

one hundred million BSA youth members to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

Each year, Cub Scout packs commemorate scouting and its enduring principles with a Blue and Gold Banquet. The pack celebrates scouts, pack leaders and other adults who have contributed to the pack's health and vibrancy. I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the following Cub Scouts in Pack 976 who will be recognized at the 2011 Blue and Gold Banquet for advancing to the next level of scouting.

The Order of the Arrow is awarded to scouts that best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. The following individuals are being awarded the Order of the Arrow this evening.

Chris Arcangeli, John Cheng, Hank Reinhardt, Cyrus Robinson, Holden Snyder, Nicolas Bocock, Nicholas Baltas, Jack Heerink, Charlie McGarry, Noah Strike, Danny Flood, Austin Gillmore, Salim Roustom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the Boy Scouts of America, their one hundred year anniversary and the 2011 Blue and Gold Banquet for Cub Scout Pack 976. The BSA sets a high standard for integrity and strength of character. I admire all scouts who seek to uphold the BSA core principles, and extend my sincere best wishes to the Cub Scouts of Pack 976 as they strive to realize their scouting potential.

HONORING MR. RAYMON P. DONES

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of one of the nation's first and greatest African-American construction project developers, Mr. Raymon P. Dones. A loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, great great-grandfather and friend, Mr. Dones was also a talented entrepreneur, businessman, inventor and civil rights trailblazer. With Mr. Dones' passing at the age of 92, we are reminded of his life's journey and the joyful legacy he inspired.

Born in 1918, Mr. Dones learned the electrical and plumbing trades while working as a Pullman car porter in Denver, Colorado. After earning his electrical contracting license, he founded Dones Electric, which later became incorporated as Aladdin Electric in Oakland, California. Mr. Dones' broad interests also included inventing. He received a U.S. patent for the design of a loud speaker enclosure in 1964.

In the mid-1960s, Mr. Dones became a leading force in advocating for minority contractors and their employees. Working with Joe Debro and Frank Poole, he helped found a group to fight for increased opportunities for minority contractors, which later became the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC). In 1969, Mr. Dones was elected NAMC president and Mr. Debro became executive director.

Today the nonprofit trade association boasts chapters in 49 states, as well as England, South Africa and the Virgin Islands. Mr. Dones

was also instrumental in establishing Project Upgrade, one of the first construction trades apprenticeship training programs in the United States. In the Bay Area, Mr. Dones participated in building or subcontracting a considerable part of Oakland's landscape, including the MORH and Acorn housing developments in West Oakland, the West Oakland Health Center and the early construction of Oakland City Center.

Even into his late 80s, Mr. Dones continued to volunteer in the community and work with his son, my good friend Alan, who followed his footsteps as a leader in minority contracting and development. A recipient of many accolades throughout his career, Mr. Dones was named one of the most influential people in the construction industry by *Engineering News-Record Magazine* in 1999.

Ray was a Renaissance Man. As a Capitol Hill staffer for former Congressman and Mayor Ron Dellums during the 70s and 80s, I remember how Ray came to Washington, D.C. to educate staff regarding the importance of minority business participation. He was a tireless advocate and knew how to influence public policy on behalf of minority contractors. We became close friends and Ray and his beloved late wife, Inez, also became some of my longstanding supporters as an elected official. His smile and kind words of support always gave me encouragement and inspiration to continue the fight. I will miss this great warrior tremendously.

In addition to his notable career and influence, Mr. Dones was a proud husband to the late Inez Dones, and father to their extensive family. The couple both came to their union with three children from prior relationships, and had two more children together. Mr. Dones will be deeply missed by his surviving children, and a host of grandchildren, loved ones and friends.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors a great human being, Mr. Raymon P. Dones. The contributions he made to others throughout his life are countless and precious. My thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones. May his soul rest in peace.

IN TRIBUTE TO CSC(SW) OSCAR FLORES ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Chief Culinary Specialist (Surface Warfare) Oscar Flores in honor of his retirement from the United States Navy. Chief Culinary Specialist Oscar Flores has provided 23 years of faithful and devoted service to the United States Navy and to the citizens of our country.

