

NATIONAL EMS WEEK

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, May 15th through the 21st is National EMS Week, a week set aside to reflect upon and honor the life-saving and heroic role the Emergency Medical Services, EMS, community plays in our society. While everyone associated with the EMS system is worthy of due praise, I rise today to pay tribute to one particular segment of the EMS system.

In conjunction with EMS Week, the Association of Air Medical Services is instituting the inaugural MedEvac Hour, asking those who are participating in EMS Week to find one hour of the week to recognize the contributions of all those involved in helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft medical transport. As a co-chair of the Congressional Air Medical Caucus, I recognize the vital role the air medical community plays in this nation's health care system.

I would like to take this opportunity to especially commend the exemplary services provided to my constituents in California's 18th congressional district: PHI Air Medical of Modesto, Medi-Flight of Modesto and Merced, REACH Air Medical Services of Stockton, Sky Life Central California of Fresno, and the California Highway Patrol—Central Division. The work they do saves lives and we are grateful for it.

Numerous studies have shown that the first hour following a trauma is a critical period in determining the final health outcome of the patient. However, 46.7 million Americans live more than an hour away from a Level 1 or Level 2 trauma center. When time and distance are critical, helicopter MedEvac is the quickest and most efficient way to get critical level medical care to the patient. MedEvac helicopters are most often utilized for time-sensitive illnesses and injuries such as severe trauma, heart attacks, or strokes. In remote rural areas, MedEvac helicopters are often the only access to definitive treatment and diagnosis. It is estimated that MedEvac helicopters transport approximately 400,000 patients annually, with MedEvac fixed-wing aircraft transporting an additional 100,000-plus patients over longer distances annually.

As early as 1926, the United States Army Air Corps used a converted airplane to transport patients from Nicaragua to an Army hospital in Panama, 150 miles away. Routine MedEvac transport utilizing helicopters began during the Korean conflict in the 1950s. In March of 1970, the Maryland State Police transported the first critically injured trauma patient by helicopter in the United States. The first civilian hospital-based medical helicopter service in the United States was established in 1972 at St. Anthony's Hospital in Denver, Colorado.

As of the close of 2009, there were over 4,400 MedEvac pilots, 600 physicians, 5,500 nurses, and 5,300 paramedics/EMTs staffing MedEvac vehicles, both fixed-wing and helicopter, in the United States. These people save lives every day, providing critical level medical care and safe, rapid transport to the

most appropriate health care facility during the most dire of circumstances. In addition, we cannot overlook the many other people, from aviation mechanics to communication specialists, that play a key role in MedEvac operations.

All of the dedicated men and women of the MedEvac community deserve our heartfelt thanks. I urge all of my colleagues, during this National EMS Week, to take a moment to recognize these unsung heroes and the life-saving services the MedEvac community brings to their districts and across the nation.

HONORING MENDOTA HIGH SCHOOL CHESS TEAM**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mendota High School Chess Team, home of the mighty Aztecs, on their first place victory at the CalChess State Championships held recently in Santa Clara, California. This event drew more than 1,300 students from over 100 schools from across our great Golden State.

This victory is especially fitting as it clearly embodies the classic "underdog" tale. Mendota is not where you would normally expect to find the state's top high school chess team. As their coach Vanessa French explained, "I taught my kids a long time ago, don't be frightened by the bedazzled or the bling-bling . . . I have never told them we couldn't win."

A small agricultural community, Mendota is located in the western portion of California's Central Valley. I am proud to represent this community with its population of 10,000. Historically known for its reputation as The Cantaloupe Center of the World; sadly Mendota has recently become known to many in our nation for its chronic high unemployment rate, at times hovering near 45%. Most residents of Mendota are hard working migrant farmworkers and earn, on average, one-third of what other Californians earn. Culturally, chess is not a game played in the homes of many Mendota families, who are busy simply trying to make ends meet.

Yet, despite these tremendous odds, the students from Mendota High School returned home as state champions, winning first place in the Premier Division and earning eight team and individual medals and trophies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work, dedication and spirit of strategic competitiveness that runs through each and every one of these impressive students. I congratulate students Julian Estrada, Chrispen Reyes, Luis Castillo, Felipe Beltran, Jessi Mendez, Kevin Romero, Sergio Mayares, Milton Arroyo, and Edwin Briosio and Coach Vanessa French on their great victory and ask that you join me in wishing continued success to all those at Mendota High School who worked so tirelessly on this victory.

