

Martin De Porres School, Uhuru Sassa Shule, the Dwayne Braithwaite School, J.H.S 35 and Boys and Girls High School. Growing up, he was fortunate enough to have been exposed to community affairs at an early age. Rev. Taharka attended P.T.A. meetings, school board meetings, community board meetings, rallies, voter registration drives, political campaign meetings and even protests. Exposed to all of these events, Rev. Taharka understood that there was something significant about serving the community.

In 2002 after working on numerous political campaigns, Rev. Taharka started Urban Consulting Group Inc., a political consulting firm that targeted urban communities throughout the state of N.Y. Through his commitment and dedication Taharka successfully orchestrated the election of five African American Judges to the Kings County Civil Court over the course of three consecutive election cycles.

In 2006 Rev. Taharka Robinson took a leave of absence from political consulting to pursue ministerial studies. After completing his studies and acquiring the required certification, Rev. Taharka Robinson started Victory Consulting Group Inc. a full service consulting firm that handles every phase of a campaign, from strategy, management, community outreach, polling, to media and field coordination. Since 2003, Rev. Taharka Robinson has worked to help promote equity in the Kings County Court System. Through his work, serving as a Judge in Kings County is a more attainable goal for people of color.

Taharka has demonstrated his commitment to public service through interaction with community faith based and political organizations. Rev. Taharka convenes an annual Clergy Luncheon that is focused on highlighting the needs of the most fragile people in our communities. Rev. Taharka is the founder of The Brooklyn Anti Violence Coalition an organization that deals with the issue of crime and violence in the community. Rev. Taharka Robinson's life vision is to promote leadership within the community, create mentoring opportunities for young men and women and continue the legacy of his mother.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Taharka Robinson for his commitment to serving others and continued dedication to the community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on November 16, 2012, and missed rollcall vote 608. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 608.

CELEBRATING DICK BOYSEN'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SPOKANE GUILDS' SCHOOL AND NEUROMUSCULAR CENTER

#### HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dick Boysen's 35th anniversary serving as the Executive Director of the Spokane Guilds' School & Neuromuscular Center.

On November 21, 1977, Dick Boysen set out to make a difference in the lives of children with disabilities in Eastern Washington. Believing in the worth of every individual, Dick looked forward to helping Spokane's most vulnerable population. Thirty five years later, his focus remains the same—nurture the full potential of families and their children, from birth to three, with disabilities.

Dick arrived at the Spokane Guilds' School & Neuromuscular Center with a passion for making a difference in the lives of children with developmental and physical disabilities and a vision to make the Spokane Guilds' School & Neuromuscular Center program the best in the country. To that end, over the last 35 years, Dick has tirelessly worked to ensure this dream became a reality. Under Boysen's leadership, the Spokane Guilds' School & Neuromuscular Center has become not only one of the most comprehensive and respected programs in Washington State but has gained national acclaim.

Founded in 1960, the Spokane Guilds' School & Neuromuscular Center has grown from a part-time, volunteer staffed respite center for children with developmental disabilities, to a full-time, quality center with a professional staff of certified teachers and therapists serving children who experience developmental delays. Today, the Spokane Guilds' School & Neuromuscular Center serves 200 children in Spokane County who experience developmental delays or disabilities.

Not only am I encouraged by Dick's tireless effort to advocate and improve the quality of life for children with disabilities in Spokane, but in the past 2 years, he has received the Sacred Heart Children's Hospital's "Advocate of the Year" award and was given a Founder's Award by the Early Childhood Development Association of Washington because of his great work with the organization and around the State.

So today, I want to congratulate Dick Boysen on his 35th Anniversary as Executive Director of Spokane Guilds' School and Neuromuscular Center.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for votes in the House of Representatives on November 15, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall No. 606 for H. Res. 808, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall No. 607 for Senate Amendment to H.R. 2453, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

102.7 FM "THE GOAT'S" 18TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a beloved radio station, 102.7 FM KYGT, which turns eighteen on February 4, 2013. The station, which is fondly known as "The Goat," started with an antique phonograph and a dream. Over the years, this humble station has transformed itself into the voice of Clear Creek and a local institution.

