

RECOGNIZING FAMILY CENTRAL

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of Family Central, Inc.

Since its founding in 1971, Family Central has played a pivotal role in the lives of South Florida families by providing quality, safe, and affordable child care. By working at the local level, Family Central serves as an essential community partner in improving the lives of the constituents of Florida's 20th Congressional district and beyond. Throughout our region, Family Central has served approximately one million children since its founding.

I applaud Family Central's work to ensure that families in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties have access to excellent child care. As a working mother, I understand the struggles that working families go through to provide and care for their children. With the number of parents working full time on the rise, more and more families are fully engaged in the daily juggling act of making ends meet and caring for their children.

Family Central provides safe and affordable child care to over one hundred thousand South Florida children annually. The role they play is critical to ensuring families do not have to choose between being able to afford child care and being able to trust that their child is safe.

Family Central also provides training to childcare practitioners, giving them new skills to help them create a learning environment that supports a child's emotional, cognitive, and developmental needs. In the years since Family Central was created, research has reinforced that early learning is an integral part of successful child development and reducing achievement gaps in our educational systems.

This wonderful organization not only helps provide care for children when parents are working, but it also helps parents to become better and more effective caregivers for their children at home. They are one of only ten groups in the country identified as a Nurturing Parenting Affiliate. By helping parents to nurture their children, Family Central helps the families of South Florida become and remain strong, stable, and united.

The difficult economic conditions of the past few years have been especially tough for working families across the country, and particularly in South Florida. Now more than ever, the essential services provided by community partners like Family Central are critical to giving children in our community an environment in which to thrive.

Congratulations to Family Central on their 40th anniversary—and thank you to everyone who has made it possible. I commend their service to our great state, to South Florida and to the families and children of Florida's 20th Congressional District.

I look forward to more great achievements from Family Central as it continues its long tradition of providing quality, accessible and affordable services to South Florida's families.

HONORING THE HONOREES OF THE SEBASTICOOK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recipients of the 2012 Annual Sebecook Valley Chamber of Commerce Awards. For years, the Chamber has been at the forefront of business networking and development across 12 towns in the Newport, Pittsfield and Dexter areas.

Each year, the Sebecook Valley Chamber of Commerce honors local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy economic environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity and prosperity in Maine.

This year's award recipients include George and Linda Lougee for the Joyce Packard Community Spirit Award and C.M. Almy and Sons Inc. for the Business of the Year for 2012. Since they first came to Newport in 1999, the Lougees have devoted themselves to helping the area flourish. Their efforts to arrange Sparkle, the Chamber's and the Region's largest fund raiser, have generated \$78,000 for local organizations over the last six years. Additionally, C.M. Almy and Sons Inc. has manufactured church vestments, furnishing, and accessories since 1892. This third-generation family owned business is being recognized for community support in the region.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and to Sebecook Valley, Maine is a better place to live and to do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Sebecook Valley Chamber of Commerce and these individuals on their outstanding service and achievement.

WELFARE INTEGRITY NOW FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, last week I voted against the so called "Welfare Integrity Now for Children and Families Act of 2011," H.R. 3567.

H.R. 3567 would require states to prevent the use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program benefits in a liquor store, casino, or strip club.

This bill is being disguised as one that would ensure taxpayer dollars are being appropriately spent. In reality, this bill is being brought to the floor to demean individuals who rely on TANF benefits and to imply that they are immoral.

It is ludicrous to suggest that there is a national problem necessitating that Congress stop TANF recipients from spending their money at strip clubs.

TANF is a long-standing program, previously known as Aid for Families of Dependent Children, that is one of the most important parts of our national safety net and that keeps almost 2 million families from the brink of starvation.

What is missing from this bill is any discussion that in many underserved neighborhoods, the closest ATM is located in one of these establishments. Preventing the use of TANF cards at these establishments could result in TANF beneficiaries not being able to access their benefits. Instead of debating how Congress could pass laws that would help with economic redevelopment in underserved communities, we are spending our time vilifying individuals receiving benefits and then sanctimoniously taking credit for preventing any misuse. This is part of the message of those who seek to demean the President by calling him the food stamp President.

Further, this bill would cost money—not save it. In New Jersey, it is estimated that this bill would cost \$100,000 to implement and Governor Christie's office wrote to express their concerns about the bill.

