

that focused on economic development and crime reduction, while also advocating for the development of community centers and parks. In 1971, Mr. White founded the Willard Housing Organization, one of the first groups in Minneapolis that sought government loans to repair and rehabilitate the impoverished areas of Minneapolis.

His passion, combined with experience he gained as a community activist, led Mr. White to enter the political arena, where he became the first African American elected to the city council of Minneapolis in 1979. During the ten years Mr. White served on the Minneapolis City Council where he was the chair of the Government Operations Committee and Vice Chair of the Minneapolis Community Development Agency.

Mr. White continued to support his community until he passed away on July 14, 1993. Mr. White is survived by his wife of nearly forty years, Mrs. Javanese White, their daughter Javoni, son Perri and granddaughter Kapria.

Mr. White dedicated over fifty years of his life to community activism. He served on the board of nearly thirty economic and community development programs, and left behind a legacy of uplifting his community. Throughout his life, Mr. White was viewed as a connector, someone who could take ideas to improve the communities of Minneapolis and put those ideas into action. It is only fitting today the Van White Memorial Bridge connects North Minneapolis to downtown Minneapolis in his honor. I urge the citizens of the United States to follow in the steps of Van White, and find ways to serve and improve their own communities.

I truly appreciate everything Mr. White did for Minneapolis, and I thank him and his family for their dedication and service.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DORA FINLEY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the contributions of Mrs. Dora Finley, a native of Mobile, Alabama, who recently passed away at the age of 59. During her lifetime, Dora Finley inspired Mobile to recognize its rich heritage while moving the community to remember the vital lessons of the past.

At an early age, Mrs. Finley demonstrated a passion for social issues and an uncommon ability to lead. A graduate of Mobile's Bishop Toolen School for Girls in 1970, Mrs. Finley created the United Student Action Movement while still a high school junior. As head of the Movement, she dedicated herself to addressing issues confronting African-American youth.

Mrs. Finley learned the value of hard work in childhood when she helped sell candy in the family drugstore. She later taught mathematics at John L. Leflore High School before becoming a Loan Officer at Commonwealth National Bank. After earning a Masters' Degree in Business Administration from Spring Hill College, she embarked on a 25 year career in Managerial Logistics with Scott Paper Company/Kimberly-Clark Corporation.

Her tenacity to see any job through to completion combined with her dedication to pro-

moting a greater awareness of African-American history in her hometown made her uniquely qualified to assume the one role for which she is best known—the creator of the Mobile African-American Heritage Trail. The Heritage Trail's primary objective is to share Mobile's multicultural legacy from the earliest arrival of African-Americans to the end of segregation. Throughout Mobile County there have been 40 historic markers established by the trail.

City Councilman William Carroll personally credited Mrs. Finley with the creation of the Heritage Trail: "Without Dora, the African-American Heritage Trail would have never been."

Finley also assisted in the making of the 2008 Mobile Mardi Gras documentary "The Order of Myths," produced and directed by Margaret Brown. The film highlights the history of Mobile's black and white mystical societies and the complex interaction between the two.

One of her last projects was raising money to restore the Cook's House at Oakleigh Mansion. The Cook's House is slated to become the first house museum in Mobile dedicated to the African-American experience, offering a historically-accurate accounting of the families that once worked at Oakleigh.

Mr. Speaker, Dora Finley has been described as one of Mobile's strongest advocates of historic preservation and a tireless advocate for equality. Without a doubt, her loss is one that is shared by our entire community.

On behalf of the people of Mobile, I offer my heartfelt condolences to her daughter, Nicole; her mother, Joycelyn Franklin Finley; brothers James and Karlos; sister Joycelyn; and many other family and friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

IN HONOR OF DR. I.L. MULLINS, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an inspiring community leader and beloved Pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church, Dr. I.L. Mullins, Sr. Sadly, Dr. Mullins passed away on Wednesday, July 18, 2012. His passing leaves a tremendous void in the hearts of his family, friends and the Thomasville, Georgia community.

On Thursday, July 26, 2012, a Musical Memorial Service will be held in honor of Dr. Mullins at First Missionary Baptist Church. On Friday, July 27, 2012, a funeral service will be held at First Baptist Church in Thomasville, Georgia.

