

OGUNQUIT PLAYHOUSE 80TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Ogunquit Playhouse—America's Foremost Summer Theatre in Ogunquit, Maine—as they celebrate their 80th Anniversary Season.

Since 1933, the Ogunquit Playhouse has given generations of theatergoers the opportunity to enjoy the finest plays and brightest stars and professional actors, bringing Broadway to the Beach. Their acclaim has continued over the decades. Most recently, they were recently recognized with prestigious Moss Hart Awards for Best Professional Production and Outstanding Achievement as a Theater Company. In addition, the New England Theatre Conference has recognized the Ogunquit Playhouse with their Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Theatre, acknowledging the Playhouse as one of the most important cultural landmarks in New England.

I am proud of the Playhouse's commitment to developing and expanding theater activity in New England on the educational, community and professional levels. They have created an extensive school performance and outreach program as well as partnerships with dozens of social service agencies throughout the region to bring underserved children and families to the Playhouse to enjoy live theater.

They believe—and I believe—that the arts are essential to the quality of life for everyone. As Maine's creative economy grows and receives national attention, America's Foremost Summer Theatre serves as a shining example of success.

TRIBUTE TO ZACHARY DAVID
BENJAMIN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Zachary Benjamin of Fort Dodge, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5 percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Zachary's project involved creating a rock and rain garden at Kennedy Park in Webster County. Zachary completed this project while going above and beyond the required merit badges. The work ethic Zachary has shown in his Eagle Project, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Zachary and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him in obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID SHELBORNE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor Mr. David Shelborne.

Mr. Shelborne's passion for electronics led him to become a technician for the Savin Corporation in Manhattan. His many awards during his tenure there led to his recruitment to Alco Standards Corporation, a Fortune 500 company, in a Senior Specialist position. There he was responsible for managing the entire New York and New Jersey Regions of the company.

Mr. Shelborne has been a dedicated member of the African American Benevolent Society since 1990, has held many esteemed positions in the organization, and now serves as its president.

Mr. Shelborne currently works for the Department of Sanitation where he is currently assigned to the Supervised Sick Leave Unit—Medical Division, having been a dedicated member of the department since 1990.

Mr. Shelborne is a child of God and an active member of the St. John Baptist Church, in Arverne, NY. He currently resides in Far Rockaway, New York with his wife, Lisa. Together, they have five children.

Mr. Shelbourne is currently looking forward to being a volunteer for the United States Civil Air Patrol (Parent in Partnership) with his youngest son, Tahj.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize David Shelborne for his loyalty and dedication to civic duty in his professional and private life.

IN RECOGNITION OF LESBIAN,
GAY, BISEXUAL, AND
TRANSGENDER PRIDE MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pride that I rise today to recognize the significance of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month. The purpose of this honorable month is to recognize the vast influence lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender men and women have had not only on our nation's history, but on local and international levels as well.

Today, we regard LGBT Pride Month as an opportunity to pay tribute to the 1969 Stonewall riots, a major tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the U.S. Over 40 years ago a group of New Yorkers took a stand against a discriminatory police raid at

The Stonewall Inn, a popular gay bar in Manhattan.

The spontaneous demonstrations that composed the Stonewall riots are commonly referred to as the first instance in American history when people of the LGBT community fought back against a government system of persecution which targeted sexual minorities. It united the gay community in New York in the fight against discrimination.

Six months after the riots, three newspapers dedicated to promoting LGBT rights were formed: Gay, Gay Power and Come Out! Additionally, two gay activist organizations were founded right here in New York—the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activists Alliance. Within a few years, gay rights organizations were founded in several cities across the nation and the world. June 28, 1970 marked the first Gay Pride marches in Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York, established to commemorate the anniversary of the riots.

In honor of Stonewall, many gay pride events and celebrations are now held annually during the month of June throughout the world, including New York City's Gay Pride Week. These celebrations include pride parades, picnics, concerts and parties; and attract millions of global participants. Memorials for those LGBT members who have lost their lives to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS are also held during this month.

