

We have been honored to work with Sergeant Major Coon, and thank her for extraordinary service to our nation.

HONORING CHERRY MATHIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young woman whose commitment to her academics has earned her this recognition.

Ms. Cherry Mathis. Ms. Mathis is a straight-A honors graduate of Charleston High School in Charleston, Mississippi.

She has been consistent in maintaining the highest average in nearly all of her courses throughout high school. Her grade point average is an astounding 4.1, which gives her the highest average among her peers in the twelfth grade. As a result of her studious feat, Ms. Mathis was designated as the Valedictorian of the Charleston High School Class of 2012.

Receiving this honor implies that Ms. Mathis is incredibly hard working, and dedicated to her education. She has earned numerous awards and distinctions such as being inducted into the National Honor Society and the National Society of High School Scholars. However, her proudest accomplishment was being named as a National Merit Scholar. In addition to her academic responsibilities, Ms. Mathis has also held leadership positions in several school organizations including the Yearbook Club, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Science Club, and Student Council.

Ms. Mathis plans to attend the University of Mississippi where she will major in Integrated Marketing Communications. She believes that obtaining this degree will be a primary tool in achieving her future goals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Cherry Mathis for her outstanding academic achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes yesterday. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 469 and 470.

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF SOL FLORES

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, last week the White House honored leaders who have made a significant difference in the way their communities combat homelessness among children and youth. I am pleased that

one of the 13 "Champions of Change" is Sol Flores, Executive Director of La Casa Norte in Chicago.

Nearly one million American men, women and children are currently homeless. That is simply unacceptable, but progress is being made. Because of Sol's leadership of La Casa Norte, the city of Chicago—and the Humboldt Park neighborhood in particular—has seen a significant reduction in homelessness.

Since founding La Casa Norte 10 years ago, Sol has made it her mission to serve youth and families facing homelessness. La Casa Norte's continuum of services to assist children, young adults, and families has proven incredibly successful. Eighty-four percent of youth leaving La Casa Norte's transitional housing program find permanent housing, and 87 percent of families who receive homeless prevention assistance maintain housing stability. The organization is a recognized leader in effective homeless prevention in the Chicago area and across the country.

I thank Sol Flores for her tireless efforts to promote stable homes and stable communities, and I wish her continued success. Her leadership of La Casa Norte and dedication to eradicating homelessness are worthy of her distinction as a "Champion of Change."

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF BRINTON W. OVERHOLT, SR. IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor an outstanding Hoosier for his patriotism and service during World War II. Brinton W. Overholt, Sr., 90-years young this year, served with honor in the United States Army from 1944–1946. Trained stateside at Camp Blanding, Fort Meade, and finally Camp Shanks; Brinton was eventually shipped overseas to support the Allied march liberation of France. Landing in Le Havre, France, Brinton was assigned as a casualty replacement for the 106th Division, 423rd Battalion, Squad 4 of the 3rd Platoon. The 106th Division served with distinction in France; helping to trap some 20,000 German soldiers around St. Lazare; a vital submarine base near Paris. Of the Division's original compliment of 1500 soldiers; only 88 would survive the war.

Shooting the 81 mm mortar, Mr. Overholt served in the Heavy Weapons Unit. Later, he would become the squad leader, directing the shots of the mortar men. While Overholt was still in France, Nazi Germany surrendered; and the 106th Division became part of the United States Army of Occupation in Germany.

The American soldiers moved into German houses and Brinton Overholt was assigned the of taking inventory of the household so that if the U.S. soldiers broke anything or if something went missing, our government would replace it. Brinton was in the midst of an inventory when an officer informed him that he was going to be shipped out to the Pacific for the invasion of Japan. Fortunately, for Brinton and the Japanese, Brinton was granted a 30-day furlough in the U.S., before his rotation to Japan and the war would be over before his furlough ended.

Brinton spent the rest of his military career at Camp Campbell in Kentucky. (now called Fort Campbell) where he served as a medic's and Chaplain's Assistant to special troops. Brinton would in fact serve under three different Chaplains over the time he was there—including Chaplain John Brown.

