

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.

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

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**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.

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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 extra-curricular 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.

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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

rights, peace and justice throughout his life, Rev. Walker followed a spiritual call to serve and empower vulnerable communities. With his passing on September 7, 2010, we look to Rev. Walker's personal legacy of faith, the joy he inspired, and the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Born August 3, 1930, in Roselle, New Jersey, Rev. Walker was one of 10 children. As a teenager, he garnered recognition as a skilled preacher at Pentecostal revival meetings. He majored in English at Shaw University, a historically black institution in Raleigh, North Carolina, and later earned a second degree in divinity from Andover Newton Theological School in Massachusetts. He also earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin, and was ordained in 1958.

In 1967, a group of progressive religious leaders and community activists called upon Rev. Walker to be the founding executive director of IFCO, an organization that linked mainstream Protestant, Catholic and Jewish denominations and congregations to empower community organizers in troubled areas. For more than four decades, Rev. Walker led the IFCO in assisting the poor and disenfranchised to develop and sustain community organizations that fight for human and civil rights around the world.

As the first and largest foundation in the country led and directed by people of color, IFCO's first major accomplishment was the historic National Black Economic Development Conference in 1969, chaired by Rev. Walker. The conference resulted in the presentation of the Black Manifesto, which asked for \$500 million in reparations to the Black community. In the 1970s, Rev. Walker and IFCO were instrumental in working to organize the National Anti-Klan Network (now known as the Center for Democratic Renewal), which continues to be a watchdog for racist violence and hate crimes. Moreover, Rev. Walker founded Salvation Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, and was also one of the strategists and founders of the National Black United Fund.

In 1988, Rev. Walker suffered a gun shot wound at the hands of Nicaraguan contras while leading an international delegation to raise awareness about U.S. policy in Central America. This harrowing experience strengthened his resolve to form a new IFCO program called Pastors for Peace. Through his work, the program has had a key role in the American Indian Movement, the national farm labor movement, the Puerto Rican struggle for independence, and opposition to the U.S. blockade of Cuba. It has organized more than 40 caravans carrying material aid to Mexico, Central America, Haiti, New Orleans, and more than 3,200 tons of aid to Cuba, flouting the U.S. blockade.

One of Rev. Walker's proudest accomplishments was his decade-long organization of a groundbreaking medical exchange program for low-income American youth from communities of color to earn full scholarships at the Latin American School of Medicine in Cuba and return to the U.S. to provide medical care to the underserved. It was an honor and a magnificent experience to work with him in establishing a process for American students to attend this school. He said, "Yes, we can" in spite of the odds. We owe Rev. Walker a debt of gratitude for his bold efforts.

Lucius was an international leader. I personally witnessed the respect and love people

had for him throughout the world. He epitomized the slogan, "think locally, act globally." I miss his advice and counsel, but most importantly, I miss his friendship.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors a great humanitarian, Rev. Lucius Walker, Jr. The contributions he made to others throughout his life are countless and precious. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, as well as his extended group of loved ones and friends. He was a man of bold integrity who is deeply missed. May his soul rest in peace.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE  
OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR  
VICTOR ANGRY AND IN APPRE-  
CIATION OF MILITARY FAMILIES

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 30, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Command Sergeant Major Victor Angry on the occasion of his retirement following more than 23 years of service in our United States Army National Guard. SGT. MAJ. Angry joined the Army National Guard in 1987, following in the footsteps of his brothers who also served our country in uniform. SGT. MAJ. Angry was just 19 years of age when he enlisted. Raised in an urban and poor environment, SGT. MAJ. Angry found himself with few dreams, little passion, and deflated hopes, and thought that he was just "taking a job" for four years. That "job" became an extraordinarily successful career in which SGT. MAJ. Angry has become a part of history.

Attaining the rank Command Sergeant Major is the epitome of success in the Army National Guard. It is the highest rank possible, with the exception of Sergeant Major of the Army, for enlisted soldiers and there is no greater honor. SGT. MAJ. Victor Angry was the very first African American to achieve this rank and he has become a role model and inspiration for other young men and women, especially those who face personal challenges.

SGT. MAJ. Angry has a role model of his own—his wife Michelle. The life of a service-member can be very difficult, especially on his family. Frequent moves or deployments, becoming re-established in a new community, guiding your children through the pain of leaving old friends and trying to fit in yet again are just a few of the issues that are faced. Michelle has not only guided her family through these changes, she has aided so many other children along the way. Michelle has been instrumental in the development and success of the Fort Belvoir Family Childcare Program where her nurture, patience, and intelligence have contributed immeasurably to the growth and security of the children of our soldiers. Michelle has become a "Star Provider" and has rightfully earned the praise of so many including Evelyn Flores, Family Child Care Director, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

I believe that SGT. MAJ. Angry would agree that without the unconditional love and support of his wife Michelle and his children Dominique and Alexxyus, his professional success in the U.S. Army Guard would not have been possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Command Sergeant Angry on the occasion of his retirement and in thanking him for his service to our country. I also commend Michelle Angry and all military spouses and families throughout our country. They are truly the unsung heroes. Our armed services would suffer greatly without the eternal support of their families, and I thank Michelle and all military families for their sacrifices.

RECOGNIZING FROZEN FOOD  
MONTH

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 30, 2011*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Frozen Food Month and to thank the thousands of individuals who work in the frozen food industry who help hard-working families have access to healthy foods.

Few other food choices provide consumers with the benefits and flexibility offered by frozen foods. Today, frozen entrees are healthier—using less sodium, less fat and including more whole grains. Frozen fruits and vegetables can be nutritionally superior to their fresh counterparts, particularly over time.

Frozen foods have also played a key role in helping nourish Americans and feed the world. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. exports of frozen food hit an all-time high in 2010 at \$11 billion, an increase of more than 50 percent since 2006.

The industry is also a key job producer. With almost 700 facilities located nationwide, it employs nearly 100,000 Americans. In the state of Washington alone, more than 7,400 jobs come from the frozen food industry.

This makes sense. One of Washington state's top advantages is its reliable production of high quality crops. There are more than 300 crops commercially produced, which can be turned into a diverse range of quality frozen food products for American consumers and growing markets in Asia. Potatoes, apples, grapes, and berries are just some of the crops that are processed and frozen.

I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to commemorate the accomplishments of some in the industry who have made a difference. Clarence Birdseye—an all American inventor—who ushered in a food revolution in 1930 when his line of frozen foods first hit grocery stores, introducing America to affordable foods that were easy to make.

William McCaffray Sr. founded the National Frozen Food headquartered in Seattle, Washington. Mr. McCaffray started freezing one-pound cups of strawberries in 1928—some of the earliest frozen retail packaging in the world. The impact that these two gentlemen had on the industry and the impact that the industry has had on this nation are immeasurable. There is no doubt that the innovations and contributions of this vital American industry will continue to shape the future success of our country.