

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. CLEVELAND DONALD, JR., CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND EDUCATOR

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Cleveland Donald, Jr., a civil rights advocate, community activist and pioneering educator. Dr. Donald will be largely remembered as the second African-American student to graduate from the University of Mississippi, but he was also a reflection of all that we hope and expect our community leaders to be.

Born April 10, 1946, in Newton, Mississippi, Cleveland Donald, Jr. was the oldest of five children born to Rosia and Cleveland Donald, Sr. As a student at Brinkley High School, he excelled academically and enrolled in Tougaloo College when he was 17. After attending Tougaloo for one year, he enrolled at the University of Mississippi in 1964, and graduated in 1966 with a history degree. He would become the second African-American there to graduate and the last to enter under Federal Protection.

Dr. Donald was that rare individual who dedicated his entire life's work to education. He obtained multiple academic degrees from prestigious universities such as Ole Miss, Harvard, and Cornell; where he obtained his doctorate. As a college professor, he taught in universities across the country and worked in the private sector on projects related to higher education. He was an excellent role model for young adults, a leader to fellow faculty members and a shining example of perseverance in order to achieve your dreams and goals.

A man of deep conviction, Dr. Donald became involved in the civil rights movement while attending Tougaloo and was arrested multiple times for protesting the racial injustices of the era. He helped establish a black studies program at the University of Mississippi in addition to working with former Governor William Winter on programs at the University of Mississippi for racial reconciliation.

Dr. Donald's legacy will be carried on through his son, Cleveland Donald III, and his daughters Krista Donald and Toyetta Donald. He has four brothers; Judge John Donald, Major General James Donald, Reverend Larry Donald, and Master Sergeant Howard Donald.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Cleveland Donald, Jr., an educator and civil rights advocate who found his lifework in the work that he loved.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. KEVIN GUERIN

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Kevin Guerin of Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey. Mr. Guerin will be honored as the 2012 Irishman of the Year by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Volunteer Patrick

Torphy Division 2 of Monmouth County. Mr. Guerin is an outstanding leader and member of the community whose contributions have continued to promote, preserve and uphold Irish heritage, as well as embodying the AOH motto of friendship, unity, and Christian charity. His actions and dedication are undoubtedly worthy of this body's recognition.

Mr. Kevin Guerin was born in Miltown Malbay in County Clare, Ireland, a region commonly known for its traditional Irish music. As the second youngest child of 11 siblings, Mr. Guerin attended St. Joseph's Vocational School in Miltown Malbay and received his certification in carpentry. In addition to his professional career, Mr. Guerin is an accomplished musician and earned the title of All Ireland Tin Whistle Champion. After immigrating to the United States in 1973, he continued to pursue his passion for music. Mr. Guerin began playing with several Irish bands throughout New York and New Jersey, ultimately starting his own band, "The Biddy Earlys," which was later named "Round The House."

Mr. Guerin has admirably served on numerous boards for various organizations throughout Monmouth County, New Jersey. He is a valued member of the Knights of Columbus Bayshore Council #2858 and continues to dedicate countless hours to the Irish Federation of Monmouth County and the Frank McGovern Association of Newark. Mr. Guerin is a hardworking member of the John F. Cryan Association of South Orange, the Irish American Society of Union and is committed to upholding the mission of the Joseph Nugent Association of Elizabeth and the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of the Jersey Shore. Kevin is the founding member of the famous Hoboken St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Jersey Shore Irish Festival of which he served as Chairman in 1999. As a result of his impressive actions, Mr. Guerin was recognized by the Irish American Fenian Society in 1987, Jersey Shore INA in 1996, the Order of St. Brendan in 1999 and is the highly deserving recipient of the Patrick Torphy Award in 2008. Kevin and his wife Kathleen are the proud parents of Fiona, Delia, Mike and the late Siobhan. They are also grandparents to Quinn Morgan.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mr. Kevin Guerin upon receiving the 2012 Irishman of the Year award and also for his leadership and service to the Irish American community.

HONORING LEANNA COSSMAN FOR HER DEDICATION TO CIVIC SERVICE

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Leanna Cossman of Urbana, Illinois. In February she will be making her sixth trip to assist people in Haiti, which has recently been devastated by natural disasters and disease.

