

For over four decades, Ofield Dukes' career and influence spanned CBC milestones ranging from their boycott of President Nixon's State of the Union address to demand White House recognition in 1971 to his articles celebrating the CBC's 40th anniversary in 2011, under the historic leadership of President Barack Obama. He was a friend to the CBC every step of the way, and the Congressional Black Caucus could not have asked for better guidance and company.

Therefore, the Congressional Black Caucus salutes and honors the life of this outstanding man, while mourning the loss of an incredible partner in the pursuit of justice and equality. The great Ofield Dukes and his masterful contributions to the success of progressive and talented leaders throughout the world have helped to change the course of history. His legacy and light will forever live on, and he will be deeply missed.

THE 37TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY LABOR AWARDS RECEPTION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate some of the most devoted and proficient workers in Northwest Indiana. The Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor, American Federation of Labor—Congress of Industrial Organizations, recognized several individuals for their dedication during the 37th Annual Community Labor Awards Reception, which was held at Wicker Memorial Park in Highland, Indiana, on January 31, 2012. These individuals, in addition to the other Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are the epitome of the ideal American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

At this year's event, several individuals and organizations received special recognition. Ray Kasmak, Business Manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 697, was this year's recipient of the President's Award. Mr. Kasmak was honored for his many years of service and his exceptional contributions to the well-being of workers throughout Northwest Indiana.

The Democratic Members of the Indiana House and Senate received the Service to Labor Award for their tireless efforts to assist organized labor with improving the quality of life for workers in Northwest Indiana.

Randy Palmateer, Business Manager, Northwestern Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council, was presented with this year's Union Label Award for his unselfish devotion to the Labor Movement through social, civic, educational, and political endeavors.

United Steelworkers Local 6787 accepted the Community Services Award for its members' exemplary service to the community and the enhancement of the quality of life for people in Northwest Indiana, as demonstrated by their countless hours of volunteerism and charity work.

For his outstanding leadership skills and dedication to assist working Americans through trying times, Rich Trumka, President, American Federation of Labor—Congress of

Industrial Organizations, received the Leadership Award.

Roger Jachna, Jr., of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 697, and William Beck, of Pipefitters Local 597, received the George Meany Award, an honor bestowed upon them by the Boy Scouts of America.

Mike Summers, former Business Manager of Ironworkers Local 395 and former President of the Northwestern Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The exceptional service he has so generously provided to the community deserves our admiration and respect. His dedication and commitment are representative of the values we cherish in Northwest Indiana.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These individuals are all outstanding examples of these qualities. They have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and self-sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and exemplary citizens, as well as all of the hardworking union men and women in America. They have shown commitment and courage toward their pursuits, and I am proud to represent them in Washington, DC.

RECOGNIZING CECIL NOBLES

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Cecil Nobles, the much celebrated Sheriff of Long County, GA, and a pillar of his community.

Cecil Nobles was born on February 21, 1935 in Long County, GA, to Raymond Elliott and Minnie Baxter Nobles. Raised in Long County, he was educated in Long County schools and graduated from Ludowici High School in 1953. After high school, Mr. Nobles earned a Bachelor's degree in Business and a Master's degree in Education from Georgia Southern University.

Soon after graduation, Cecil Nobles began teaching in the Long County school system from 1959 until 1969. During that time, he also served as an Assistant Principal and as the elected Coroner of Long County from 1962 through 1968. Mr. Nobles made a remarkable impact within the realm of education when he taught one of the first integrated classes in Southeastern Georgia.

Forever dedicated to Long County and public service, Cecil Nobles rose to become the longest serving Sheriff in the State of Georgia and the second longest serving Sheriff in the United States. During his eleven terms as Sheriff and two terms as Coroner, Mr. Nobles was always known for his tireless dedication to public service, his commitment to law enforcement, and his love of his family and friends throughout Long County and beyond.