While the fight for justice regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity continues to be a crucial one, we have indeed made significant strides. Let this month remind us of the society we all strive for, one in which lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people enjoy the constitutional rights of equality, personal autonomy, and freedom of expression. No LGBT person should experience discrimination in housing, employment, or public spaces. We need to continue fighting until everyone has the equal opportunity to participate fully in civil society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in commemorating the anniversary of the Stonewall riots, supporting the ongoing fight for gay liberation, and celebrating the legacy of LGBT community members whose place in our Nation's history cannot be overlooked. LGBT Americans have strengthened our country, helped create awareness and garner support for equality.

A TRIBUTE TO TREMAINE
ANTOINE PRICE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Tremaine Antoine Price, an artist, minister, and man of community. Tremaine Price is currently a Community Relations Coordinator at Success Academy Charter Schools serving the Harlem community in several ways including Family Academic Events, tutoring for scholars, parent counseling, and fundraising initiatives.

Tremaine Price, born and raised in Brooklyn, was a burgeoning young artist, performing in plays, music groups, glee clubs, choirs, and praise groups. He received The Brooklyn Old Timers, the Brooklyn Links, the Congressional

Black Caucus, and the Posse Foundation Merit Leadership scholarships to pave the way for his collegiate studies at Vanderbilt University. There he participated in and led several student organizations and honed his theatrical skills, highlighted by directing a student version of Ntozake Shange's play, "for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf" and founding The Black Arts Series at Vanderbilt University.

Tremaine Price is a drama minister and playwright, his original play is titled "For Christian Girls" and it debuted in August 2011. He strives to incorporate performance art into worship, which not only means acting out skits, but also revealing the truths of our triumphs, fears, suffering, and joys through the Christian faith. He is a member of the Young Adult Ministry (Praise Team), the Berean Brotherhood, and the servant leader for the Spiritual Expressions Drama Ministry. He intends on pursuing higher education degrees in Theatre Education and hopes to one day grace the Broadway stage.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Tremaine Antoine Price for his leadership in the religious word and in his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent yesterday for votes in the House Chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 379 and 380.

A TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW OKEBIYI

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Mr. Matthew Okebiyi. Born in Lagos, Nigeria, Matthew Okebiyi spent most of his youth and formal schooling being shuttled between various parts of Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. It was during those formative years that he witnessed firsthand the effects of poverty, hunger, homelessness, and human rights violations. Those incidents would later have a profound impact upon his life.

Mr. Okebiyi immigrated to the United States in the early 1980s and settled in Brooklyn, New York, where he attended college on a full-time basis while working two jobs. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Communication Arts, pursued advanced studies and earned two Master's degrees: one in Urban Planning and the other in Political Science. He completed his Mental Health training at Hunter College School of Social Work in New York City.

Mr. Okebiyi is the founder of the African American Planning Commission, a New York City-based not-for-profit organization and currently serves as the Executive Director. He also worked to build the Serenity House Family Residence, a 40 unit, \$5.5 million transitional homeless shelter for survivors of domes-

tic violence. The mission of Serenity House is to offer survivors and their minor children, who have exceeded their maximum length of stay in an emergency shelter, a safe but temporary refuge from domestic violence.

Mr. Okebiyi, in addition to his accomplishments, has volunteered with Food Bank and Children's Literacy programs. He maintains a volunteer teaching schedule; tutoring several undergraduate and post-graduate students in his free time, one hundred percent of whom have gone on to receive their Bachelor's and/or Master's degrees.

Mr. Okebiyi has been the recipient of many awards for public service. Most recently was in 2011, when he was the recipient of the prestigious "Man of the Year" award presented by the Brooklyn Branch of Key Women of America, Inc. at its annual gala.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Matthew Okebiyi for his drive to succeed and dedication to social justice. His unceasing commitment to the welfare of others is an inspiration to us all.

