

protecting the land from the impacts of flooding. They also provide recreational opportunities.

Through the coordinated efforts of the Watsonville Wetlands Watch, hundreds of docents and volunteers are involved in green house native plant production and actively involved restoration work, attending regular monthly "Restoration Day" events. Through these efforts, and in collaboration with the city of Watsonville and the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Watsonville Wetlands Watch has supported a deep connection between the community of the Pajaro Valley and a healthy environment and watershed. Over the past 20 years, the Watsonville Wetlands Watch has grown from a small all-volunteer group doing slough cleanups, into the dynamic organization which we have today.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the many accomplishments of the Watsonville Wetlands Watch, and I am proud to be associated with this vital work.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF SECOND LIEUTENANT JAMES DES JARDIN

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen hero who has finally come home. Our experience is different than it would have been had Second Lieutenant James Des Jardin been found in 1944. James' parents had already buried one son, and now would have been burying another. Grief and sadness was the companion for this family on that December day in 1944.

Just three days after Christmas, the family was told of James missing in action with a letter. And I think you should know that similar letters were sent to over 73,000 families during the war saying that their loved one was missing. Our nation paid a heavy price to bring freedom to the world.

I cannot imagine the horror of hearing that news. More than that, I cannot fathom the uncertainty of a family not knowing. James' brother Earl, a bomber pilot, had already been killed in service to our country, in France just two months before, and now another son was missing.

Was James a POW? Was he hiding in Germany and working his way home? Did he perish that day? Or later? These are the questions that no parent, no brother or sister or son or daughter ever wants to ask. But these questions had to be asked. They provided hope. They provided encouragement. . . . but they also provide doubt and despair.

The questions certainly lingered. The sacrifice of the family, quietly held in their hearts and thoughts, and the yearning to know. December 28, 1944, and the years that followed, certainly brought heartache, that unless you have experienced it personally must have been difficult to understand.

So finally today brings closure. We get to lay to rest Second Lieutenant James Des Jardin—An American hero. Today we get thank a family for their sacrifice. Today we get to, and I know this is a bit odd to say and maybe a bit odd for you to hear, but today we

get to celebrate a hero and a hero's family. We as a community join with this family to share not just in grief but in joy of knowing our hero is finally home.

It's certainly different today than it would have been for the Des Jardin family in 1944. Today instead of mourning a fallen hero we celebrate his homecoming.

Today the family's questions have been answered and so have ours. Today an American hero is welcomed home and laid to rest. May God Bless the family and in His time provide the same closure for our Nation's other MIA families.

Thank you to the Des Jardin family for your sacrifice and thank you for including me today.

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of victims of domestic violence and in recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. For far too long, domestic violence victims have been ignored, afraid to speak up, and scared of being stigmatized. Battered immigrant women have been particularly vulnerable to domestic violence due to their temporary immigration status or lack of status. These women often suffer in silence because they fear threats of deportation, fear being separated from their children, and are afraid to come out of the shadows.

We have made significant progress in both reducing incidents of domestic violence and in offering support to victims. Eighteen years ago, Vice President BIDEN led the bipartisan effort to enact the Violence Against Women Act. As we all know, VAWA has strengthened communities and provided critical, life-saving support to victims of domestic violence, including battered immigrant women.

Obamacare expands access to critical domestic violence services. Under Obamacare, health insurers must provide women with access to domestic violence screening and counseling services without any cost-sharing and they cannot charge higher premiums to victims of domestic violence. This eliminates cost as a barrier to accessing these important services.

Nonprofit organizations are also doing inspiring work to aid victims of domestic violence. One such organization is Second Chance Employment Services. I want to recognize the extraordinary work done by this organization, and its founder Dr. Ludy Green. SCES offers survivors of domestic violence counseling and individualized job training services. SCES provides these women with both emotional support and the resources needed for financial security.

Despite all of these efforts, we still have a long way to go. Every day, three women in the United States die as a result of domestic violence. We must do everything we can to combat these unconscionable acts and support victims of this horrible crime. As the President noted in his Proclamation in honor of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month of 2012, "Let us renew our efforts to support victims of

domestic violence in their time of greatest need, and to realize an America where no one lives in fear because they feel unsafe in their own home."

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we all must recommit to continuing to fight for all survivors of domestic violence. We must all work together to reauthorize VAWA before the end of this Congress and ensure that we expand rather than erode protections for all victims of domestic violence. I urge my Republican colleagues to pass the bipartisan Senate bill, which passed the Senate on April 26 by a more than 2-1 vote, so that we can expand rather than roll back protections for victims of domestic violence.

HONORING KINARD & MYLES TRUE GOSPEL PRODUCTIONS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a remarkable team, Mr. Johnny Kinard and the Reverend Marvin Myles, together they are Kinard & Myles True Gospel Productions, Inc. They have been in business for over twenty years in a promotional partnership showcasing some of this nation's finest gospel acts and artists alike.

Kinard and Myles believed there was no need for two promoters in a region as small as theirs and that they could expand their horizons if they joined in partnership. The competition was tough in the region and that is what drove them into their partnership. Kinard was inspired by Early Wright, so he started recruiting local artists to perform in February, in observance of "Black History Month," and this tradition has lasted thirty years. Every year now, this annual event it is headlined by some of the biggest names in the field but it is the local groups that are the center of attraction. Kinard gives much credit to the success of this event to the community of churches. Beyond marketing through the church's network it is the nurturing of talent within these congregations, whether they are soloist, groups or choirs making gospel music entertainment in demand.

Johnny Kinard is also a radio personality; he is simulcast on KJIW-94.5, WJIW-104.7, and KCAT-1340, every Thursday from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. and on the internet at www.lordrgdio.com, where he reaches over a million listeners. The Mississippi Broadcasting Network named him the number one Gospel Music Promoter. Johnny Kinard is the recipient of the 2007 Mississippi Gospel Radio Announcer of the Year Award.

Over the years, Kinard & Myles True Gospel Production, Inc. was very good at booking local acts, working with other events and hosting concerts but on December 30, 2006, they had their greatest challenge, the Pre-New Year's Eve "Gospel Jamboree" at the 4000-seating accommodation Pinnacle Gymnasium on the campus of Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Mississippi. The biggest names in the field of traditional quartet gospel music and Grammy Award winners were present. These were such groups as The Mighty Clouds of Joy, Lee Williams & Spiritual QCs, the Five Blind Boys of Mississippi and

Alabama, the Jackson Southernaires, the Pilgrim Jubilees, Doc McKenzie & The Hi-Lites, the Violinaires, The Gospel Keynotes and the list went on. Even the great Early Wright, Johnny's mentor had never attempted such an undertaking. Failure to deliver a "great show" could destroy any gospel promoter's reputation. The task of trying to persuade businesses to sponsor gospel, not blues, and sell

four thousand tickets at twenty to fifty dollars a "pop" tested this two-man operation to the max. The team, Kinard and Myles, believed that with God all things are possible; they said "We called it faith" and when applied properly it works every time. Dr. Vivian Presley, President of Coahoma Community College, attended the event and confirmed it was the first

time a concert of any kind had sold out at the college.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Johnny Kinard and Reverend Marvin Myles of Kinard & Myles True Gospel Production on their work of putting Traditional Quartet Gospel Music at the forefront of American Music, again.