

John Real, 90, lives in Ventura, California. A California native, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps after graduating from high school in 1940. He was sent to the Philippines in April 1941 and assigned to aerial reconnaissance at Clark Field with the 2nd Observation Squadron, 27th Bombardment Group, V Bomber Command, 20th Air Force. Real and his unit manned an observation tower on top of Mt. Mariveles, Bataan during Japan's invasion of the Philippines where he tracked Japanese ship movement around the Olongapo Navy Yard. He walked down the mountain to surrender on April 9, 1942 and was stripped of all his belongings before being forced on the Bataan Death March. At the start of the march, he and others were used as human shields by being forced to walk in front of seized American 155mm caliber field guns (Long Toms) that the Japanese were firing at Corregidor. He was a POW at both Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan 1. He avoided a certain death at O'Donnell by volunteering for a work detail on Bataan. In September 1943, he was sent to Moji, Japan aboard the Hellship *Taga Maru* (aka *Coral Maru*) via Formosa. At Tokyo 5-B POW Camp in Niigata, he was a slave laborer unloading coal ships for Niigata Kairiku Unso, now part of the Rinko Corporation. After the war, Real received a BA degree in Business Administration from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a MA degree from the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Arizona. POW# 514

George R. Summers, 90, lives in Riverside, California. Born in the Philippines, he grew up in California where he joined the Marine Corps Reserve in February 1941. Activated in June 1941, his unit was sent to Guam in September 1941. Japan invaded the island on December 8, 1941, and he was taken prisoner by the 10th of December. Summers was on the first transport of Allied POWs to Japan, the *Argentina Maru* with 420 American POWs from Guam to Tadotsu on the north coast of Shikoku. After arriving in Japan on January 16, 1942, the POWs were transported to Zentsuji (Hiroshima Branch #1), a POW camp about eight kilometers from Tadotsu. He spent six months there clearing a mountainside to plant apple trees. He was then transferred to Tanagawa Osaka Area POW Command #4B Camp, where he helped to manually tear down a mountainside to build a breakwater for a primitive dry-dock and submarine base. This camp was noted for its severe malnutrition and extremely high death rate of POWs. Six months later, he was sent to Umeda Bunsho Camp in Osaka (Osaka 2-D UMEDA), Japan, where he worked for Nippon Express as a slave stevedore. He was transferred to a total of six POW camps due to American bombings. His last camp was the Nagoya 10-B Fushiki Camp, where he worked as a stevedore slave unloading soybeans from Korea for Fushiki Kairiku Unso until Japan's surrender. After his release, he was hospitalized for six months at the Long Beach Naval Hospital. In retirement, he has focused on real estate investment and his hobbies of collecting Koi fish and exotic birds. POW# 347

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF BEREA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the City of Berea, Ohio. Since 1836, the City of Berea has been an exemplary community within Northeast Ohio.

Known as "The Grindstone Capital of the World," the town's symbol is a grindstone which serves as a tribute to the many grindstones that came out of its quarries. Every year, on Independence Day weekend, a festival named for the grindstones is celebrated by the City of Berea.

Berea is home to several of Northeast Ohio's most important fixtures such as Baldwin-Wallace College, the Cleveland Browns' training facility and the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds. Over the years, Berea has produced a number of notable residents including John Baldwin, Lou Groza, Jim Tressel and former U.S. Secretary of Defense, Neil H. McElroy.

Today, the City of Berea is home to nearly 20,000 residents who are led by Mayor Cyril Kleem. Mayor Kleem was recently elected to his second term in office. There are eight members on the City Council: Mary Brown, Dean Can Dress, Dale Lange, Margarette Kay, Nick Haschka, Jim Maxwell, Cheryl Banaszak and Richard Malott.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the City of Berea and all of its residents.

STOP THE WAR ON COAL ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3409) to limit the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to issue regulations before December 31, 2013, under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977:

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the Coal Miner Employment and Domestic Energy Infrastructure Protection Act.

Here on the last days of the 112th Session of Congress, we are wasting time debating a bill, whose constituents parts have already been approved by this body.

We've already spent considerable House time debating all five titles of this bill.

And all five titles were rejected by the Senate and have received a veto threat from the President.

Over the past 19 months this body has cast more than 300 votes against the environment.

Just as repeating a falsehood doesn't make it true, passing a bill in the House twice in the same session won't make it a law.

When the history of this Congress is written, it will be known as the least productive Congress in a century, eclipsing even the infamous "Do Nothing" Congress that President Harry Truman confronted more than 50 years ago.