If you ask him about his service during the war, Brinton will tell you quite honestly and matter-of-factly, that he doesn't consider himself a hero, just a kid who served his country because it was the right thing to do. I ask my colleagues to join with me today to honor and thank Brinton W. Overholt Sr.; because it is the right thing to do.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF JAZZ GREAT BEN KYNARD

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute to Ben Kynard, the great jazz saxophonist, whose musical performances, jazz compositions, and great legacy continues to enrich the lives of so many jazz enthusiasts.

Kansas City jazz has become a worldwide staple. It was born in a town where, as the great Monarch manager, Buck O'Neal, said, "Everything was wide open." No one knows how many nightclubs and cabarets were in operation during the 1930s. The clubs were packed and the great musicians were working—and playing. In those "hot" clubs, Mary Lou Williams, the jazz pianist, said that Kansas City was, "A heavenly city . . . musicians everywhere." Indeed, they were. Among them was the soft spoken saxophonist Ben Kynard, who as a teenager, migrated to Kansas City from Arkansas.

Ben Douglas Kynard was born in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, on February 28, 1920, to Bennett and Amelia Kynard. When he was just seven years old, his mother passed away. Three years later, his father remarried, moving the family to Kansas City. He learned first to play the horn, and later the saxophone, from his older brother B.C. Kynard began to play professionally in 1938 at the age of eighteen, performing in night clubs in Kansas and in country clubs with his companion, Celester White and later Oliver Todd's band, known as the Hottentots.

Kynard later joined the U.S. Army, where he played in a military band, one that frequently played at officers' clubs and funerals. After returning to Kansas City, he joined Lionel Hampton's band and traveled the country with the group from 1946 until 1953. He wrote "Red Top," which is still a jazz favorite, while on tour in Newark, New Jersey. He named it after his wife Joyce, whom he married in 1953 and had red hair at the time. After seven years with the band, Kynard left and returned to Kansas City, where he worked for the United States Postal Service for thirty-two years, still playing jazz in the evenings. He also maintained his career as a jazz composer, writing music for himself and other local musicians.

One of the highlights of my life was the evening my father-in-law, who lived directly across the street from Mr. Kynard, introduced

me to the jazz great himself. Later, he played in my in-laws' living room the song that gave him fame, "Red Top." Sadly, on July 5, 2012, Mr. Kynard passed away at the age of 92. He was survived by his wife Joyce, of fifty-nine years, their two children, Brett and Carmen, and their two grandchildren. I am proud to have known Mr. Kynard and have heard him—on a number of occasions—blow that sax.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Mr. Kynard for his contribution to the world of jazz and honoring his musical accomplishments as a jazz great. Mr. Kynard was an accomplished musician who left behind a rich legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come. His loss will be felt by many, not just in the Kansas City community, but also by those throughout the jazz world who miss this exceptional jazz talent. We wish his family the very best during this time of bereavement. We would also remind them that no one is dead who is remembered. To be sure, Mr. Kynard will, indeed, be remembered.

HONORING LUCILLE HOLMES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable educator, Lucille Holmes.

Ms. Holmes is the second of four children born to the late Mr. Arthur D. Randle and Mrs. Josephine Randle of Starkville, Mississippi. Her maternal grandparents are the late Walter and her paternal grandparents are Earlene Franklin and the late Charlie and Lydia Randle. She was born in a small community known as Rock Hill and was a member of Rock Hill United Methodist Church. After marrying her husband Clarence Holmes, she joined Bethel A.M.E. Church in Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

Upon completing high school Lucille graduated from Mississippi State University in 1978 where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education. Upon graduation she obtained a position at Boswell Retardation Center, now known as Boswell Regional Center in Sanatorium, Mississippi, as a special adult education teacher.

Her goal early in her youth was to become an educator due to her second grade teacher Ms. Viola Johnson. Ms. Johnson's teaching techniques and methods impacted her decision to become an educator.

Mrs. Holmes educational philosophy is that all children can learn and they have the right to be taught the way they learn. As an educator she believes it is her responsibility to learn how each child learns and teach him or her accordingly. Furthermore, she is always willing to do the unthinkable to ensure that each and every life she touches is changed in a positive way.