A TRIBUTE TO LOIS ANN JOHNSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lois Ann Johnson of Humboldt, Iowa for being the recipient of the Inspiration Award at the 2011 Humboldt County Spirit Awards.

The Humboldt County Spirit Awards were established to recognize and honor outstanding groups and individuals who have worked for the benefit of all citizens of Humboldt County, to celebrate the accomplishments and activities of our communities, to acknowledge the value of volunteerism in the county, and to have a positive impact on community spirit.

Annually included in the Spirit Awards, the Inspiration Award is presented to an individual with a "can-do" attitude who is involved in all facets of the community both as a leader and team player. Lois was recognized for her extensive volunteer work at her local hospital auxiliary, church, and care centers, just to name a few. Lois was also recognized as a mentor at the elementary school and as president of the advisory group associated with the community's CARE team.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Lois Ann Johnson in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in commending her for her sincere dedication to establishing a better community and wish her continued success well into the future.

H.R. 1229 AND H.R. 1231

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House majority is taking up legislation that helps the profits of Big Oil but does nothing to curb a future oil disaster or bring down oil and gas prices. H.R. 1229 and H.R. 1231 both greatly expand U.S. offshore drilling while removing crucial environmental safeguards and limiting oversight of the oil and gas industry. It has been a little over a year since the gulf oil spill and these bills ignore the lessons learned from this environmental and public health disaster that resulted from the explosion that took the lives of 11 Americans.

I fully support national energy policies that increase energy independence but these must be done in a way that protects our environment and uses our natural resources responsibly. It is important that any energy policies we put in place provide greater efficiency and accountability to the management and regulation of our energy resources.

That is not what the legislation before us will do. I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JOSEPH
D. MATHIS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a South Carolinian who distinguished himself on the athletic field and as an educator, coach, minister and community activist. The late Reverend Joseph D. Mathis is being inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame on May 23, 2011, and will be honored for his lifetime of accomplishments by the Rainbow Push Coalition on May 14th. I add my voice to those honoring Reverend Mathis, who made tremendous contributions to the State of South Carolina.

Joseph Mathis was born August 28, 1922, in Cordele, Georgia, to Elnora Huggins and A.C. Mathis. He was reared in the home of his maternal grandparents, Lula Taylor Huggins and the Reverend Harrison Huggins, Sr. During the Great Depression, Reverend Mathis moved to Greenville, South Carolina with his family, where he graduated from Sterling High School. Despite the financial obstacles, help from others enabled Reverend Mathis to attend Benedict College and Allen University, where he earned a degree in History. He was a standout player and captain of the football team at Allen University, which went undefeated during the regular season of his final year.

Mathis returned to Greenville following his graduation, and took a job at his alma mater. From 1946 to 1970, Reverend Mathis taught health, physical education and social studies at Sterling High. As their coach he led the Sterling Tigers football team to regional fame and three state championships between 1946 and 1961. Reverend Mathis also served as athletic director and coached baseball, girls and boys track and basketball at Sterling High. Coach Mathis always emphasized athletic fundamentals, conditioning, and academic excellence. In 1992, he was inducted into the Piedmont Athletic Hall of Fame and was first nominated to the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame.

During the tumultuous years of desegregation, Reverend Mathis took on the responsibility of serving as the Assistant Principal of Greenville High School in 1970. He held that position until 1974. He later taught Social Studies at League Middle School and worked as a placement coordinator at Donaldson and Enoree Vocational Schools before retiring in 1977.

In addition to his commitment to education, Reverend Mathis was equally committed to his faith. He served as a Trustee and Sunday School Superintendent for many years at Israel CME Church in Greenville, and in 1961, he gave up full-time coaching in order to accept the call into the ministry. Reverend Mathis was ordained a Christian Methodist Episcopal minister under the pastorate of Reverend R.O. Langford at his home church. He pastored Young Laymen in the Nicholtown community for 31 years, and Mount Olive CME Church for ten years. In 1993, Reverend Mathis retired from the ministry after thirty-one years of service.

