

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 OCCASION 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,

where Dr. Fitts testified during court proceedings, arranged transportation for Black students to desegregated schools, and enrolled his own son as one of the first African American students at Morehead Avenue Elementary School.

In addition to his civil rights leadership, Dr. Fitts has served as a public health educator for Chapel Hill, N.C.'s District Health Department, professor and Chair of the Department of Health Education at NCCU, and as a consultant to the World Health Organization. His résumé is filled with notable board positions, and his extensive work spans the tenure of every Executive Director of the NAACP from Walter White in the 1930s to Kwame Mfume in the 1990s.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Howard Monroe Fitts, Jr. on this unique honor of being recognized as a Freedom Fund Honoree by the Durham Chapter of the NAACP. His lifelong contribution to his community and country cannot be overstated.

H.R. 6429

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, with many of my colleagues, I voted to oppose H.R. 6429 introduced by Rep. LAMAR SMITH. While I strongly support creating a STEM Visa program, and cosponsor Rep. LOFGREN's H.R. 6412, the Attracting the Best and the Brightest Act of 2012, the bill brought to the floor today was a partisan, unserious approach to a serious question. It was a last-minute suspension bill designed to fail. It unnecessarily raises questions about its application and divides Congress when it should bring us together.

We need serious comprehensive immigration reform. Legislation that creates a STEM Visa program should be low-hanging fruit that builds momentum toward this goal. H.R. 6429 however, creates unnecessary divisions. Not only will it never be enacted into law but it sets us back on both this issue and the larger goal of immigration reform.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF
LAKEWOOD

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 Lakewood, Ohio. Also known as "The City of Beautiful Homes," Lakewood is an exemplary community within Northeast Ohio.

Lakewood is one of Ohio's most diverse and culturally rich cities. It is home to several art galleries, Winchester Music Hall and the Beck Center of the Arts. Additionally, both Malley's Chocolates and Aladdin's Eatery are based out of Lakewood, Ohio.

Lakewood has been named as one of the best cities to live in by This Old House Magazine and Scene Magazine. It was listed among the best suburbs in the U.S. by Travel & Lei-

sure Magazine. It was named the "Best Place to Raise Your Kids 2010" by Business Week.

Today, the City of Lakewood is home to more than 52,000 residents who are led by Mayor Mike Summers. Mayor Summers, who had previously served as a Councilman, has been serving as mayor since 2010. There are seven members on the City Council: Tom Bullock, David Anderson, Shawn Juris, Mary Louise Madigan, Brian Powers, Monique Smith and Ryan Nowlin.

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

IN HONOR OF THE IBEW LOCAL 481
ON THIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE CIRCLE OF LIGHTS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 481, whose generous contribution of time and talent has helped to make the Circle of Lights the premier holiday event for central Indiana for the past fifty years.

On the Friday after Thanksgiving, the remarkable transformation of Indianapolis's signature landmark, Monument Circle, into the world's largest Christmas tree symbolizes the beginning of the holiday season for Hoosiers. The extraordinary efforts of IBEW Local 481 have helped to make the Circle of Lights one of the largest public events in central Indiana.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating IBEW Local 481 for their outstanding contributions to this awe-inspiring holiday event. The Circle of Lights simply would not be possible without their expertise and generous support. My wife, Mariama, my daughter, Salimah, and I eagerly await the lighting of the world's largest Christmas tree in the company of Hoosiers from all across the Great State of Indiana.

SUPPORTING TEAM USA AND THE
U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, in the summer of 2012, we, as a nation, watched with pride as Team USA competed in the Olympic and Paralympic games in London, England. With over 200 nations competing in 300 events, the Olympic Games once again demonstrated the capacity of international sports to captivate and inspire us all through friendly competition, sportsmanship, solidarity, and fair play.

Team USA was well-represented, with 530 Olympians and over 245 Paralympians, each of whom served as an example to all of us with their unyielding commitment to excellence. Their years of dedication paid off handsomely, as Team USA finished first in the overall Olympic medal count with 46 gold, 29 silver, and 29 bronze medals, and fourth in the Paralympic medal count with 31 gold, 29 silver, and 38 bronze medals.

I would especially like to point out the courage and fortitude put forth by so many Paralympians. Although they might not get the same television coverage as the Olympics, the Paralympics showcases some of the finest talent this country has to offer. Some of these world-class athletes are also wounded warriors who served in our military and fought for our country with honor and distinction. I have been pleased to work with the U.S. Olympic Committee and my Congressional colleagues to provide adaptive sports programs to injured service members, helping to speed their recovery time, bolster their self-confidence, and vastly improve their quality of life.

Olympian or Paralympian, all members of Team USA put forth their best effort at the Summer Olympics. They have trained their entire lives for the honor and privilege of representing the United States in international competition. Their achievements are extraordinary, and we are proud of all they have accomplished.

To honor the hard work and unparalleled success of Team USA and the U.S. Olympic Committee, I have proudly joined my fellow co-chairs of the Congressional Olympic and Paralympic Caucus to introduce H. Res. 780, a resolution in support of the goals and ideals of the Olympic movement.

The Olympic movement is a testament to the power of international competition to unite us in common spirit and a reminder to all that we can achieve our dreams with courage and determination. I congratulate Team USA for their success and thank the U.S. Olympic Committee for their continued dedication to achieving a better world through athletics.

HONORING ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Joseph Hospital on being recognized as a Thomson Reuters Top 100 Hospital.

Founded in 1947 by the Felician Sisters, St. Joseph Hospital has proudly served community members from the Bangor area for three quarters of a century. St. Joseph is committed to wellness promotion and holistic healing by providing healthcare services which embody compassion, competence and community. It is this commitment that has helped them secure the Reuters Top 100 Hospital designation.

The Thompson Reuters 100 Hospital study evaluates performance in a variety of areas, including patient safety, average patient stay, expenses, medical complications and patient satisfaction. St. Joseph was chosen from nearly 3,000 U.S. hospitals for demonstrating high-quality patient care and overall organizational excellence.

St. Joseph Hospital, under the umbrella of St. Joseph Healthcare, is a 112-bed acute community hospital. They provide a comprehensive range of health care services, including primary care, specialty services, diagnostics imaging and screening, outpatient and inpatient surgery. The Hospital is consistently recognized for its quality of care and patient satisfaction scores. In addition to this