eskridge Jr., where she serves as Usher Board Leader.

Upon graduating from Amite County Training School In Gloster, Mississippi, Mrs. Anderson attended Mississippi Valley State College, presently, Mississippi Valley State University, where she majored in Social Science with emphasis on Sociology.

After graduating from Mississippi Valley State College in 1970, she worked in the public schools of Amite County for one semester and one summer, where she taught Social Studies and English. In August of 1971, she moved to Detroit, Michigan and worked as a secretary/typist for Ford Motor Company.

Realizing that her calling was to teach, mold, and shape the minds of boys and girls to new heights in the field of education, Mrs. Anderson moved back to Mississippi in June of 1974, and was employed with the Holmes County School District as a full time teacher in September of 1975, at Mileston Elementary School. At Mileston Elementary School, she worked and served in numerous capacities for 15 years before being transferred to Lexington Elementary School, where she taught first grade, fourth grade, and in 1999, she became Lead Teacher where she dedicated her services until October of 2004 after which she left to work at the Holmes County Vocational-Technical Center.

Mrs. Anderson is presently employed at the Holmes County Vocational Technical Center, where she works diligently with the Staff Development Activities, serves as the Student Incentive Chairperson, Character Education Chairperson, Monthly Bulletin Board Chairperson, Black History Month Activities Chairperson, and Public Relations Coordinator for the center.

Realizing that she could do more to help the boys and girls in Holmes County reach new heights in education and become productive citizens in a global society, she was instrumental in being hired in 2009 by the aggressive, Mrs. Beulah Greer, Director of the Community Learning Center, and Mr. Leslie Greer, CEO of the center, as an English teacher, to work with students in the Summer Camp Program, where learning takes place on a daily