HONORING ABCD AND ITS FOUNDER, BOB COARD

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 21, 2012, ABCD will celebrate and honor its late founder, Bob Coard, by renaming its Boston headquarters in honor of this titan in the effort to enable upward mobility and a higher quality of life for all people, regardless of income or situation in life. I rise today to commemorate and congratulate this incredible community action program the nation's leading anti-poverty organization, and to salute my great friend, the late, Bob Coard. From Beacon Hill to Capitol Hill, Bob was a consistent, persistent and insistent force, working tirelessly to direct critical resources toward the fight to eradicate poverty.

Bob was an early, highly-effective general in the War on Poverty. He began his unmatched service even before President Johnson urged communities to organize around the vision of a creating a Great Society free of poverty and abundant in opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, creed or income. And Bob was still on the job when an extraordinary community organizer, President Obama, was sworn in as our 44th president. For all those years, "ABCD" didn't just stand for "Action for Boston Community Development." It also stood for "Anything Bob Coard Desired."

When Bob called, it was because he needed action for Boston's most vulnerable residents—more money for home heating assistance, help with Medicaid funding, support for Head Start.

And we knew Bob was right because Bob recognized that our great challenge here in the United States is to bestow the world's blessings on all of God's children—to ensure, as President Kennedy said in his Inaugural address, that "God's work on earth must truly be our own."

The son of a civil servant from Grenada, Bob Coard immigrated to this country to pursue the American Dream. Once here, he dedicated his own life to helping others pursue that same dream.

When Bob started work at ABCD in 1964, the organization was only two years old and it had a tiny staff. Today, it has 1,000 employees and carries out a wide array of programs focused on meeting the needs of the poor and disadvantaged in the City of Boston.

Recognizing that education provides the best way for young people to, in his words, "make it in this world," Bob started two high schools for at-risk youth at ABCD, in collaboration with the Boston Public Schools.

ABCD has been called the unsung hero of Boston. For 50 years ABCD has saved lives and made dreams come true, and while ABCD is at the heart of Boston's communities, it was the heart of Bob Coard that pushed ABCD to the national model it is today, and John Drew's amazing leadership that keeps that heart beating strong.

From providing heating assistance for those in need during New England's long, cold winters to delivering job training to those who need work, ABCD is the bridge from poverty to self-sufficiency. The opportunities ABCD provides for low-income Boston residents to get back on their feet, live with dignity and achieve their full potential are building blocks for the continued success of these communities.

Today, ABCD's assistance to people and communities has grown to all sectors of poverty relief.

ABCD organizes Head Start programs for over 2,400 low-income children and families every year.

ABCD supplies fuel assistance to more than 22,000 families a year.

ABCD provides services for thousands of at-risk youth through SummerWorks, career development and two alternative high schools, and health services and family planning for more than 30,000 people every year through its Health Services Department.

From the ABCD Foster Grandparents bringing love and security to disadvantaged children, to programs that offer assistance in asset development, tax assistance and financial education, ABCD offers stability, a sense of community and economic security to low-income families.

In President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's second inaugural address, he famously declared that "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

That was Bob Coard's definition of progress, that is John Drew's definition of progress, that is ABCD's mission everyday.

It is with great pride that I congratulate ABCD for its 50 years of vital service to the community, and that I commemorate my friend Bob Coard as ABCD dedicates its Tremont Street headquarters in his honor this Thursday on Boston Common.

It is fitting that Bob Coard's building gazes out on the Common, a lush landscape where Americans from every walk of life enjoy the same open space, on equal footing. And just as the Common is part of the Emerald Necklace of parks and parkways that extend out to Franklin Park in Roxbury, Bob Coard and ABCD stitched together an array of programs that, taken together, provide a safety net for lifting Bay State residents out of poverty and into a new life of self-sufficiency.

Bob Coard and ABCD are American icons, and I congratulate Bob's wife Donna, John