Rather than advance policies that would promote employment, help drought stricken farmers, even address the long-term solvency of Medicare, this House remains stuck on vilifying the Environmental Protection Agency and taking issue with its obligations under the law to protect the public's health.

This week's announcement by Alpha Natural Resources that it plans to lay-off miners and scale back coal production by 16 million tons annually may fuel the argument that EPA is somehow responsible, but even Kevin Crutchfield, the company's chief executive officer, acknowledged that the principle cause was "the result a difficult market in which power plants are switching to abundant, less expensive natural gas."

If natural gas is cheaper to burn than coal, then where is the legislation to ban its use?

How about a war on natural gas?

For decades the coal industry and utilities have been exempted from Clean Air Act regulations.

It took court orders for previous administrations' inactions and the current administration commitment to protecting the public's health that led to today's regulatory climate.

And, while hundreds of miners may lose their jobs because of cheaper natural gas and new Clean Air and Clean Water Act regulations, tens of thousands of Americans, this bill so callously disregards, will be saved from premature deaths, asthma attacks, emergency room visits and missed work and school days each year.

I will vote to protect the lives of thousands of Americans over the few hundred who might lose their jobs.

If the majority truly cares about the fate of these miners, then support a jobs bill that will allow them to rebuild America's infrastructure.

This bill is wrong.

It advances narrow, profit-based interests over the interests of everyday Americans.

It presumes that a cleaner, healthier air and water must be subservient to the interests of keeping this nation's dirtiest power plants and the most environmentally destructive mining techniques free from regulation.

My colleagues, it's a distorted set of priorities advanced by just a fraction of CEOs in the utility and mining industries who refuse to clean up their operations.

We can have cleaner air and more jobs.

And history provides us with proof it is possible.

It's already happened, and I credit George Herbert Walker Bush with having the courage and foresight to put his signature on the Clean Air Act of 1990.

He would be vilified by the current House majority if he signed that bill today.

It's a sad commentary to see so many in this chamber beholden to an industry that prefers to invest in the political process rather than in saving lives by reducing its life-damaging practices.

Few of my colleagues may realize that the coal consuming industries that have underwritten this assault on EPA had an opportunity to collaborate with the Obama administration on a regulatory framework.

They were invited early on during the first year of the Obama administration to sit down and craft a compliance option.

The administration had hoped to craft a deal similar to the historic deal it made with the nation's auto industry on fuel efficiency and tailpipe emissions.

A National Journal article by Coral Davenport in the September 22, 2011 issue referenced this meeting.

But unlike the auto industry, the coal consuming industries refused to negotiate.

Instead, and let me quote from the article, they:

“banded together with the Republican Party to strategize, and the 2010 midterm elections offered the perfect battleground. The companies invested heavily in campaigns to elect tea party candidates crusading against the role of Big Government. Industry groups (like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce), tea party groups with deep ties to polluters (like Americans for Prosperity), and so-called super PACs (like Karl Rove’s American Crossroads) spent record amounts to help elect the new House Republican majority.

My colleagues, this bill presents a false choice, peddled by an industry that refuses to clean up its act.

This bill serves the interest of no one but a few CEOs who refuse to accept responsibility to the harm their operations have imposed on the rest of us.

It needs to be defeated.

I implore my colleagues to vote “no.”

TRIBUTE TO DR. FRENCH B. HARMON

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and role model, Dr. French B. Harmon, and to celebrate his fifth year serving at First Baptist Somerset on October 21st, 2012. Dr. Harmon has showed tremendous leadership and involvement in the Somerset community, substantially increasing the Church’s membership within the last year, and strongly connecting with his congregation.

Throughout his life, Dr. Harmon has always pursued learning. After graduating from Paul Blazer high school in Ashland, KY, he attended Marshall University, from where he received his Bachelor’s degree. Seeking to continue his education further, Dr. Harmon went on to receive degrees from University of Louisville (MA in Education), Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (MDiv and ThM), and Reformed Theological Seminary (DMin). Dr. Harmon has had a wealth of experience as a Christian leader, starting from his days in college as the Baptist Student Union President to becoming a Campus Minister to Pikeville College and Prestonsburg Community College.

Dr. Harmon has been a strong leader in our community, organizing various mission trips that have greatly benefited those around him. This past June, Dr. Harmon led the First Baptist Somerset Church on a mission trip to Magoffin County after the town of West Liberty had been ravaged by multiple deadly tornadoes this past March. Harmon took a team of church members and a large load of building supplies to work on damaged homes, repair roofs, rebuild porches, and help get people back on their feet.

