

RECOGNIZING W.H. JEFFERSON FUNERAL HOME, INC. FOR ITS CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a minority owned business of Vicksburg, Mississippi, W.H. Jefferson Funeral Home, Inc.

W.H. Jefferson Funeral Home, Inc., is the oldest funeral home in the state of Mississippi. Established in 1894 by William H. and Lucy C. Jefferson, W.H. Jefferson Funeral Home has served Vicksburg and surrounding communities for 118 years, under the direction and sole ownership of members of the Jefferson family.

Both William H. and Lucy C. Jefferson were active in their community and served in various social and civic organizations. The Jefferson torch of service has been passed along for generations. The family's commitment to meeting the sovereign needs of its customers during their time of bereavement has been the business' anchor, even during some of the country's most trying economic times.

Today W.H. Jefferson Funeral Home, Inc. continues to carry on the tradition of dignity and compassion for its clients.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring, W.H. Jefferson Funeral Home, Inc. and their contributions to their community.

RECOGNIZING MR. GENE GRUBER FOR WINNING HIS 5TH, AND HIS FAMILY'S 15TH, USA NATIONAL PLOWING TITLE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gene Gruber of Richmond, Minnesota, upon being awarded his 5th, and his family's 15th, USA National Plowing Title on August 6, 2012.

Mr. Gruber's victory means that he will represent the USA at the 60th World Plowing Contest in Olds, Alberta, Canada, on July 19–20, 2013. Going against 31 other countries, he will compete for the 5th time internationally, and in his last international competition in New Zealand (2010) he finished 9th. Mr. Gruber's skill and ability with the plow are only matched by his generosity, as he has not hesitated to teach other plowmen across the United States the knowledge necessary to be a plowing champion.

As farmers across the nation work to put food on the tables of all Americans, we can respect the dedication and industriousness that they show as they labor to grow and plow their crops every year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to join with me in recognizing Mr. Gene Gruber upon this award.

HONORING THE TARAPANI FAMILY FOR 101 YEARS OF BUSINESS AND SERVICE IN TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Tarapani family of Tarpon Springs, Florida, on the accomplishment of 101 years of business and service in Tarpon Springs, Florida. Throughout their time in the United States, the Tarapani family has lived the American Dream, applying hard work and determination to create a successful small business in our community.

Having emigrated from Lithuania to the United States through Ellis Island as a young boy, Abraham Tarapani opened his first storefront in Tarpon Springs in 1911. The store was an old-fashioned dry goods store, selling clothing, fabrics, hats and other general merchandise. To this day, the Tarapani Department Store proudly serves the people of Tarpon Springs and northern Pinellas County.

Over the last century, the Tarapani family has become a staple of the Tarpon Springs business and civic communities. Through four generations, members of the family have actively and attentively served their local customers, while also serving the greater community with their participation on many boards and associations, including the American Legion, the Tarpon Springs Rotary Club, the Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce, the Tarpon Springs Board of Commissioners and the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, among others. Abraham Tarapani and his wife, Margaret, had two children: Helen and Abe, Jr. Abe, Jr. and his wife, Florida Belle, had three children: Abe III, John and Florida Belle. And finally, John had a son, Townsend. These members of the Tarapani family represent four generations and their contributions have helped to make Tarpon Springs a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 100 years the Tarapani family has represented the best of the American entrepreneurial spirit. The family has become a pillar of the local Tarpon Springs community. Their economic success and ability to adapt with the changing times exemplify the strength of this country's business community, and I commend them for their contributions to our area.

“REPEAL AN OLD RELIC”

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago this week then President George H.W. Bush signed the FREEDOM Support Act into law. This law gave money to the countries of the former Soviet Union to help them build democracies from the rubble of failed communism.

That is, except one. Wrapped up in this big bill was a tiny provision, called “Section 907,” that forbid any money from going to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan is a strong partner of the United States. After 9/11, Azerbaijan allowed our planes to fly in its airspace and contributed troops to Afghanistan. With 7 billion barrels of proven oil reserves, it will be an important player in increasing Europe's energy security. The country is also a predominantly Muslim country that is a friend of Israel and the free market system, unlike its tyrannical neighbor Iran. Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama recognized the importance of our alliance with Azerbaijan and waived Section 907 via Executive Order every year since 2001.