Another of Reverend Mathis' passions was civic involvement. When he earned his mas-

ter's degree from Atlanta University, his master's thesis was entitled "Race Relations in Greenville, South Carolina, from 1865 through 1900, as Seen in a Critical Analysis of Greenville City Council Proceedings." His studies compelled him to organize African American voters in Greenville in the 1960s and 70s. He also served with distinction on the Greenville City Council from 1979 to 1983, where he worked to improve public transportation, to include minority contractors in public work, to bring Municipal Stadium and the Braves to Greenville, to improve police pay and to annex Verdae Place to the City of Greenville.

Reverend Mathis and Kittle Mae Avery were married in 1948, and they shared a strong union until her death in 1991. The couple had two daughters, Janice (Thaddeus) Allen and Davida (Harry) Johnson, and three grandchildren. Reverend Mathis passed away in 2002 at the age of 80, but his legacy lives on through his family and in the countless people he touched through his service over his lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable life of Reverend Joseph D. Mathis. He remains a tremendous example of an unsung hero. Reverend Mathis dedicated himself without reservation to his faith, his community and his profession. He excelled in all these arenas and is a remarkable role model for future generations to follow. It is my honor to provide this posthumous recognition of his many accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HAROLD
BLACKMAN, DIRECTOR OF THE
CENTER FOR ADVANCED EN-
ERGY STUDIES

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Harold Blackman, an Idahoan who has made a difference. When the Battelle Energy Alliance was selected by the Department of Energy to manage the Idaho National Laboratory, the contract called for the development of a research institution to link the Lab to the three Idaho state universities—the University of Idaho, Idaho State University and Boise State University. Ultimately, Dr. Harold Blackman was chosen to serve as Director of the Center for Advanced Energy Studies and a landmark institution in Idaho began to come together.

The Center for Advanced Energy Studies, or CAES as it is known in Idaho, brings INL researchers, university faculty and students, and industry together to partner in research and development activities. At the outset, Harold faced the challenge of getting the three Idaho universities to view the Lab as a partner and, perhaps the even more difficult challenge to get the three schools to work together. Previous efforts to bring our national labs and universities together in lasting partnerships have not always been successful and were it not for Harold Blackman's patient manner and his willingness to listen, learn and implement, CAES would have been another failed attempt. Instead, CAES is a smashing success and much of the credit goes to Harold Blackman.

CAES has developed into a state of the art research facility with world class equipment that gives its researchers a competitive advantage pursuing research proposals. Also, the partnership is helping fill the pipeline for the next generation of energy professionals. At a time when Idaho, like every other state in the Union, is facing severe budgetary pressure, Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter and the Idaho Legislature have continued to provide funding to support university faculty participation in CAES. Through CAES, Idaho universities have increased the role they play supporting nuclear energy research in the US, and undergraduate and graduate student enrollment in nuclear engineering classes has soared. As a result of the expertise and credentials of the staff Harold Blackman has assembled, CAES now administers the Department of Energy's Nuclear Energy University Program which funds R&D, fellowships, scholarships, and infrastructure investments across the country. In addition to fostering a new collaborative climate between the Idaho universities, Harold Blackman and CAES were instrumental in establishing a high-speed network researchers could tap into across the state.

The Center for Advanced Energy Studies is a model for national laboratory, university and industry collaboration and Harold Blackman deserves a large amount of credit for making this institution a success. Harold will now be tackling new challenges at INL, and I am sure he will bring his exceptional professionalism, listening skills and commitment to success to these new tasks.

Thank you, Harold.

HONORING FRED DAVIS JACKSON

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Fred Davis Jackson of Richmond, California, for his lifetime commitment to serving his community.

Fred Jackson has lived and worked in my congressional district since 1950, a veteran, having moved to Richmond from his home in Mississippi. He was born on February 6, 1938 as the eldest son of devoted and hard working parents, the late Leo Marvis Jackson, who was a seasonal construction and shipyard worker, and the late Idella Villon Jackson. Mrs. Jackson would eventually become single and took on domestic jobs to care for Fred and his three sisters and five brothers. Fred Jackson is a peacemaker, an educator, a song writer and a true community-builder, and each and every day since arriving in the Bay Area, Fred has made a decided difference in the lives of our residents.

Early on in his life, Fred Jackson recognized and celebrated the personal dignity in each individual. His work crossed all race and ethnic lines, all faiths and all ages. As a peace and social justice activist, Fred sat in at lunch counters in the South during the 1960's Civil Rights Movement and worked for peace even as he served our country in combat duty during the Vietnam War.

Fred Jackson is known throughout Contra Costa County as a dedicated advocate for our