This community owned radio station's mission is clear: "Broadcast entertainment, news and information, both over the airwaves and via the Internet, to the residents of Clear Creek County, Colorado, and the world through an eclectic mix of programming." The Goat encourages creative expression and believes in the importance of community.

The Goat is a commercial-free station that is funded by local business sponsors, fund-raisers, and an intergovernmental agreement with all the towns in Clear Creek County. In addition to playing diverse music, the station encourages civic engagement and community building. There are live broadcasts of local high school athletic events, public service announcements about community events, and a dedicated line for the Sheriff's Department to take over the broadcast in case of an emergency. The Goat informs and educates its audience, as exemplified by founder and General Manager Greg Markle and Mark Cucinella's show, "All Things Reconsidered."

The Goat's dedicated staff is also a long-tenured staff. Gary and Doc have been rocking Clear County for almost 18 years with their show "So Much Music, So Little Time." Many mountain residents have woken up to snowy mountain mornings with "Mornings with Mozart" (even though sometimes the show is played in the afternoon), put on their square dancing shoes during "Texas Tunes," been constantly surprised by "The Mystery Hour," and head-banged through Mikey and Jen Jen's metal show.

This radio station epitomizes not only what a community radio station could be, but also what a community radio station should be. With a laid-back vibe, an inclusive attitude, and a fun-loving spirit, 102.7 FM consistently has entertained, informed, and supported the Clear Creek community. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to 102.7 FM The Goat as it soon celebrates its 18th birthday.

#### TRIBUTE TO SANDY DEWALT

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor Deacon Sandy Dewalt

devoted husband to his loving wife Eva of 65 years, and father to son Sandy Jr. and daughter Cassandra.

Deacon Dewalt is a devoted servant of Christ who joined the Union Baptist Church in 1955 under the leadership of the founding pastor, Rev. Dr. Aaron Wood. A member of the Union Baptist Church for 57 years, he was appointed Deacon Chairman Emeritus in 1998. Mr. Dewalt is also a member of the Joint Board of Directors; he has served on the Board of Deacons for the better of 50 years.

"Deek"—as he is affectionately known at Union is the current Superintendent of the Sunday School Department 2nd, member of the Board of Christian Education, the Pastor's Aide and the Music Ministry. Additionally he works diligently with the Soup and Feeding Ministry.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Deacon Dewalt for devoting his time to serving those who God sends to in their time of need and to the church that he loves so dearly, the Union Baptist Church, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Deacon Sandy Dewalt.

#### HONORING SISTER ELIZABETH VAN STRATEN

#### HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Elizabeth Van Straten, who is a highly esteemed member of the Chicago area and a resident of the Englewood community in the City of Chicago.

At the end of this year, Sister Van Straten will be retiring from her position as the President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Bernard Hospital, which is located in the Englewood community of the City of Chicago.

An alumnus of DePaul University, Sister Van Straten is a member of the religious congregation of women known as the Religious Hospitalers of Saint Joseph (R.H.S.J.), which founded St. Bernard Hospital in 1904. She is the last member of the religious sisters serving at St. Bernard. In following a line of women dedicated to serving the poor, Sister Van Straten has committed herself and her talents for more than 34 years in service of and promoting the health and well-being of the Englewood community.

Sister Van Straten has met and overcome major challenges in keeping St. Bernard Hospital open, even as three other neighborhood hospitals have closed. In addition to keeping open its doors, under Sister Van Straten's leadership St. Bernard has become the largest employer in the Englewood community and a leading national provider of emergency medical services, dental services and prenatal care services, just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sister Elizabeth Van Straten. She is truly worthy of recognition today and onward by this august body—the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### CONGRATULATING THE LONE STAR MODEL A FORD CLUB

#### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Lone Star Model A Ford Club upon achieving a milestone in the club's history. This Saturday, December 1, 2012, the club will meet for their 1,000th weekly breakfast in Georgetown, Texas.

