

IN HONOR OF SENATOR SHIRLEY
A. SMITH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Senator Shirley A. Smith of the State of Ohio's 21st Senate District.

Senator Smith began her career as a radio talk-show host interviewing prominent politicians and community leaders for a major Cleveland station before changing pace and working for a television network affiliate.

Beginning in 1999, Senator Smith served 8 years as an Ohio House Representative from the 10th district until assuming office in the Ohio Senate in 2007. Throughout her legislative career, she has been a strong advocate for the socially and economically disadvantaged as displayed through her membership on the Senate Health, Human Services and Aging; Finance; Reference; Criminal Justice; and Rules Committees. She also serves as Assistant Minority Leader, acts as State Director for the Women Legislators' Lobby, and has served as both the Secretary and President of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus.

Senator Smith's hard work and dedication throughout the years has earned her a Fannie Mae Foundation Fellowship at Harvard University, the Legislator of the Year Award in 2006 for her work with dental hygiene, a feature in the Crusader Newspaper acknowledging her work to repeal Ohio's use of the death penalty, and interviews on both MSNBC and Fox News Network's "The Morning Show with Mike and Juliet" advocating for the passage of Senate Bill 197, nicknamed the "Second Chance Bill."

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the achievements of Ohio Senator Shirley A. Smith.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF
PEOPLE FOR PUGET SOUND

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the work of the People for Puget Sound organization. For twenty years, this organization has been a strong voice for protecting one of the Pacific Northwest region's most valuable assets: the Puget Sound. After achieving many victories to protect the waterway, People for Puget Sound is transferring its programs to other organizations and concluding its operations.

Established in 1991, People for Puget Sound has worked to restore the fish and wildlife in the Puget Sound by creating clean and healthy land and waters that can be enjoyed by future generations. The organization worked to educate people who work and live throughout the Puget Sound basin about the shared responsibilities in protecting this resource.

Throughout its history, People for Puget Sound hosted countless events to bring volunteers out to restore habitats. Restoration ecologists worked throughout the Puget Sound

region to give citizens the tools to protect the Sound where they work and live.

In addition to educating and engaging the public, People for Puget Sound has been a fierce advocate for the protection of environmental safeguards. For years, volunteers have gathered annually to speak with their representatives about steps that could be taken to clean up the Puget Sound.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the valuable work of People for Puget Sound. Although the organization is dissolving, I know the values and dedication of its staff and thousands of members from across the region will continue to protect the Puget Sound.

HONORING PASTOR MARQUES L.
FLETCHER

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas, Pastor Marques L. Fletcher is celebrating thirteen (13) years in ministry this year as Pastor of Young Street Community Baptist Church; and

Whereas, Pastor Marques L. Fletcher, under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Young Street Community Baptist Church, as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless, fed the hungry and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Pastor Fletcher is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our District and the world his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Pastor Marques L. Fletcher as he celebrates his thirteenth Pastoral Anniversary at Young Street Community Baptist Church;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim September 16, 2012 as Pastor Marques L. Fletcher Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 16th day of September, 2012.

IN HONOR OF COUNCILMAN
TERRELL PRUITT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Councilman Terrell Pruitt, who is currently serving as the representative for Ward 1 on the Cleveland City Council.

Councilman Pruitt has been representing Ward 1, which includes the Lee-Harvard and Miles neighborhoods on the southeast side of Cleveland, since 2008. Since coming to office,

the Councilman has focused on the continued development of his community. He has worked tirelessly to maintain a safe community in which Clevelanders can thrive while making constituent services a top priority.

Councilman Pruitt has been a strong advocate of education and understands the impact that it can have on a community. He has maintained a close relationship with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and supports policies that will increase the quality of education in the District. He has volunteered his time and service to the Governor's Close the Gap Campaign which helps supports students at the local high school to ensure their educational success. Along with his support of education, Councilman Pruitt continues to work towards ensuring a positive job outlook for his constituents by providing job training and continuing education opportunities.