For a bill that is supposed to be ensuring that taxpayer dollars are being well spent, this bill would hinder individuals from obtaining their legitimate benefits and cost states more money. Every Member of Congress should have opposed this bill which was more offensive than silly.

H.R. 1173 is another attempt by the Republicans to embarrass individuals who are on hard economic times instead of helping them find a job.

HONORING ANDREW G. ROMAN

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American and a proud son of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Andrew G. Roman, known as Andy, died peacefully January 4, 2012 at the age of 87.

Born to Greek immigrants on June 27, 1924, he was raised in Pittsburgh. By all accounts, Andy was a true patriot. During World War II, he served as a combat soldier in Italy with the 88th Infantry Division—Blue Devils, receiving two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars. After his honorable discharge, he returned to marry his childhood sweetheart Tresa and started his aerospace career working on the DC-6 and Harry Truman's Sacred Cow, with Douglas Aircraft.

Traveling extensively throughout the world during his time with McDonnell-Douglas, he worked on many programs critical to the security and technological pre-eminence of the United States, including the Thor, Delta, Nike Zeus (based on Kwajalein in the South Pacific), Apollo, and SkyLab programs. Andy completed his 35 year-career as the Director of Factory Operations for McDonnell Douglas in Titusville, Florida on the Dragon and Tomahawk missiles. Throughout his career, he was honored to work with many wonderful colleagues and friends who represented the McDonnell-Douglas family, an organization he truly revered.

Andy is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Tresa, and an extensive family that includes four grandchildren and seven great-

grandchildren. I know that many of his family still reside in our great city of Pittsburgh.

Andy's family and all those who knew him are exceedingly proud of his fine career and service to our country. I want to join with them today by expressing my best wishes for Andy's family as we honor Andrew G. Roman—an American patriot.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed three votes the afternoon of February 3, 2012, which included rollcall votes 31, 32, and 33.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 31, the Motion to Recommit Representative WOODALL's (GA-07) H.R. 3578.

If I had been present, I would have voted against rollcall vote 32, final passage of Representative WOODALL's (GA-07) H.R. 3578.

If I had been present, I would have voted against rollcall vote 33, the conference report for Representative MICA's (FL-07) H.R. 658.

RECOGNIZING MRS. GERTRUDE L. MALLETT FOR HER UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO HORTICULTURE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a valued member of our society, Mrs. Gertrude L. Mallett. Mrs. Mallett is a conservationist and agriculturalist from Hinds County, Mississippi. Her wisdom and sincere affection for everyone leaves everlasting impressions.

Born December 18, 1919, she is the widow of Frank Mallett and mother to their six children. Mr. and Mrs. Mallett believed in God, family, and hard work and raised their children to believe in such.

The Mallett family is proprietor of roughly 200 acres of land in Hinds County, Mississippi, where they raise and harvest cattle, corn and cotton.

Up until 1995, when Mrs. Mallett obtained her General Education Diploma from Hinds Community College in 1995 at the age of 75, she had only attained an 8th grade education.

Today, at 92 years of age, Mrs. Mallett remains active; she advises the day-to-day farm operations of their family farm in addition to maintaining her annual garden. Mrs. Mallett is an all around craftsman and self-taught ceramicist. She crafts quilts and crochets in addition to other handiworks.

Mrs. Mallett is a servant to God and faithful steward of Saint John's Missionary Baptist Church. She taught Sunday school for over 30 years, served as the church secretary for more than 50 years and still remains active in the church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Gertrude L. Mallett for her unwavering commitment to horticulture.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH RECOGNIZING THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENTS OF HAROLD GEORGE BELAFONTE, JR.

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of National Black History Month and to recognize the lifetime achievements of my good friend, Harold "Harry" George Belafonte, Jr., an American and International Hero. Black History Month is an appropriate time to pay homage to Harry Belafonte and his amazing, incredibly impressive, inspiring and historic renowned career, which began at the age of 19 in the United States Navy during World War II. After taking advantage of the G.I. Bill, his career soared as an actor, musician, singer, producer, and civil rights and humanitarian activist. Due to Harry Belafonte's lifetime achievements our nation and the world are far better.