Mrs. Cossman's first journey to Haiti occurred shortly after the terrible earthquake in 2010. She returned to the country for a second time not long after to continue providing

care for the hundreds of thousands still struggling. When Cholera began to spread among the refugees, Mrs. Cossman made another trip to help the sick and dying. She made two more trips in 2011, assisting relief workers with the nursing skills that she has practiced as a certified nurse for schools in Urbana.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Jewish Healthcare International for sponsoring Mrs. Cossman's upcoming trip, as well as many others. Their organization and the people who volunteer for them have made an incredible impact in the lives of thousands of people.

Mrs. Cossman's selflessness and dedication to providing help and care for others serves as an incredible example for people across our great nation, and I am truly honored to serve as a representative for such a caring individual. I want to personally thank Mrs. Cossman and her family, and let them know that her story is an inspiration not only to myself, but to all the members of Congress.

U.S. POLICY TOWARD POST ELECTION DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, which I chair, examined U.S. policy options for dealing with the ongoing crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one of the priority countries in the United States' Africa policy as identified by the Administration and as confirmed by Congressional legislation and oversight over the past several years. This country is two-thirds the size of Western Europe and borders nine African countries. Its problems extend well beyond its borders.

Prior to yesterday, the Subcommittee last examined the situation in the DRC in a hearing in March of last year, when the storm clouds were gathering in advance of the November elections. The DRC is now struggling with the aftermath of those elections. Opposition political parties and civil society, especially the Catholic Church, appear unwilling to accept the results of the presidential and legislative elections. Opposition leader Étienne Tshisekedi received 32 percent of the votes, but he believes he was cheated out of votes that would have made him the winner in the elections. He has staged a presidential swearing-in ceremony and announced that he will form a government. He also has called on supporters to march with him to government headquarters. However, government armed forces have surrounded his home since the presidential results were announced on December 9, and even his aides have been prevented from meeting with him.

Suspicion persists that this election was manipulated in favor of incumbent President Joseph Kabila. The Carter Center, which observed the vote, as well as the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) and most of DRC's civil society, all cast serious doubt on the announced outcome of the election. According to the Carter Center, ballots were missing in some areas, while results for Kabila in other areas were

deemed “unrealistic.” Calls for new elections not only continue, but appear to be growing in intensity.

Perhaps government intimidation has minimized any uprising by a discontented population, or perhaps the Congolese have accepted that Kabila will do whatever it takes to ensure his victory. It could be that poverty and a lack of information among the population has restrained the widespread resort to protest. Still, there is significant instability throughout the country.

This calls into question the long-term stability of a country that is critical to U.S. interests, which includes the continued flow of strategic minerals. Congolese have reason to be skeptical that they will ever have a stable government that functions on their behalf. There has been one crisis after another since independence in 1960, caused by the selfish actions of predatory leadership. An estimated four million Congolese lost their lives in two wars from which they are still recovering.

Most Congolese remain poor, hungry and in danger of violence. Their government cannot provide the most basic necessities for their families. Public administration is virtually nonexistent, with civil servants demanding payment from the public for even the most routine services. MONUSCO is handling security, and the World Health Organization is dealing with the country's public health issues. The challenge for the international community is to help build the capacity and political will of Congolese officials to assume the responsibility for caring for and protecting their citizens.

Since November, violence attributed to the Congolese military, the Rwandan rebel group the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and local militia has caused more than 100,000 Congolese to become internally displaced persons or refugees. Local vigilante groups have clashed with the Rwandan rebels in North Kivu province and displaced about 75,000 from 30 villages in North Kivu province. Similar clashes in Ituri and northern Katanga have had a serious impact in those areas as well. This raises serious concerns for a potential humanitarian crisis.

Women continue to be targeted for abuse in DRC. A study that recently appeared in the American Journal of Public Health concluded that an average of 48 women and girls are raped every hour in this country. So before this hearing has ended, more than 100 females in DRC will have been raped.

However, there remains hope for DRC despite the current crisis. Even during the worst stages of the global financial crisis, the World Bank was predicting that DRC's economy would grow by seven percent annually over the next several years, making it one of the world's fastest growing economies. At the local level, Congolese reportedly have developed coping methods for an absent government. Women have developed rotating credit systems to compensate for an inaccessible banking system, and farmers have banded together to rent trucks to jointly take their produce to market.