In fact, from Secretary Albright to Secretary Powell, Secretaries of State from both Republican and Democrat administrations over the last 20 years have supported the repeal of Section 907. Congress should do away with this archaic and obsolete relic of the past and repeal Section 907. And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF TERRENCE “TERRY” O'BRIEN

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long and distinguished career of Terry O'Brien, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

Terry will retire this November, after 24 years of exemplary public service to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC). Mr. O'Brien's integrity, along with his proven ability to be an effective leader, helped him to be elected President of the MWRDGC in 1997 for a two year term. As of 2011, he has been re-elected President eight times unanimously by his fellow commissioners.

Stemming from a long career in the environmental field, Mr. O'Brien has been able to bring extensive knowledge to enhance and streamline many of the tasks and responsibilities of the District at the least possible cost to local taxpayers. Further, based on his highest possible standard of public service and strong business sense, under President O'Brien's leadership, the MWRDGC is one of the few governmental agencies in the State of Illinois to have an AAA bond rating. This is a testament to his dedication to the citizens of the Chicagoland area to secure the highest possible return on investment. During his term as President the MWRDGC has abated over \$262 million dollars back to the taxpayers of Cook County. In addition, Mr. O'Brien is an aggressive vocal advocate for maintaining the health of area residents by preventing pollution in Lake Michigan, local rivers, and streams. He has actively pursued continuous funding for the MWRDGC's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP); this large undertaking captures sewer overflow before it can pollute the drinking water supply. Since TARP's implementation in 1985, over 950 billion gallons of combined sewer overflow have been captured that otherwise would have polluted the area waterways. The system's final tunnel was completed in May of 2006, making all 109 miles of tunnel operational during rain events in Cook County.

Mr. O'Brien spent seven years initiating the successful introduction and enactment of a flood reduction bill, which now gives the MWRDGC the responsibility of dealing with flooding and stormwater issues throughout Cook County. After many setbacks, the bill was passed on November 19, 2004 thanks in part to Mr. O'Brien's relentless efforts and determination. He also instituted the (800) 332-DUMP pollution hotline number for citizens to report illegal dumping of materials into sewers and waterways, enabling the District to take immediate action against these violators.

Mr. O'Brien's strong interest in promoting fiscally sound, and taxpayer sensitive policies and programs, has led to a fiscally sound agency and to his promotion of aggressive use of District real estate holdings that are not needed for corporate use, again proving his commitment to reducing taxes that the District levies.

President O'Brien's finest and most enduring legacy will be his leadership in bringing this once-troubled agency forward to become one of the most well-respected, fiscally sound and forward thinking public agencies in the nation.

It is with great pride and respect that we salute President O'Brien for his many years of exemplary public service and dedication to cleaning up our Chicagoland waterways and Lake Michigan and we will be forever grateful for your vision and stewardship. We wish you great good luck in your years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Terrence J. O'Brien and his service to the Chicagoland area. His tireless commitment and dedication will be missed, and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VFW RHINE POST 2729

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 80th anniversary of Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars Rhine Post 2729. Their 80 years of dedication and service is certainly a milestone deserving our recognition, and I am pleased to congratulate them on this special occasion.

Rhine Post 2729's history of service began in 1932, after receiving their official Congressional Charter on October 29th. It was named "Rhine" after Mr. Leo Spsychalski, a Polish-American who founded the post and shared the nickname. Mr. Spsychalski served in the U.S. Army and participated in the Allied offensive along the German western front in World War I. Following Germany's surrender, Mr. Spsychalski was stationed as a guard along the Rhine River. After the war, he also served as the first Post Commander at Post 2729 for 6 years.

Located in Garfield Ridge, a community in Chicago, Illinois, Rhine Post 2729 has grown from its original 17 members to roughly 125 members today. For 80 years now, these men and women have served their nation with courage and integrity, not only in active military duty overseas, but also in their local community.