After the Great War, Harry attended and graduated from The New School for Social Research in New York City. Harry began appearing in jazz clubs, cabarets, and soon began recording his wonderful pop, folk, and world music albums. His acting career took off after his 1953 film debut in *Bright Road*. Many movies and performances later, Harry Belafonte received a Tony Award nomination for his Broadway performance in *John Murray Anderson's Almanac*. Although he was acknowledged for his talent, it wasn't until he played a lead role in the film *Carmen* that he became a true star. Harry was able to use his new popularity to boost his album sales and create a need in the United States for Caribbean music that had lacked before. He then went on to win an Emmy for his special *Tonight with Harry Belafonte*, and was bestowed the honor of first African American producer.

With Paul Robeson as his inspiration, Harry took art and activism to new levels. During his 43 years of fame, Belafonte worked against social injustice. Throughout the civil rights movement, he advised and served as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s confidant and he worked to provide for King's family. His dedication led Harry to be blacklisted during the McCarthy era, like many other civil rights activists. He bailed King out of the Birmingham City Jail and raised thousands of dollars to release other civil rights protesters. Harry managed to mobilize the Hollywood community, finance Freedom Rides, support voter registration drives, and help to organize the March on Washington in 1963, where he delivered an inspiring speech. Harry went on to serve in President John Fitzgerald Kennedy's administration, as cultural advisor to the Peace Corps.

A true humanitarian Harry Belafonte is best known for his landmark music collaboration, "We Are the World," which joined many musicians—including songwriters and producers Michael Jackson, Lionel Richie, Quincy Jones and Michael Omartian—together. USA for Africa was able to use this song to help raise millions of dollars to help relieve famine in Ethiopia. Harry continued his work by becoming UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador in 1986. Harry carries on his incredible work by sup-

porting causes such as HIV/AIDS and cancer research and educating children.

Harry was an outspoken critic of apartheid in South Africa, and he and Arthur Ashe Cochaired Artists and Athletes Against Apartheid, which played a major role in international sports boycott against South Africa. In 1988, Harry released his first album of original material in over a decade, *Paradise in Gazankulu*. The album contains ten protest songs against the South African former Apartheid policy. He was the Master of Ceremonies at a reception honoring African National Congress President Oliver Tambo at Roosevelt House, Hunter College, in New York City. The reception was held by the American Committee on Africa, ACOA, and The Africa Fund. Today, Harry is a current board member of the TransAfrica Forum and the Institute for Policy Studies.

Following his appointment Harry traveled to Dakar, Senegal, where he served as chairman of the International Symposium of Artists and Intellectuals for African Children. He also helped to raise funds, alongside other artists in the largest concert ever held in sub-Saharan Africa. In 1994 he went on a mission to Rwanda and launched a media campaign to raise awareness of the needs of Rwandan children. In 2001 he went to South Africa to support the campaign against HIV/AIDS. In 2002, Africare awarded him the Bishop John T. Walker Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award for his efforts to assist Africa. In 2004 Harry went to Kenya to stress the importance of educating children in the region. Harry has also been involved in prostate cancer advocacy since 1996, when he was diagnosed and successfully treated for the disease.

On June 27, 2006, Harry was the recipient of the BET Humanitarian Award at the 2006 BET Awards. He was named one of nine 2006 Impact Award recipients by AARP The Magazine. On October 19, 2007, Harry represented UNICEF on Norwegian television to support the annual telethon—TV Aksjonen—in support of that charity and helped raise a world record of \$10 per inhabitant of Norway.

Harry is additionally known for his visit to Cuba which helped ensure hip-hop's place in Cuban society. According to Geoffrey Baker's article "Hip hop, Revolucion! Nationalizing Rap in Cuba." Harry, in 1999 met with representatives of the rap community immediately before meeting with Fidel Castro. This meeting resulted in Castro's personal approval of the incorporation of rap into his country's culture. In a 2003 interview Harry reflected upon this meeting's influence:

"When I went back to Havana a couple years later, the people in the hip-hop community came to see me and we hung out for a bit. They thanked me profusely and I said, 'Why?' and they said, 'Because your little conversation with Fidel and the Minister of Culture on hip-hop led to there being a special division within the ministry and we've got our own studio'."

On October 17, 2011, HBO Films released the documentary, *Sing Your Song*, which details a close look at the life of a patriot to the last and a champion for worldwide human rights. Told from Harry's point of view, the film charts his life from a boy born in New York and raised in Jamaica, who returns to Harlem in his early teens where he discovers the American Negro Theater and the magic of performing. From Harlem to Mississippi to Africa and South Central Los Angeles, Sing Your