Dr. Mullins was born on August 26, 1930, and grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War in the 1950s.

Over the course of his lifetime, Dr. Mullins admirably mastered the balance of his civic responsibilities with his academic accomplishments and religious commitments. After he received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College in 1957, he went on to obtain his Masters of Divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Center & Gammon Theological Seminary in 1960. In 1979, Dr. Mullins

received his Doctor of Divinity degree from Faith College in Birmingham, Alabama.

A fierce believer in equality and justice for all, Dr. Mullins was not only a profound theologian but also a strong civic leader. He marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and was instrumental in organizing the local Thomasville branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP. Additionally, Dr. Mullins served effectively as Thomas County Commissioner for five-terms that spanned over two decades.

Ordained as a minister on December 29, 1957, Dr. Mullins has served as the Pastor of the First Missionary Baptist Church since 1961 and was honored by the church for 50 years of dedicated pastoral service last year in a Golden Jubilee Extravaganza.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I will always remember about Dr. Mullins is his dedication to helping others and his passion for promoting equality and peace among individuals from different walks of life. A man of integrity and high moral values, his understanding, compassion and kindness made him a guiding light within the community.

On a personal note, I have been truly blessed by Dr. Mullins' warm friendship and support and I am deeply grateful for his counsel and advice as well as for being a fountain of inspiration for me over the last several years. His motto was, "God's Preachers give their hearers fruit, not flowers." Indeed, Dr. Mullins gave his congregation and all those who have sought his counsel the fruit of the Word to satiate and sustain them throughout the journey of life.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the almost 700,000 people in the 2nd Congressional District of Georgia, would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Dr. Mullins' wife the former Josephine Lovejoy Ferrell, their children, grandchildren and the members of First Missionary Baptist Church during this difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House Tuesday afternoon (July 24th), due to testifying before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 502 (the motion on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 738) and 503 (H. Res. 738, the rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 4078 and H.R. 6082).

2012 OLYMPIC GAMES

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, over two thousand years ago, the

Greeks began a series of competitions that would develop into an international tradition of incredible scale. The Olympic Games serve as an opportunity to demonstrate athletic and mental ability, strength, and spirit for both individuals and nations. The Olympics bring millions of diverse people together, all with one hope: to see their country win. For our Nation, the Olympic Games help us to find our common ground and allow us to come together to support the young men and women who represent our great country.

I am honored to recognize the outstanding individuals from Orange County that will represent our Nation this summer in London, England. For their patriotism and excellence in athletics, I'd like to recognize JW Kumpholz (Water Polo), Courtney Mathewson (Water Polo), Lauren Wenger (Water Polo), Samuel Mikulak (Gymnastics), Tyler Clary (Swimming), Kate Ziegler (Swimming), Russell Holmes (Volleyball), David Lee (Volleyball), Paul Lotman (Volleyball), David Smith (Volleyball), Donald Suxho (Volleyball), Brian Thorton (Volleyball), David McKenzie (Volleyball), Clay Stanley (Volleyball), Sean Rooney (Volleyball), Danielle Scott (Volleyball), Jordan Larson (Volleyball), Matt Anderson (Volleyball), and Reid Priddy (Volleyball). We are all proud of you.

Thank you again, and good luck to each of you. Bring home the gold for Team U.S.A.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF JIMMIE RUTH COOLEY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the birthday of a dear friend and a true East Texas treasure, Jimmie Ruth Cooley. She is a shining example of hard work and the success that follows.

A three term mayor of her beloved Woodville, Jimmie has been a tireless, enthusiastic advocate for her community, for Tyler County, for East Texas and in fact the Lone Star State where she has left her mark as well.

When it comes to accomplishing tasks and overcoming hurdles—Jimmie has got it covered. One of her dear friends, Mary Jane Neal, summed it up best, saying “She likes to get things done”.

And she has. Over the years Mayor Cooley has served as a board member and a leader in the Deep East Texas Council of Government; Three Rivers Council of Boy Scouts of America; Woodville Independent School District Compass Arts; Tyler County Art League; and Tyler County Hospital Foundation. She's worked tirelessly as president of the Tyler County Chamber of Commerce, a past member of the Texas Office of Community Affairs Task Force and Deep Texas Regional Review Committee.