Outside of his position as Councilman, Pruitt served tours in Afghanistan, led hurricane relief missions in Louisiana and serves as the Captain in the Ohio Army National Guard.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring Cleveland City Councilman Terrell Pruitt.

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the FISA Amendments Reauthorization Act of 2012. Clearly, we must work to ensure that our intelligence and law enforcement communities continue to have the tools they need to protect American citizens. It is critically important, however, that in our effort to defend the liberties we cherish, we not enact measures that erode the very freedoms we seek to protect.

This legislation, in its current form, still contains flaws which fail to ensure robust oversight of this program. Specifically, some of the amendments offered by my colleagues on the Judiciary and Intelligence Committees to increase transparency and shorten the sunset should have been included in the final bill. Unfortunately, we are considering this legislation under a closed rule, and no amendments can be offered to the full House.

We must work to reauthorize this program in a balanced way that provides our experts with the authority they need to protect Americans while upholding the values enshrined in our Constitution. I look forward to working with our colleagues in the Senate to reform these provisions so that we don't need to make the false choice between security and freedom.

INTRODUCING MEDICARE
TRANSITIONAL CARE ACT OF 2012

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, together with a group of bipartisan cosponsors,

I am proud to introduce the Medicare transitional Care Act of 2012, legislation to aid patient transitions from one care setting to another within our health care system. The legislation will improve patient health outcomes, reduce hospital readmissions, and save valuable healthcare resources.

When people leave the hospital after an operation or illness, they are often overwhelmed by a complicated and risky road to recovery. Patients frequently report difficulty remembering clinical instructions, confusion over medications, and in cases where multiple providers are involved, can receive conflicting instructions from different providers.

A study published in April 2009 in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found that almost one third of Medicare beneficiaries studied who were discharged from a hospital were re-hospitalized within 90 days. Additionally, one-half of the individuals re-hospitalized had not visited a physician since their discharge, suggesting a lack of follow-up care. The study estimated that Medicare spent \$17.4 billion in 2004 on unplanned re-hospitalizations.

In its June 2012 Report, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, MedPAC, highlighted the need for an explicit payment for transitional care services, given the documented evidence that effective and coordinated care transitions improve health outcomes, reduce readmission rates, and generate significant savings to the U.S. health care system. The Congressional Budget Office has echoed these findings. In a report documenting lessons from Medicare's demonstration projects, the CBO emphasized that "programs that smoothed transitions (for example, by providing additional education and support to patients moving from a hospital to a nursing facility or between a primary care provider and a specialist) tended to have fewer hospital admissions."

There are some well-established and peer-reviewed programs that could be adopted. For example, the Transitions Care Model, which assigns a transitional care nurse during the transition period, has resulted in cost savings of approximately \$5,000 per patient. Other models also have demonstrated savings, such as the Care Transitions Intervention model, which provides patients with a transitions coach and self-management tools, has reduced hospital readmission rates from 20 percent to 12.8 percent, while Project Better Outcomes for Older adults through Safe Transitions, BOOST, which provides hospitals with management tools and mentoring programs to improve the discharge transition process, resulted in lower rates of mortality and 30-day readmissions rates dropped from 25.5 percent to 8.5 percent for those under age 70.

It is our hope that stakeholders involved in the care delivery system will carefully evaluate this legislation and provide comments or suggested improvements to me and the other sponsors. We are interested in ensuring that the legislation's terms are adequately tailored to the different circumstances and settings in which these transitions occur.

Providing a transitional care benefit within Medicare will help coordinate care, develop a care plan for patients and their caregivers, identify potential health risks, and prevent unnecessary hospitalizations. I thank my cosponsors and look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this legislation.

IN HONOR OF MR. DALE MILLER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dale Miller, a member of the Cuyahoga County Council serving the Second District.

Councilman Miller was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1949 and graduated from Garfield Heights High School in 1967. He attended Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, earning a bachelor's degree in psychology. Dale later earned a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the University of Utah, before eventually returning to his hometown of Cleveland shortly after graduation.

