

serves the residents of the Bronx with such distinction, The Honorable Robert T. Johnson.

#### HONORING CLYDE W. BOWLING

### HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 9, 2012*

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Mr. GOODLATTE, would like to honor Clyde W. Bowling, a devoted public servant to the people of Bluefield and Tazewell County, on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Mr. Bowling was born on February 26, 1912. His family moved to Graham, now known as Bluefield, where he graduated from Graham High School in 1931. From 1933 to 1934, Mr. Bowling served as a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps, working at the Beltsville, Maryland, research center and in various forestry projects.

Mr. Bowling is a proud veteran of World War II. During the War, he served with the Combat Engineers, 99th Division, and the 743rd Railroad Battalion building railroads in Germany and Belgium.

His willingness to serve extended to the Tazewell County and Bluefield communities as well. Mr. Bowling served as the leader of Boy Scout Troop 144 for over 30 years. During this time he received several awards, including the Silver Beaver Award for distinguished service to young people. He was the Treasurer of the Town of Bluefield in 1962, a member of the Tazewell County Soil and Water Conservation Board in the 1960s, and held a position as a member of the Cumberland Plateau Planning District for 13 years. He worked closely with the Tazewell County Transportation Safety Commission for 40 years to increase highway safety and support improvements. He was actively involved with American Legion Post #122, the Masonic Lodge #122, the Graham High School Athletic Booster Club, the Bluefield Business and Professional Association, and was a charter member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9696. Mr. Bowling is also a longtime member of Virginia Avenue United Methodist Church.

Through hard work and dedication, Mr. Bowling established the Mountain Dominion Resource Conservation and Development Area, RC & D. He served as chairman of this organization as well as the New River-Highlands RC & D. In addition, he served in all offices of the State Association of RC & D Councils, as second vice president of the Southeast Association of RC & D Councils, and was named to the Virginia State Association of RC & D Hall of Fame. He was also a member of Earth Team.

Currently, Mr. Bowling resides in the Virginia Veterans Care Center next to the V.A. Hospital in Salem, VA. He is the oldest veteran in the Center.

Mr. Bowling's contributions to the community are to be commended. He has impacted many lives throughout his 100 years. As a member of America's greatest generation, the young people of today have much to learn from his service and dedication. We are honored to pay tribute to this great man and this very special birthday. Happy Birthday, Mr. Bowling. Thank you for all that you have done for Southwest Virginia.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LONG ISLAND VETERAN THOMAS H. WATKINS

### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 9, 2012*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Thomas H. Watkins, an American veteran from Long Island. He passed away on January 31, 2012. Now, the entire community is mourning this tremendous loss.

Before becoming a fixture in the Long Island community, Thomas played a key role in World War II honorably serving the U.S. Army. In late 1942, he was drafted and assigned to the 92nd Infantry Division part of the legendary Buffalo Soldiers. Of the 909,000 African Americans selected for duty in the Army during World War II, the men of the 92nd division were among the only African Americans to see combat in Europe, putting their lives on the line in battle against the German troops in Italy. Despite the harsh reality of racial segregation, Thomas and the Buffalo Soldiers fought valiantly to defend the country they loved. It was their courage and bravery that earned the respect of their fellow servicemen and country. For the next 4 years Thomas went on to serve in Italy and Germany before being honorably discharged.

After serving on the battlefields, Thomas continued his commitment to his country at the Northport Veteran Affairs Medical Center. He went on to work on behalf of Long Island veterans for over 20 years before finishing his career with the Town of Huntington. Not only was Thomas a great resource for Long Island veterans, he was a deeply engaged civic leader and public servant in his community.

A member of the Bethel A.M.E. Church in Huntington, Thomas worked tirelessly for the congregation he loved as Trustee Emeritus. Also, aware of the vital need for racial equality in America, Thomas held a lifetime membership to the NAACP. His devotion to his community, faith and family should be commended.

There is no question that his fellow veterans, his family and Long Islanders will miss Thomas. In the wake of his passing, we should all remember the sacrifice our veterans make to keep us safe here at home. I am forever grateful for Thomas's contributions as a serviceman and leader on Long Island. I offer my sincerest thoughts and prayers to his family.

#### CITY OF GOLDEN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 9, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the City of Golden Parks and Recreation Department for receiving the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce Civic Award.

The city's parks and recreation facilities, programs, activities, and services contribute greatly to the overall quality of life in Golden.

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining open spaces, for providing a quality system of parks and recreational facilities and for providing positive leisure opportunities for the community. Golden is home to many unique recreational amenities.