Rhine Post 2729 is an active organization, and they maintain a legacy of public outreach and service. Of their many activities, they regularly volunteer at the local Veterans Administration hospital and sponsor local community events.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of building a relationship with Rhine Post 2729 and their members. It has been a privilege working with them to host a senior fair, and an honor to have spoken many times at their Memorial Day services at Resurrection Cemetery in Justice, Illinois.

Today I stand to commend Rhine Post 2729 for their contributions to community and country, and to thank their members for their sacrifices. I ask you to join me in honoring them as we congratulate them on their 80th anniversary.

HONORING NATIONAL COMMUNITY RENAISSANCE AND THE HOPE THROUGH HOUSING FOUNDATION FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate National Community Renaissance (National CORE) and the Hope Through Housing Foundation (Hope) for 20 years of dedication to community transformation through the development and management of quality, service-enriched affordable rental housing.

National CORE is a leader in the acquisition, rehabilitation, and preservation of at-risk affordable housing across the nation. National CORE works closely with state, county and local governments nationwide to identify troubled multi-housing properties that are often ignored by others in the industry and transforms them into successful community centerpieces that establish or reestablish thriving and healthy neighborhoods.

National CORE utilizes proven business models while remaining committed to a social mission, resulting in efficient and effective strategies that successfully transform communities. National CORE's model of managing a product from its inception all the way through to completion and of continued property management is unduplicated by most other affordable housing builders. This innovation and commitment to excellence has made National CORE one of the United States' largest non-profit developers of quality affordable housing for low-income families and seniors.

National CORE's commitment to its residents also sets it apart. For every community it preserves, National CORE's first consideration is always its residents. Through the Hope Through Housing Foundation, National CORE is able to provide high quality services to its residents where they live. Hope is a non-profit that works in close partnership with National CORE to create measurable positive change in the lives of children, adults and families living in these communities. Hope provides supportive services that promote upward mobility for families, and emphasizes the importance of early childhood education, youth development, senior wellness, and economic self-sufficiency. This "business mind, mission

heart" approach has resulted in an improved quality of life in communities across the nation.

National CORE and Hope continually receive accolades and awards from their industry peers for the creation and operation of outstanding living environments. Whether constructing new infill projects or preserving at-risk affordable housing, entire neighborhoods have been transformed as a result of National CORE and Hope's commitment to providing decent housing and necessary social services for its residents. Using both proven methods and best-practices, as well as developing innovative approaches, National CORE and Hope generate meaningful community change, creating new social and economic opportunities in neighborhoods previously threatened by crime, poverty, blight, and isolation. As a member of the House Financial Services Committee's Housing Subcommittee, I know of no other organizations that have had such a meaningful and lasting impact on the physical and human fabric of communities as National CORE and Hope.

Today, I thank these organizations for their dedication to transforming communities and honor their efforts as they celebrate their 20th anniversary. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the work of National Community Renaissance and the Hope Through Housing Foundation.

HONORING HANK AND ROSE SANDERS OF ALABAMA

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2012

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Johnson C. Smith University's homecoming and election day, I want to take this opportunity to honor Rose and Hank Sanders.

Rose Sanders is a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, a historically Black College located in my congressional district. She is also a graduate of the Harvard University School of Law. She was Alabama's first female African American judge and was also a lead attorney in the case of Pigford v. Glickman, a class action lawsuit against the United States Department of Agriculture which documented racial discrimination in the Department of Agriculture's allocation of farm loans and assistance.

Rose Sanders' husband, Hank Sanders, also graduated from Harvard Law School. He serves in the Alabama State Senate where he has represented the 23rd State Senate District since 1983. He was Chair of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee and is the longest serving Chair of the Legislative Budget Committee.

Today, however, I want to recognize Hank and Rose Sanders for their tireless work to organize the National Voting Rights Museum & Institute and the Bridge Crossing Jubilee. The Museum and the Jubilee were organized and started to memorialize the events of March 7, 1965 which has come to be known as "Bloody Sunday". On that date 600 citizens, including my hero and our colleague JOHN LEWIS, were brutally attacked by Alabama state troopers, as they peacefully attempted to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge seeking to provide the