Organized on September 26, 1993, in Georgetown, Texas, the Lone Star Model A Ford Club is for owners and admirers of Model A Fords who are interested in restoring and maintaining the automobile in a manner to attract prestige and respect within the community.

The Lone Star Model A Ford Club has served as a medium of exchange of ideas, information and parts for admirers of the Model A Ford car, manufactured from 1928 through 1931, and to aid them in their efforts to restore and preserve the car in its original likeness.

In addition, the Lone Star Model A Ford Club encourages and maintains among its members the spirit of good-fellowship, sociability, and fair play through sponsored activities including the use of the Model A Ford and family participation.

The Lone Star Model A Ford Club has consistently supported local civic endeavors by displaying their Model A's whenever asked by nursing homes, retirement homes, civic clubs, the Chamber of Commerce, the City of Georgetown, and Williamson County, including, during the re-dedication of the Williamson County Courthouse after its renovation.

The Club has twice hosted the statewide Model A Ford Convention in Georgetown with attendance as high as 550 people from throughout Texas in 1998 and again in 2005 and has been selected to host the 50th statewide Model A Ford Convention to be held in June 2013 in Round Rock, Texas.

Club members began meeting for weekly breakfasts every Saturday morning in October 1993 and have consistently continued this weekly social activity to this day.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 77 family members of the Lone Star Model A Ford Club on the occasion of their 1,000th weekly breakfast together and encourage our state's citizens to congratulate these individuals whose efforts should be recognized in preserving an important part of our nation's motoring history for the benefit of future generations.

#### IN SUPPORT OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL

#### HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the nation of Israel, and ask my colleagues to join me in condemning the terrorist attacks against the Israeli people from the Palestinian Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

As Hamas militants continue to target its assault against innocent Israeli civilians, Israel will continue its efforts to defend her people.

No nation should be forced to subject itself to such violence and destruction, nor should its people be forced to live in fear. Just as the United States would not stand idly by if such horrific attacks were waged against Americans, I support Prime Minister Netanyahu's acts of self-defense.

It is equally concerning that Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi has moved away from Egypt's traditional role as a mediator between Palestine and Israel, and has publically supported the actions of Hamas, which is an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, to which President Morsi belongs. That is why I strongly urge President Obama and Secretary Clinton to use the strongest forms of diplomacy to support our ally Israel, and work with Israelis and Palestinians to end this violence.

In less than three days, Hamas militants have fired an estimated 550 missiles into Israel. Israel's justified response has debilitated Hamas's rocket-firing facilities and has significantly reduced their strategic capabilities.

To date, three Israeli civilians have been killed, along with twenty Palestinian militants and civilians. Israel ended its military and civilian presence in Gaza in 2005, attempting to end further conflict in the area, but Hamas militants continue to provoke armed conflict against Israel.

My thoughts and prayers are with the nation of Israel as they withstand and defend against these heinous attacks. I hope that this conflict soon ends and firm groundwork is established to solidify a long-term, mutually agreed upon peace agreement between Israel and Palestine.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS CHURCH IN HONOR OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Shepherd of the Hills Church in Porter Ranch, California, on the celebration of its 100th Anniversary. For a century, the leaders and parishioners of the Church have dedicated themselves to upholding their faith and bringing the San Fernando Valley community closer together. Originally known as the Van Nuys First Baptist Church, the Church began in 1912 in an railroad car in the town of Van Nuys, California, with less than 100 congregants. Under the direction of senior pastor Dr. Jess Moody, the congregation grew steadily, moving in 1991 to a new building in Porter Ranch, California, where it became known as Shepherd of the Hills Church. In 1995, the congregation merged with nearby Hillcrest Christian Church.

Since its founding, Shepherd of the Hills Church has continued to explore new venues and opportunities for worship throughout the greater Los Angeles area. Today, the Church is a vibrant, diverse congregation of more than 12,000 members, four "daughter" churches, and two satellite campuses throughout Los Angeles County. Since 1999, Shepherd of the Hills Church has also hosted an annual 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular, which attracts over 50,000 residents of the San Fernando