Harmon has also stood up to the prescription drug epidemic in eastern Kentucky and has done his best to shed light on the issue.

This past May he helped organize and lead the first “Pulaski Cares March for Hope” to spotlight the drug problem in the region and bring hope to those who were struggling with drug abuse.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. French B. Harmon, for his outstanding leadership and dedicated service to the Somerset community.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF BROOKLYN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the City of Brooklyn, Ohio. Brooklyn Township was founded in 1818, became Brooklyn Village in 1927 and in 1950 the City of Brooklyn was established.

The City of Brooklyn is home to many firsts in the U.S. In 1966, it became the first city to establish a seatbelt law. In 1999, it enacted the country’s first law to prevent cell phone usage while driving. Brooklyn High School’s auditorium hosted Elvis Presley’s first concert in the northern U.S. on October 20, 1955. Brooklyn is also home to a Hugo Boss Plant and the world headquarters of American Greetings and the popular Memphis Kiddie Park.

Today, the City of Brooklyn is home to approximately 11,000 residents who are led by Mayor Richard Balbier. Mayor Balbier who has been serving as mayor since 2009 had previously served as the president of the Brooklyn City Council. There are six members on the City Council: Colleen Coyne Gallagher, Anthony DeMarco, Tom Murphy, Ron Van Kirk, Kathleen Pucci and Kevin Tanski.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the City of Brooklyn and all of its residents.

CELEBRATING APAIT HEALTH CENTER’S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate APAIT Health Center, serving my 34th Congressional District, on their 25th anniversary.

Since 1987, APAIT Health Center (formerly known as Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team) has worked to fulfill its mission of positively impacting the quality of life for medically underserved communities living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS and other health disparities through a seamless continuum of culturally competent and linguistically appropriate programs in Southern California.

APAIT Health Center is a distinctly critical service provider for those living with HIV/AIDS and members of the LGBTQ community in the greater Los Angeles area. The agency serves clientele from diverse communities, including Asian and Pacific Islanders (API), Latinos, and African Americans.

In its 25 year history, APAIT Health Center has become the largest provider of HIV/AIDS

services to API communities in Southern California, having served tens of thousands of individuals.

APAIT continues to respond this year with the opening of a community health clinic in the vibrant Pico Union/Westlake area, a community with scarce health options for those who are low-income and uninsured.

Private sector partnerships are also part of APAIT Health Center’s portfolio. APAIT Health Center has been the recipient of grants from Kaiser Permanente, John and Johnson, and the California endowment, to name a few. In addition, APAIT Health Center and its staff have received awards and commendations from local, state, and national entities, from the City of Los Angeles to the White House.

APAIT’s proudest achievement, however, is consistently receiving high marks from their client satisfaction surveys. The most recent survey revealed 93 percent of clients feel their quality of life has improved since seeking services with APAIT Health Center.

I once again congratulate APAIT Health Center on the celebration of their 25th anniversary. I thank them for their continued service to the Los Angeles community, and for the help they provide to those in need.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. HOWARD MONROE FITTS, JR. ON THE OC- CASION OF THE 38TH ANNUAL DURHAM NAACP FREEDOM FUND AND AWARDS BANQUET

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Howard Monroe Fitts, Jr. on his recognition as a Freedom Fund Honoree by the Durham Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP. Dr. Fitts will receive this recognition next month in appreciation of his advocacy for civil rights and his diligent public service to the Durham community.

Mr. Speaker, after completing a baccalaureate degree in biology at North Carolina Central University, NCCU, Dr. Fitts served as Teacher and Principal in Wilson County Public Schools. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1942 and served faithfully for three years before being honorably discharged in 1945 at the close of World War II. After the war, Dr. Fitts returned to academia where he earned a master’s degree in Public Health Education in 1946, and a doctorate degree in Health Education from Columbia University in 1961.

His involvement with the NAACP is deeply rooted, stemming back to his childhood when he worked alongside his father to sell the organization’s official magazine, Crisis. During that time, the young Dr. Howard Fitts was exposed to movements led by the church, health agencies, and other civil rights organizations. This exposure made an indelible impression on him, leading to his active participation and advocacy within the Durham community. As a result, Dr. Fitts quickly rose to leadership positions in the NAACP and the influential Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, DCABP.

Among many of his most notable work include his key involvement in the desegregation of the Durham’s public school system,