Dale has been active in public service throughout his life. As a college student, he was an intern for United States Senator Howard Metzenbaum. He served on the Cleveland City Council for nine terms beginning in 1979, in the Ohio House of Representatives from 1997 to 2006, and in the Ohio Senate from 2006 to 2010. He chose not to seek reelection to the Ohio Senate in 2010, deciding instead to run for the new Cuyahoga County Council.

Throughout his career, Miller has been honored on numerous occasions. He is the recipient of a Louis Stokes Award, State Leadership Award, and Community Leadership Award. He was also named the Legislator of the Year by the AFL-CIO and Public Children's Association of Ohio in 2005.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring my friend, Dale Miller, a member of the Cuyahoga County Council with a proven dedication to serving his fellow Ohioans for more than 30 years.

HONORING GEORGE BROWN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, George Brown has served as the City Clerk of the City of Mount Vernon since 2009 and before that as Deputy City Clerk from 2004. He is a native son of the City who received his primary education there. He went on to graduate with an Associates Degree in Applied Science from the Business Institute of Westchester and a Bachelor of Science Degree from Manhattan College.

He retired from Consolidated Edison to bring his 32 years of corporate experience in Customer Service, Accounting, Conflict Resolution, and Corporate Safety to City governance. He is involved with and received awards from many community and civic organizations. He has volunteered as a Celebrity Chef Cook for the YMCA and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, was Event Co-Chairperson for Mount Vernon Relay for Life of the American Cancer Society, and Team Captain of Harlem Relay for Life of American Cancer Society.

He is a District Leader of the Mount Vernon Democrat City Committee, a member of the Black Democrats of Westchester, Past Vice President of the Mount Vernon Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, Prince Hall Mason of

the State of New York, St. Joseph Lodge #117 F&AM, having served 12 years as Grand Lecturer under five Grand Masters. He received the 33rd Degree, the highest degree in Masonry in May 2009. He has been a member of Elejmal Temple #185 of the AEAONMS INC. since 1994 and in December, 2011 was elected Illustrious Potentate of Elejmal Temple #185.

George Brown is first and foremost a family man and one who loves laughter. He is also devoutly spiritual and every Sunday you will find him at the Greater Centennial AME Zion Church, where he is a proud member.

He is a man of the community, one who is unselfish in giving to his community. It is because of people like George Brown that communities grow and prosper and I am proud to join in honoring him for his service to his community.

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION
CORPS ACT OF 2012

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join my colleague ANDER CRENSHAW in introducing the "International Conservation Corps Act of 2012" (ICCA), legislation that will mobilize our large and growing community of retired conservation experts, in a voluntary capacity, to support the efforts of developing countries to sustainably manage their natural resources.

There is a significant deficit in the capability of most developing countries to successfully manage their natural resources, which is fundamental to sustainable development, poverty alleviation, conflict avoidance, good governance, and regional security. Countries with a great wealth of natural resources are often cursed with devastating poverty, corruption and civil war arising from disputes over control and distribution of these resources.

The International Conservation Corps Act will harness the vast experience of the United States in natural resource management and connect it with developing countries to help them operate and develop more sustainable programs. Modeled after the Peace Corps, the ICCA program would offer retired land managers, both public and private sector employees, geologists, biologists, and park rangers the opportunity to volunteer their services to the foreign country. The ICCA would cover the expenses necessary to deploy volunteers in other countries such as airfare, food, and lodging. The program will utilize volunteers who have long practical experience and are respected in their fields, and who are enthusiastic about opportunities to apply their knowledge and skills to assist other countries.

Under this proposal, the State Department would screen foreign government requests for assistance. Cleared requests would be forwarded to the Interior Department which would craft a prospectus that awards competitive grants to the nonprofit that assembles the best volunteer team and most meritorious application. Federal administrative costs would be minimal, ensuring tax payer funds are spent almost exclusively on "boots on the ground." No more than \$10 million could be appropriated per year. The cost of this program