Sheriff Nobles was part of a vanishing tradition in Georgia of long serving, old school sheriffs. In many ways he ran Long County. If you wanted something done with one phone

call, you dialed his number and his influence did not end at the county line. Using his extensive Rolodex, which may have not been a rolodex, but it certainly was not an email list, of elected officials, and agency heads, he always knew just who to call. He fought for everything as if it was the last chance between Long County's survival and its bankruptcy. He secured funding for countless projects and his legacy in South Georgia will be long lasting. Most importantly he never forgot a friend and frequently used two words that have become rare in politics: 'thank you.' In turn today we thank him for his service. I was proud to call him a friend.

WAR MEMORIAL PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 290, the "War Memorial Protection Act," of which I am a proud cosponsor.

H.R. 290 will allow religious symbols to be included as part of a military memorial established or acquired by the U.S. government. This follows past legislation which led to the federal government's acquisition of Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial from the city of San Diego in 2006.

First erected in 1913, the cross on top of Mount Soledad has been a fixture of San Diego for nearly a century. In 1954 the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial was rebuilt and dedicated as a lasting memorial to the dead of the two world wars and the Korean conflict. It is a symbol of the community's respect and honor for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their nation and liberty.

I am a proud defender of the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial. Our Founding Fathers made sure the government did not impose one religion on all people. They also believed religion plays an important role in public life and individuals should be able to freely practice what they believe.

That is why it is so important to pass the War Memorial Protection Act. This bill does not favor one religion over another and it does not make any exclusions. This bill seeks to ensure that religious symbols can also be part of war memorials honoring our fallen heroes.

Mr. Speaker, again I urge passage of H.R. 290.

RECOGNIZING THE FOURTH GRADE CLASS AT WHITE OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BURKE, VIRGINIA

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fourth grade class at White Oaks Elementary School in Burke, Virginia for their foresight, charity, and patriotism. Recently, these students collected seventy-six dollars and donated it to the United States Treasury to go towards paying down our nation's skyrocketing debt.

At a time when our national debt is over \$15 trillion, these fourth graders have realized we must manage down our debt and get our fiscal house in order. Their selfless contribution towards tackling this problem is a promising sign that the future leaders of our country realize that Washington's out of control spending is growing at an unsustainable rate. Just as any family or business must do, Washington must live within its means so that future generations have the same opportunity to earn success that has always made America so great. I only hope that Americans—young and old—can follow the example set by this remarkable group of young students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in applauding the fourth graders at White Oaks Elementary School for their selfless contribution towards managing down our national debt.

REMEMBERING BING WELCH

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the passing of Mr. Bing Welch, city councilman and community leader from Richmond, Indiana.

Bing Welch was born in Tennessee and later attended the University of Tennessee. After serving in the 40th Armor Division in Korea for more than two years, Bing settled in Richmond. There he was employed by ALCOA as a tool designer, but later transferred to North Carolina and Kentucky before settling in Richmond once again in 1969.

His 37-year tenure at ALCOA was marked by several notable accomplishments and opportunities, such as product development of plastic soft drink bottles and pull-tabs on cans. By the time he retired, he was a member of the 25-Year Club and had traveled across the country representing ALCOA in product liability lawsuits.

In the mid 1970s, Bing decided to become more active in the community which he loved so well, and he was appointed to fill a vacant At-Large position on the Richmond Common Council. He would go on to serve on the council, including time spent as president, for an astonishing and admirable 22 years. Bing's legacy of leadership also includes service on the boards for the Richmond Sanitary District, the Parks and Recreation Department and Richmond Power and Light, where he spent time as chairman. Additionally, Bing was a member of the Corridor North Commission that planned the development of U.S. 27 North.

The Richmond community remembers Bing as a man of character who loved God, his family, his community, and his country. He was known for his incredible leadership, honesty, commitment, and integrity. Bing's focus was always on the interests of the people he served, and during his long career in public service and in business, he made Richmond a better place. He and his wife founded the Concerned Citizen coalition, and he also helped start the Jerry Lawrence Memorial Golf Outing.

I offer my deepest condolences to his wife of 57 years, Patricia; as well as his daughter

Kristi; son Brian; grandchildren Morgan, Blaine, Jessica, and Nathan; and his many nieces, nephews, and other extended family. May God comfort Patricia and Bing's entire family with the assurance of His grace and with the assurance of the gratitude of the people of Richmond whom he served and loved.