Longtime Texas Governor Rick Perry appointed Jimmie to serve on the board of the Lower Neches Valley Authority, where she has talked water with me countless times because she knows how important our lakes and rivers are to our communities in East Texas. And yes, she has a professional career as well—she is a graduate of the American Institute of Real Estate and now a retired real estate agent.

“Yes, Mayor, I'll get on it” are how most of my conversations with Jimmie end. She is a close advisor, confidant, and most of all a true friend. Blessed with a wonderful sense of humor, Jimmie is a keen observer of the people she serves and of the community in which she lives. I want America to know about this tireless champion of East Texas who gives back more than could ever be asked of her.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to wish Jimmie Ruth Cooley a very Happy 80th Birthday and many more years of happiness to come.

HONORING SARALAND SCHOOLS FOR SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of the House the exemplary achievement of the Saraland School System, which recently garnered the highest rating of performance from its accreditation agency. What's even more remarkable about this accomplishment is that the Saraland School System was founded just four short years ago.

All too often, local news across America is filled with stories about failing schools and declining scholastic standards. Indeed, our educational system is being challenged like never before from a historic recession and dwindling revenues. But America is still the land of opportunity for those imbued with vision and a dedication to make a difference.

Four years ago, the City of Saraland defied the odds by seeking control of its local schools with the goal of raising the quality of education for its children. The Saraland School System set a goal to provide every student a “world-class education.” This goal was successfully met in June when Saraland received the top rating of “highly functional” for the school system's vision and purpose. The high praise came from AdvanceED, formerly known as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Saraland also received the accreditation agency's second highest rating in six other areas: governance and leadership; teaching and learning; documenting and using results; resources and support systems; stakeholder communications and relationships; and commitment to continuous improvement.

Much credit is due to the school leadership, including School Board President Bill Silver, Superintendent Wayne Vickers, and all the Saraland School System administrators, principals, teachers and students. Additionally, a tip of the hat is due to the people of Saraland who, according to the accreditation agency, have demonstrated an equally strong commitment to supporting their new school system and making sure it succeeds.

Board president Bill Silver recently told the Mobile Press-Register, “This community has bought into our own school system and that is one of the reasons we have had such success, in academics, sports and the whole arena.”

Physical evidence of the community's investment in their school system is manifest in the \$30 million high school, a planned \$14 million elementary school and another \$4 million dedicated to renovate the middle school.

Saraland's amazing achievement is not only a model for Alabama, but for the nation. It is proof positive that when a community unites behind a goal, it can succeed. We should all look to Saraland's example.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Saraland School System, its leaders, students and the community at large. Job well done!

COMMENDING VETERANS OF THE KOREAN CONSTABULARY

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor veterans of the Korean Constabulary for their outstanding sacrifice and service during the hard years leading up to the establishment of the Republic of Korea.

The Korean Constabulary was originally established in 1946 in order to provide support to Korean National Police during the unification and independence of South Korea. They would eventually serve as the Republic of Korea Army in 1948.

During the years of 1946 and 1948, the Korean Constabulary undertook internal security tasks on behalf of the United States Military Government in Korea and the people of South Korea, defending their fledgling country against internal unrest.

The Korean Constabulary believe they have been treated unfairly due to their exclusion from benefits offered under the Republic of Korea's Military Pension Act. They have not been granted pension, financial aid for healthcare or military awards for their years of distinguished service because their years of service before 1950 are unaccounted for because the Constabulary was under the jurisdiction of the Department of National Defense during the years of 1946 and 1948.

The Korean Constabulary would like to be honored by the Republic of Korea for their heroic service during such an unstable time in the country's history.

Today, I honor all of the Veterans of the Korean Constabulary and commend them for their bravery and support to the United States Military Government in Korea.

RECOGNIZING ARKANSAS OLYMPIAN MICHAEL TINSLEY

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael Tinsley who will be representing the United States in the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London.

Michael hails from Little Rock, Arkansas. Little Rock is located in the Second Congressional District, which I represent. He attended Pulaski Robinson High School in Little Rock where he had a standout track career.

His dedication to and performance in track and field in high school earned him a scholarship at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi, where he ran track and studied Criminal Justice.