The American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration, in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), awarded the City of Golden the National Gold Medal Award at NRPA's Annual Congress and Exposition.

The Gold Medal Award honors communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. Each agency is judged on its ability to address the needs of those it serves.

The Golden Parks and Recreation vision is "Golden will be recognized as a national leader in the provision of high quality parks, trails and recreation facilities."

Their mission is "to promote and provide safe and comprehensive community facilities, programs and services that will enrich the quality of life for all residents and visitors."

I extend my deepest congratulations to all the employees of the City of Golden Parks and Recreation Department for this well deserved recognition by the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce.

#### MEMORIAM FOR FRANK CUSHING, APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF DIRECTOR

### HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 9, 2012*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Frank Martin Cushing, who gave more than 30 years of service to the Nation as a congressional staffer, culminating as the staff director for the House Appropriations Committee. Frank passed away on Monday, Feb. 6, 2012 at the age of 59.

Frank was a fabulous person, a true leader and someone who you could always count on to get an extremely difficult job done right—while leaving everyone feeling good about it when it was finished. He was a mentor and friend to so many of the wonderful staff who work for the Appropriations Committee, and one of the best people I ever worked with in my career in public service.

I first came to know Frank well when he came to work for me as staff director of the House Appropriations Committee on Veterans Affairs, HUD and Independent Agencies in 1994. He immediately helped craft a bill that reduced spending by several billion dollars, but at the same time won over many agency heads and executive branch officials who found him tough but fair and extremely knowledgeable about their needs.

Frank was a giant of a man. Members on both sides of the aisle—in both the House and Senate—respected him for his integrity, compassion, pragmatism and mastery of the political process. When I became Appropriations Committee chairman in 2005, there was no doubt in my mind who should be staff director

of the full committee. I was extremely gratified when Frank agreed—and became just the 12th staff director of the House Appropriations Committee in U.S. history.

His legacy remains on the committee in the many excellent staff members he hired and trained. And he will be missed by the hundreds of members and staff throughout the House and Senate who came to know and admire him. I have no doubt that many will join me in reaching out to his wife, Amy and their four children, and express their sympathy at her loss and their gratitude for having known Frank Cushing.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide the obituary for Frank in order for my colleagues to understand what a truly remarkable person and public servant he was:

FRANK MARTIN CUSHING

APRIL 9, 1952–FEBRUARY 6, 2012

Frank Cushing, loving husband, son, father, grandfather, brother, and mentor died at his home in Falls Church on Monday, February 6, 2012. He was 59 years old.

Widely respected for his deep faith, integrity, and love of family and country, Cushing left an indelible mark in public policy through more than 30 years of public service in the House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, and Washington, DC business community. Cushing was widely regarded as one of the most knowledgeable individuals in Washington concerning the congressional appropriations and Federal budget processes.

Cushing graduated from the University of Idaho in 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and completed graduate level work in public policy administration at the University of Idaho and Boise State University in 1974–75. He came to Washington, DC in 1977 to work as a legislative assistant for Senator James McClure of Idaho. Cushing served as clerk of the Senate Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee for Chairman McClure from 1981–84 under full committee Chairman Mark Hatfield of Oregon, and as staff director for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee under Chairman McClure from 1984–91.

Following a three-year stint as Corporate Vice President of a Fortune 50 energy firm, Cushing returned to Capitol Hill in 1995 to serve as Clerk and Staff Director of the House Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development (VA-HUD) and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee for then Subcommittee Chairman Jerry Lewis of California under full Committee Chairman Bob Livingston of Louisiana. He left the Hill in 2003 to become a partner at a firm specializing in appropriations consulting but returned to the House in 2005 as the Clerk and Staff Director of the full House Appropriations Committee under newly elected Chairman Lewis. Cushing was the twelfth Clerk and Staff Director of the House Appropriations Committee in U.S. history and today his portrait hangs in the U.S. Capitol with his predecessors dating back to 1865.

Cushing retired from the Hill in 2008 to become a partner in a D.C. law and consulting firm where he devoted his time and energy to public policy, particularly relating to funding for science and education. His integrity, compassion, pragmatism, and masterful political skills were admired by House Members, Senators, and staff on both sides of the aisle. Cushing also served as an At-Large Trustee of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership. He also served on the Advisory Board of the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival at the University of Idaho.