“WHAT'S THE REAL DEFENSE BUDGET?” BY MALLORY FACTOR

HON. TIM SCOTT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit an article on behalf of Mallory Factor expressing his opinion regarding the need for transparency with respect to the different roles of our military.

“WHAT'S THE REAL DEFENSE BUDGET?”

[By Mallory Factor]

The new Congress won the election by promising to cut spending, and unsurprisingly the defense budget is on the table for the first time in more than a decade.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates recently announced \$78 billion in defense spending cuts over the next five years, including reductions in troop levels for the Army and Marine Corps. These types of cuts suggest that the military is working to become leaner and more efficient. Still, many Americans and congressmen are calling for deeper cuts.

Not counting the cost of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Defense budget is expected to be \$553 billion in 2012, up from \$549 billion in 2011. That outlay currently represents 19% of the entire federal budget and over 50% of U.S. discretionary spending; cutting it would go a long way toward reining in government spending. But before further slicing the military budget, Congress must reconsider the military's mission and what activities it should undertake.

The purpose of a large standing army is to provide for our national defense. In essence, the defense budget is an insurance policy that protects the U.S. against threats from other nations and groups. But in recent years a growing percentage of that budget has been spent on activities that don't involve traditional national defense. These include nation-building, policing foreign nations, humanitarian missions and ferrying executive- and legislative-branch leaders and their attendants around the globe. While these activities may be tangentially related to our standing in the world, they do not enhance our war-fighting capabilities; rather they relate more to the success of our foreign policy than to our national defense.

This increase in nondefense missions has been accompanied by a dramatic shift from war-fighting to nation-building. The official White House website now describes the function of the Department of Defense as to “protect national interests through war-fighting, providing humanitarian aid and performing peacekeeping and disaster relief services.” Is war-fighting just one among the many functions we want our military to perform?

Rightly or wrongly, we give our military these various assignments because we don't want to pay someone else to do them, and other government entities currently can't. Yet just because our military can do these jobs doesn't mean that it should. Indeed, these assignments shift focus away from the military's core missions: keeping America safe and winning wars.

Right now it is difficult for Congress to determine how much money is spent on protecting the U.S. The “military” budget gives an exaggerated impression of the cost of our national defense. When Congress adds burdens to the military, direct costs like fuel, food and relief supplies may be calculated and expressed in the budget.

But these items are just a small part of these missions, and the larger costs get buried. These hidden costs include recruiting and training extra troops, purchasing and servicing additional equipment, additional layers of bureaucracy, and maintaining and enlarging bases, none of which are separated out in the budget as relating to nondefense missions.

The military's nondefense activities may or may not be warranted, but their total costs must be transparent. If Congress does not consider these costs separately, traditional defense missions and essential equipment upgrades will be crowded out.

America is a compassionate nation and would surely engage in humanitarian activities even if their true costs were known. But why charge these costs to the defense budget and then hide them? Only by demanding that the military budget be limited to legitimate defense activities can Americans know how many dollars we are actually devoting to our national security.

Some military leaders have privately estimated that if these nondefense-related activities were eliminated or given a separate budget, defense spending could be substantially reduced and at the same time the military's war-fighting capabilities increased. Given this uncertainty, before any additional cuts are made to military spending, Congress must demand transparency with respect to the different roles of our military.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 12 on H. Res. 522, I mistakenly recorded my vote as “yes” when I should have voted “no.”

A TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICE OF JACK KING

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my California delegation colleagues Mr. LUNGREN, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. FARR, Mr. DENHAM, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. BACA, Mr. HERGER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. FILNER, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. NUNES, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. LEE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. CHU, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. LINDA SANCHEZ, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. HAHN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. CALVERT and Senator FEINSTEIN, to pay tribute to Mr. Jack King on the occasion of his retirement from the California Farm Bureau Federation. For more than 35 years, Jack King has worked on behalf of our nation's farmers and ranchers to ensure that they have a voice in our nation's capital. His passion for agriculture has made him a strong and effective advocate