Since 1988, Chief Culinary Specialist Flores has been dedicated to the U.S. Navy and their mission to protect the United States and her citizens. He started as a Mess Management Specialist, and as Chief Culinary Specialist Flores always went above and beyond the line of duty, he rose through the ranks to Chief Petty Officer. With his talents and exceptional culinary skills, Chief Culinary Specialist Flores has provided outstanding service to the Clin-

ton family. His energy and dedication have been a tribute to the first family and his country.

Additionally, Chief Culinary Specialist Flores earned the dignified title of the Commanding Officer's Chef while aboard the USS *Fort Fisher* (LSD 40) as Galley Watch Captain and aboard the USS *Essex* (LHD 2) as Wardroom Supervisor. On shore, Chief Culinary Specialist Flores has proven his loyal leadership as Petty Officer in charge of BEQ/BOQ Operations at Naval Submarine Base Point Loma, CA. I also recognize Chief Culinary Specialist Flores for his many decorations and awards including the Presidential Service Badge, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, and numerous individual, unit and campaign ribbons.

Chief Culinary Specialist Flores represents the best of what our Nation has to offer and has demonstrated exemplary and laudable service while on the Presidential Food Service Staff at the White House as Chef and Personal Enlisted Aide to the President.

Chief Culinary Specialist Flores' tireless work ethic will be missed by the U.S. Navy, though his strong commitment continues as a Personal Chef, Personal Aide, and Director of Operations at the Clinton Residence.

I am honored to congratulate Chief Culinary Specialist Flores on the occasion of his retirement and further extend my gratitude for his many faithful years of service to the United States Navy.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 23RD AMENDMENT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ratification of the 23rd Amendment to the United States Constitution, which granted the citizens of the District of Columbia the right to vote for President and Vice President. This victory fifty years ago was one of the early victories in the long and continuing struggle of District of Columbia residents for equal rights as American citizens. The 23rd Amendment provided the District of Columbia with three electors for President and Vice President, allowing D.C. residents to vote for the nation's highest offices for the first time since the city was created as the nation's capital.

Only two Members of Congress, Representative JOHN DINGELL and Senator DANIEL INOUE, remain in office from the period of introduction and ratification of the 23rd Amendment, when both were members of the House of Representatives. I was away at college then, but it was clear that an important catalyst for the amendment was the birth of the civil rights movement with the Birmingham bus boycott. The civil rights movement was key in moving Congress to afford the presidential and vice presidential votes to the citizens of the nation's capital, which had become a majority African American city at that time.

The original joint resolution, H.J. Res. 757, was reported favorably by the House Committee on the Judiciary on June 9, 1960. The accompanying report made clear that the

amendment “would not make the District of Columbia a state” and did not grant “home-rule” to the District. Home rule, a milestone allowing for democratic self-government, did not come until 1973. Originally paired with a number of unrelated amendments in the Senate, what became the 23rd Amendment passed the House by voice vote on June 14, 1960 and the Senate agreed to the bill two days later. Fifty years ago today, March 29, 1961, Ohio became the 38th state to ratify the amendment, and it was officially declared to have been ratified as the 23rd Amendment five days later.

Unfortunately, the District of Columbia today remains the only capital in a democratic nation where citizens are denied a vote in the nation’s representative body of government. Today, we can only hope that the decision of Congress to support the presidential and vice presidential votes for D.C. citizens will lead the way to votes in the Congress of the United States itself.

HONORING THE ST. PAUL BRANCH
OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN ON THE
OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Saint Paul Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. For the past century, the St. Paul Branch of the AAUW has fulfilled a noble mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

As a non-profit education advocacy organization, one of its major successes has been the creation of a trust providing college scholarships to young women. Each year, the trust awards approximately \$60,000 in scholarships to deserving high school graduates, and one-time scholarship funds to women returning to college to complete a degree. Scholarship recipients reflect the growing ethnic, religious and racial diversity of our community.

Through its Scholarship Trust and nationwide network affiliation with the AAUW, the St. Paul Branch has made a positive impact for many young women and girls by advancing social, economic and education equity. More women and girls are being empowered to seize opportunities that otherwise would have been impossible.