In 1981 she began employment with the Cleveland School District at East Side High School, as a special education teacher. In 1983 she went to Delta State University and completed her Master Degree in Guidance and Counseling. After completion of her degree she went to work in the Shaw School District as an elementary school counselor at McEvans. She left Shaw to work in the Shelby school system as an elementary, middle

school and high school counselor. In 1997 Lucille returned to the Cleveland School District as a counselor at East Side High School. She has since received her certification in school administration.

Mrs. Holmes is the mother of two children, Cristal Arlette and Clarence Anthony Holmes Jr. whom she has instilled the importance of getting an education, just as she has for the students in her classroom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that our colleagues join me in recognizing Mrs. Lucille Holmes for her commitment to education.

RETIREMENT OF DOMINIC ROMEO FROM NEW JERSEY FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest appreciation to Dominic Romeo for the more than 50 years of service to the state of New Jersey as a law enforcement officer and advocate for the Fraternal Order of Police. The true embodiment of a public servant, Dom began his career in 1959 as a seasonal police officer in his hometown of Wildwood and rose through the ranks, including two stints as President of the Cape May County FOP Lodge 7. His leadership and commitment to the oath 'to serve and protect' are a model for current and aspiring officers. His advice and insight have helped me on Congressional issues related to law enforcement. On behalf of South Jersey residents and all those kept safe by his selfless actions, I wish Dom Romeo a very relaxing, rewarding retirement and thank him both for his steadfast friendship and service to South Jersey.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF EVERETT "BUD" RANK, JR.

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today to recognize the life and work of Everett "Bud" Rank, Jr., who passed away on June 3, 2012. He will not only go down in history as a former member of both the Nixon and Reagan Administrations' Agriculture Departments, but as an avid golfer, ardent family man, and longtime Valley rancher.

Bud was a lifelong Fresno resident. He was born on December 1, 1921 and attended Clovis High School before fighting in World War II for four years as a gunner's mate in the South Pacific. After the war, Bud returned to his roots in Fresno to help organize the Clovis chapter of the Future Farmers of America; where he later served as president.

Bud's passion for agriculture was reflected by the time and effort he contributed to the many organizations he was a part of. He was a member of the California Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers, the Clovis Grange, the International Cotton Advisory Committee, the Sierra Soil and Water Con-

servation District, and many others. Bud worked within the Agriculture Department, first as Western Regional Director of Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service, then as both head of the ASCS and Executive Vice President of the Commodity Credit Corp.

While his commitment to the San Joaquin Valley agricultural community was unmatched, Bud's commitment to education was equally impressive. He wanted each student to have every opportunity to thrive in school and reach the highest level of education possible. He did this by serving three terms as the President of the Clovis Unified School District Board of Trustees in the 1960s and early 1970s. His contribution and impact on the community are now honored and remembered though the Bud Rank Elementary School in Clovis.

Bud was a legendary community leader. He cared greatly about the future of the San Joaquin Valley residents and youth. He leaves behind a legacy that will be hard to equal. The people of Fresno will miss Bud for years to come, but will never forget all that he gave and did for the people of Fresno County.

L.J. FERDINAND HAZLETON GROUP OF THE MEN OF MALVERN

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the L.J. Ferdinand Hazleton Group of the Men of Malvern who will be attending its 72nd annual retreat at the Malvern Retreat House on July 20, 2012.

The L.J. Ferdinand Hazleton Group began in 1941, when nine men from Hazleton, Pennsylvania, traveled from Hazleton to Malvern, Pennsylvania, to seek spiritual guidance and inspiration. Founded in 1912, the Malvern Retreat House is the largest and second oldest Catholic retreat house in the United States. This year, the Malvern Retreat House celebrates its 100th year anniversary. For the last one hundred years, the Malvern Retreat House has been a place of reflection and sanctuary for over one million men and women from all fifty states and abroad.

As a Catholic, it is an honor to recognize the L.J. Ferdinand Hazleton Group of the Men of Malvern, an organization that has given so much back to the community. On a personal note, I have had the esteemed privilege of attending the annual Malvern Retreat a number of times in the past.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the L.J. Ferdinand Hazleton Group of the Men of Malvern for all they do for Northeastern Pennsylvania and I congratulate the Malvern Retreat House on celebrating its one hundred years of dedicated service to our country and its citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise regarding my absence from rollcall votes 469–470 on Tuesday, July 17, 2012. I was attending a funeral.