

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 be 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.

It 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

basis. Mrs. Anderson sees the Summer Camp Program as a program where the teachers instill in students that, they are somebody, they have a sense of pride, and they can become critical and logical thinkers as they grow into adulthood, facing the challenges that await them in a world of uncertainty. She has worked as a volunteer with the center for almost 2 years.

Mrs. Anderson has taught boys and girls for almost 38 years in the field of education, not for the money that the job brings, but because teaching has given her rewards that cannot be calculated on an adding machine, nor deposited in a bank, but it gives her tangible awards, such as the countenance on a child's face that has learned under her guidance, a pat on the shoulder, and the knowledge of knowing that those vibrant children are enjoying themselves and learning because of her efforts and carefully daily planning.

Her philosophy of teaching is that it takes a special group of people with special skills and dedication to focus on the strengths of children and not their weaknesses. She is a firm believer that all children can learn regardless of their background, and socio-economic status, whether it be by visual, auditory, kinesthetic, tactile, or some other means.

To her family, community and friends, she gives thanks for believing in her, understanding her, and encouraging her in her endeavors as an educator.

"To God be the glory for all that He has done."

NORTHERN NIGHTHAWKS RULE NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, there is an old saying that the "third time's the charm," and that can be applied to Northern Guilford High School, located in the Sixth District of North Carolina, for winning our state's 3-AA State Football Championship in only its third year of existence. The Northern Nighthawks celebrated their first state title when their opponent, Boling Springs Crest, missed a game-tying extra point with 15 seconds remaining, allowing Northern Guilford to escape with a thrilling 21–20 victory.

Northern Guilford survived two second-half goal line stands to capture the state crown. "It was like something you see in a movie," Nighthawks senior quarterback Rocco Scarfone told the (Greensboro) News & Record. "They could make a movie off this game. It was just surreal how it happened. I couldn't believe it."

One reason it all happened, Mr. Speaker, was the dedication of all involved in the football program and that included the fans and the band. The Northern Nighthawks made it difficult for any team to defeat them this season, thanks in large part to the more than 3,000 fans who packed in to see every home game this past season on the way to a 14–2 record. Many also traveled to distant away games. The team band was also an important part of their championship season, and was affectionately known as the 12th man. Nighthawk Nation followed their team throughout

the playoff run, often traveling more than an hour to get to each game.

The Nighthawks were lead by captains Maurice Harris, Alan Hart, Rocco Scarfone, and Stephen Machanic. Along with their teammates Tre' Purcell, Mohamed Khellah, Austin Hoke, Daniel Downing, TJ Logan, Justin Wallace, Nick Jones, Mark Mitchell, Shaheen Lashani, Shaquille Fields, Max Heavner, Burney Sindab, Scooter Mooney, Chris Ripberger, Austin Cooper, Robert Willcox, Rory Bergen, Kyle Wilhelm, Bernard Sindab, TJ Ruff, Austin Coltrane, Alex Hasler, Trevon Cooper, Earl Smith, Wade William Churchill, Jordan Williams, Trevor McKee, Austin Simmons, Ryan Johnston, Bob Hicks, Drew Milot, Max Klietsch, Colin Beirsto, Kamen Smith, Chris Forlano, Sam Parker, Jacob Roberts, Eric Hayes, Brian Iddings, Garrison O'Bryant, Taylor Rumley, Carlos Williams, Josh Moore and Kris Gafford.

Of course, Northern Guilford could not have achieved its state championship without an outstanding coaching staff led by Head Coach Johnny Roscoe and his assistant coaches Brian Thomas, Todd Sharp, Richard Burton, JR Troutman, Ben Hepler, Dovonte Edwards, Chris Shaffer, Justin Davis, and Justin Ollis. Others who were also instrumental in the championship included Jane Roscoe (Mrs. Coach), Kirstin Shepperson (Team Physician), Jan Wyrick (Women's Order Director), Team Managers Chelsea Ray, Taylor Phillips, Sydney Monroe, and Mercedes Wigglesworth, along with film editor Jenna Livingston. Male Manager Perry Johnson and Ball Boy Britt Thomas also contributed to the title.

Congratulations are also warranted for all of those who supported the football program at Northern Guilford High School. Principal Will Laine, Assistant Principals Doug Foutty, Angela Graves and Kris Vecchione, and Athletic Director Brian Thomas all can take pride in the state title.

Again on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Northern Guilford High School football team, along with the faculty, staff and excellent fans for their championship season. This team will be remembered for many years as football fans will say, "remember when the Northern Nighthawks made the saying 'the third time's the charm' come true."

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE FOR OFFICIAL TRAVEL

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, as a result of the official U.S. House calendar indicating that last votes for today would conclude at 3 p.m. I committed to travel to Sana'a, Yemen at the invitation of the National Defense University's Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies to address a conference of senior officials of the Government of Yemen on the subject of establishing a national security strategy. The Department of Defense is paying for my travel to this official event. I have attached the letter of invitation for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

My absence means I will not be present to vote on H.R. 1, the continuing resolution that

will fund the federal government through September 30, 2011. My opposition to H.R. 1 has been very public and it was my intention to vote against the harmful and ill advised bill that hurts communities, families, and puts America's most vulnerable at even greater risk.

With regard to my amendment to H.R. 1 to prohibit Department of Defense sponsorship of NASCAR, I would have voted in favor.

NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY,
NEAR EAST SOUTH ASIA CENTER
FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES,

Washington, DC, January 25, 2010.

Hon. BETTY McCOLLUM,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN McCOLLUM: Following up on our fruitful conversation the other day, I would like to invite you to participate as a speaker at a Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies sponsored National Security Seminar to be held in Sana'a, Yemen on Saturday February 19, 2011.

The seminar will bring together up to 800 Yemeni officials, from ministries of the Yemeni government. In addition, members of the Yemeni parliament will attend and you will be introduced by a senior parliamentarian. Military students from the Military High Academy, a Yemeni version of our National Defense University will also attend. The purpose of the Seminar is to help build strategic capacity on a whole of government basis within the Yemeni government.

As we discussed, I would ask that you participate in a session on bilateral Yemen-U.S. relations. This session will follow remarks by U.S. Ambassador Gerald Feierstein. The Yemeni Bi-Lateral speaker is Dr. Hussein Al-Amri who is a former Yemeni Ambassador to the United Kingdom (1994–2001), a current member of the Shura Council since 2001 and a Professor of modern and contemporary history at Sana'a University. You will have approximately 15 minutes for remarks.

DoD regulation permits us to offer you coach fare air travel, per diem and lodging. The NESA Center contact for support is my Executive Assistant, Ms. Kelly Cure at (202) 685-4127 or curek@ndu.edu.

Your knowledge and insights as a member of Congress and your interest in Yemen will add great value to this important event. I thank you for your willingness to participate.

Sincerely,

AMBASSADOR JAMES A. LAROCCO,
Director, NESA Center.

HONORING WILLIE STEEN BATTLE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Willie Steen Battle. Ms. Battle, born April 17, 1945 to the late Thomas and Virginia Ellis in Flora, Mississippi graduated from East Flora High School in 1964 and furthered her education with an Associate Degree from Hinds Community College.

She is an active member of Fearn Chapel Free Will Baptist Church where she serves on the Mother Board. She is President of Flora Community for Progress where she volunteers her time with organizing food drives to give baskets to the elderly and disabled during the