According to the latest election results, the ruling party in DRC has lost 45 seats they previously held to opposition parties, with 17 other elections yet to be rerun after being annulled. This may help in establishing grounds for political reconciliation.

Since the early days of Congolese independence, the United States has been in-

involved in the DRC and continues to play a significant role there. In FY2011, Economic Support Funds were targeted to support the Government of Congo's stabilization and recovery program through support to community recovery and reconciliation, conflict mitigation and resolution, and the extension of authority. International Military Education and Training funds focus on training Congolese officers on military justice, human rights and joint operations. The United States also provides significant humanitarian assistance to the DRC. The United States provided bilateral aid to DRC of more than \$205 million in FY2008, \$296 million in FY2009, \$282 million in FY2010, and \$215 million in FY2011. The Obama Administration requested more than \$262 million for FY2012.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF REVEREND  
DWIGHT C. GRAVES

**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I stand before you today to recognize the passing of an inspirational leader. Reverend Dwight C. Graves was a compassionate, charismatic and considerate soul, who devoted his life to service. Born and raised in Freeman, West Virginia, the good Reverend served in the United States Air Force for over thirty years, worked as a postal worker and union steward, and acted as a friend to both delinquents and school children.

Reverend Graves felt a calling to the church and devoted much of his life to spreading the Lord's word. Before settling in Georgia, Rev. Graves pastored a church in Belgium and Illinois. He was an Associate Minister of Zion Baptist Church in Marietta and the Pastor of the Emmanuel Tabernacle Christian Church until his death.

The Reverend was a leader among leaders. He co-founded the Georgia State Unit of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, served on the National SCLC board and was President of the Cobb County SCLC.

As I look back on Reverend Graves' life, I find myself honored to have known him. It is my sincerest hope that those of us whose lives he has touched will go on and pass on his influence to others in need. Reverend Dwight C. Graves was a strong man. He is survived by his wife, Rev. Dr. Cheryl D. Graves and their daughter, Diana Lynette. Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleagues, I hope you will join me today in extending my condolences to them during this difficult time.

TO EXTEND THE PAY LIMITATION  
FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS  
AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3835, a bill to extend the pay limitation for Members of Congress and

Federal employees. There is an attack on the idea that government has a role in the proper functioning of society. That battle has resulted in the privatization of government services, which leads to inefficiencies and higher bills for taxpayers. Across the country we are also seeing an attack on government workers who frequently work long hours in support of our great nation.

Federal employees have already sacrificed because of our shrinking budget. These men and women are members of the middle class, and they are already subject to an unwarranted two-year pay freeze in the form of a \$5 billion cut to their wages and benefits by the end of 2012. They also face the possibility of layoffs and furloughs in coming years as automatic spending reductions mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011 reduce agency budgets for salaries.

Federal employees are public servants who do work that is essential to this country every day: they guard our borders, care for our wounded veterans, deliver our mail, ensure the safety of our food supply, and provide many other sometimes invisible, but important services.

This bill inappropriately groups the pay and benefits of Members of Congress with the men and women of our federal civil service. In so doing, it attempts to turn Federal employee pay into a political issue. I am not opposed to extending the pay freeze for Members of Congress. However, I stand with the workers. The merits of pay increases for Federal employees should be debated separately from our consideration of pay for Members of Congress.

I stand with the workers; that is why I voted against this bill.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OVER  
THE DEATH OF RAUF DENKTAS

**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Turkey and Turkish Americans to speak on the recent death of Rauf Denktas, former leader of the Turkish Cypriots.

Mr. Denktas spent a great deal of his life advocating for a resolution to the separation between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Denktas witnessed the independence and divide of Cyprus, and went on to lead bilateral negotiations for a resolution to the Cyprus problem. For the Turkish and Greek people of Cyprus that have faced decades of turbulence, it is essential that a peaceful, unifying solution be found to this matter.

I send my sincere condolences to Mr. Denktas' family, friends, and the Turkish Cypriot community, and I am hopeful that the international community will move forward toward a lasting settlement in Cyprus that will be agreeable for both the Greek and Turkish communities, reflective of the longtime efforts of Rauf Denktas.