Cushing is survived by his wife, Amy Hamner of Falls Church, VA; his mother, Eliza-

beth Cushing of Arlington, VA; his brother, William P. Cushing, Jr. of Norristown, PA.; 4 children, Christina Abel of Caldwell, ID, Jennifer Dewing of Crandon, WI, Amy Catherine Cushing of Falls Church, VA, and Nathaniel Allen Cushing, of Falls Church, VA; and 12 grandchildren. Friends and family were blessed to join him at home over the last weeks of his life on earth for a time of reflection, confirmation, and joy.

A memorial service celebrating the life and memory of Frank Martin Cushing will be held on Monday, February 13 at 3 p.m. at Columbia Baptist Church, 103 West Columbia Street, Falls Church, VA, where Cushing served as a deacon.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to be designated to the Frank Martin Cushing Public Policy Scholarship through the University of Idaho Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 443147, Moscow, ID 83844-3147, as a part of the James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research for which Cushing served on the Advisory Board. Contributions may also be directed to CrossLink International, 427 North Maple Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22046.

CONGRATULATING CHARLOTTE  
HAWKINS FLOWERS ON HER  
112TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing a happy 112th birthday to Ms. Charlotte Hawkins Flowers.

Ms. Flowers, or Gram as she is lovingly called by her family, was born on March 20, 1900 in Madison, Florida. Throughout her life, Gram has always taken care of others. Whether friends, families, neighbors or strangers, Gram always was ready to help others in any way she could. Her granddaughter, whom she has lived with in Riviera Beach since 2005, reflected that Gram lived her life in adherence to Ecclesiastes 9:10 which states that: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might."

With a special place in her heart for helping children, Gram had a in-home day care center in the 60's and 70's and has been a foster grandparent. As the oldest of three daughters and four sons born to Date Hawkins, she left school in the third grade to help care for her siblings. However, she still learned how to read and write and provided her grandchildren with help with their homework.

Gram also has a knack for cooking, working as a cook at Florida State University and also as a private home cook. Although she personally has a sweet tooth and loves Coca-Cola, sweet tea, and sweet potato pie, as a cook, one of her specialties was homemade biscuits. In addition to filling others up with delicious food, she also fills them with wisdom. One of her trademark sayings is "Be careful how you treat people. Because you're up today doesn't mean you won't be down tomorrow." This sentiment was something my grandmother used to also share with me and are words we should all live by every day in caring for others.

To that end, Gram always was active in her church, the Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church in Tallahassee. She believes that it is

her walk with Jesus that keeps her going strong. This strength allowed her until a few years ago to visit the sick and shut-in members of her church. Although she learned to drive, Gram never got her drivers' license or owned a car so she would often walk to make these visits. Even at 111, Gram still tries to help out in any way she can.

Mr. Speaker, on February 20, 2012, Ms. Charlotte Hawkins Flowers will be celebrating her 112th birthday with her son's family in Florida. Although she has survived her six siblings and nine children, she will be surrounded by a multitude of family: 5 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, 11 great-great grandchildren, 16 great-great-great grandchildren, and 4 great-great-great-great grandchildren. It is my distinguished honor to wish her a very happy birthday and congratulate her on reaching this milestone and dedicating her life to caring for others.

HONORING PRINCIPAL YVETTE  
AGUIRRE

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a pillar of the Sunset Park community, an educator and an advocate for Brooklyn's children. Today, a wing of PS 169 is being dedicated to honor Mrs. Aguirre's years of service to the children of Sunset Park. As a teacher, Mrs. Aguirre saw firsthand the needs and potential of our children. She recognized that, when given the resources and opportunity to learn in the right environment, every child can become a successful member of the community. In that regard, she has been a steadfast champion for relieving overcrowding in our schools and neighborhoods. She successfully led a campaign that united the parents of Sunset Park and helped them coalesce behind a vision of better schools, smaller class sizes and a stronger community.

In 1997, Sunset Park opened Public School 24, an institution that has now served thousands of our community's children. Mrs. Aguirre became the school's first Principal. In that role she was always committed to ensuring students and classrooms were held to high expectations. That guiding philosophy, coupled with strong faculty development and mentoring, served as a recipe for success for all those who passed through PS 24's doors over the years.

While Mrs. Aguirre is now retired, Sunset Park's residents remember her many contributions. Naming a school wing after this prominent leader, woman, educator, principal and mentor is a fitting tribute to her legacy. The name of Principal Yvette Aguirre will remind students and the community of the work of a proud Latina, a positive role model and a champion for education.

Mr. Speaker, talented and passionate educators are a gift. They give of themselves tirelessly in an effort to improve our communities and ensure our children have access to opportunity. Mrs. Aguirre is one of those educators and, today, I would ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring her many achievements.