The work of AAUW St. Paul Branch is commendable and it deserves to be celebrated. In honor of its 100th Anniversary and its mission to provide education opportunity for young women and girls, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF ONEIDA
“MOTHER” BRANCH

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long and loving life of Oneida “Mother” Branch, the heart and soul of the East Palo Alto, California, community, who died in her home on March 22, 2011. For 92 years, Mother Branch put the “active” in activist, devoting her life to her family, her church, and her community.

Born in New Orleans, Mother Branch moved to East Palo Alto half a century ago to start a church with her late husband, the Reverend James Branch. After helping to start St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Mother Branch taught Sunday school and founded a sewing club, attending services until just a month before she died. Widely known and respected for her prodigious knowledge of church history and her willingness to help others, Mother Branch was a deeply religious woman who was revered by the entire community.

But Mother Branch’s charity was not confined to church. “Mother was a little lady with a massive heart,” Paul Nyberg, Publisher of the Los Altos Town Crier, once said. “She was an unabashed Christian reaching out to help everyone in need.” In the 1970’s, Mother Branch established the East Palo Alto Community Center to provide food, comfort, and support to those in need. For decades, she dispensed canned food, blankets, and clothing—as well as uproarious stories and sage advice—to the people of East Palo Alto, working especially hard to promote education and the dignity of women.

Even while she performed her good works, Mother Branch experienced a series of difficult setbacks. The first Community Center office burned down just before Thanksgiving of 1977, and a flood later destroyed her second office. Mother Branch kept aiding her community, spending what little money she had on temporary storage units and continuing to distribute supplies from her own home—which burned down as well. Motivated by a heroic desire to help, even as a stroke at the age of 86 kept her in the hospital for only two days, she went back to work. “No one should suffer,” she would say.

A constant whirlwind of wisdom and affection, Mother Branch always seemed younger than her years . . . which was in fact the opposite. Over the course of resolving a mortgage issue in 2007, Mother Branch discovered that she was actually three years older than she’d thought. But the aid she gave was ageless, touching generations of East Palo Alto residents. Over the years, she would proudly observe, “I have seen people stand on their own feet.” This was perhaps her greatest quality, her ability to strengthen and sustain the lives of those around her. She lived her faith daily, and recognized the godliness in every human being.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest condolences to Mother Branch’s children: Erwin Babney, Whitney Babney, and Nate Branch, her grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as well as all the residents of East Palo Alto. Mother Branch was deeply rooted in her community,

nourishing everyone she met with her light, love, and laughter. I’m proud to have known such a caring and extraordinary matriarch and distinguished citizen of our community and our country.

RECOGNIZING MR. JAMES BISHIR
AS THE 2011 HURLBURT AFA
CHAPTER 398 MIDDLE SCHOOL
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. James Bishir as the 2011 Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398 Middle School Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Bishir, an Integrated Science teacher at Woodham Middle School, began teaching nine years ago. His dedication and professionalism are exemplified by his efforts leading extracurricular activities aimed at developing the skills to ensure that students are prepared to succeed after graduation. All of Mr. Bishir’s students benefit greatly from his assiduous work ethic and his dedication to teaching them before, during and after school.

Three years ago, Mr. Bishir began heading Woodham’s robotics program. Through countless hours of hard work, he and his robotics team of 58 members designed and built a robot. This year, their robot qualified, for the second time in three years, to compete at a national robotics championship at Auburn University. At the championship event, his team was the second highest ranking middle school. In just a short three-year period, he has shown students that not only can learning come in any form, but that their hard work and effort yield positive results.

In his capacity as the Project Based Learning Group Facilitator, Mr. Bishir serves as a mentor for eight other instructors at Woodham Middle School. Through his leadership, Mr. Bishir assists the group in using technology to incorporate project based learning in the classroom. Mr. Bishir goes above and beyond the call of duty to engage his students and work with his colleagues to facilitate innovative learning projects. His commitment to excellence leads to success in and out of the classroom and has earned him recognition as the 2011 Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398 Middle School Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Mr. Bishir for his accomplishments. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mr. James Bishir, and we wish him all the best.

HONORING REVEREND LUCIUS
WALKER, JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Rev. Lucius Walker, Jr. The founding director of the new Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), and a steadfast advocate for civil