

way to ensure that America's borders are secure. Significant improvements in technology and infrastructure have been made to the efforts the Federal Government is making to improve border security and immigration enforcement. Reports like the one proposed today are important to achieving our long term goals.

FAYE GRIFFIN

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Faye Griffin for her outstanding service to our community.

Faye has served Jefferson County as Treasurer, Clerk and Recorder and was most recently reelected as County Commissioner for District 1.

Faye is extensively involved in multiple community initiatives. Currently, Faye serves on the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District Board, is a council member for the Head Start Policy Council and Rocky Flats Stewardship Council, as well as the E-911 Board and Noxious Weed Advisory Board. Faye is on the Boundary Control Commission, the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation, the Criminal Justice Strategic Planning Committee and the C-470 Corridor Coalition.

Among Faye's many accomplishments and board duties, she was the driving force behind the Child and Youth Leadership Commission and pioneered the statute to establish the commission. She is currently serving on the Child and Youth Leadership Commission board.

I extend my deepest congratulations to my friend Faye Griffin for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County and thank her for her many contributions to our community. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

### TRIBUTE TO ERIC MATZNER

### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2012*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a good friend of mine, Eric Matzner, of Palm Springs, California, who recently passed away. He loved his family, and his country. His story of escaping the Nazis, and then building a successful life in the U.S. is a wonderful story about America. The following was written by his daughter Jill:

It was Austria, 1938. Hitler had terrorized this country and will have killed over six million people before he is through. My father's family is one that has lost many. Just six of his family members ultimately survive. Those wishing to immigrate to the United States from Austria must do so by boat, and only with the vouching of an approved sponsor.

My father's memories as a six year old are vivid; memories of the German storm troopers marching down the street in their trademark "Goosestep" fashion. As they stopped, they would raise their right arm, hand straight out

and yell "Heil Hitler." Any civilian who did not address authority or Hitler in this way was either beaten or killed. Those who survive must wear yellow arm bands bearing the Star of David to separate the Jews from the rest of the population.

Eric's father owned a jewelry store. Before long, the store was taken from him, forcing his parents to make the biggest decision of their lives. Should they stay, not knowing what lay ahead? Or, should they sacrifice virtually everything they've ever known and flee for the freedom of America? They stayed hidden until they escaped Austria on November 9, 1938. As it turns out, history will remember this night as Kristallnacht, the "Night of Broken Glass." The attack against Jews that evening was swift. Many were killed and thousands incarcerated in concentration camps. Eric vividly remembered the sound of broken glass and the smell of burning buildings. On that night they left Austria behind.

They found themselves on a boat, headed for the country of which they had only heard and dreamed of to start a new life. It was a treacherous trip. Steerage was cramped and miserable. Many people become violently ill throughout the trek across the ocean. They were allowed to take one bag each. Few valuables, possessions or family treasures survived the voyage.

After the long ocean journey, a large figure slowly appeared in the distance: the Statue of Liberty. It was a sight that Eric would remember forever.

As a young man, Eric excelled at baseball and football. He met Elaine Heritage (my mother) at Drexel University in 1951. They dated for a few years and later married. It was a challenge at first with my father being Jewish and my mother being Methodist, but they overcame these differences. Due to my father's childhood experiences, his four children were taught that differences in people are to be embraced, not condemned. It is a wonderful part of our heritage to have been raised with both religions and such diversity.

Eric was an early salesman for TV Guide, and held jobs in advertising in the 1960s. He was an original "Mad Man!" His creative selling was legendary, and influenced many young salespeople who are all successful today.

As I think about my father's journey, I believe he was alive because of the foresight of his parents to escape Austria, a strong will to live, modern medicine and the drugs that were available to him. If not for these, I do not believe my father would have lived to be 80 years old and to have been a warm, loving husband to my mother, Elaine, a father to his four children, a grandfather to his five grandchildren and a great grandfather to my son's son.

No one, not even my father, could imagine that he would see the year 2012. Although he was immobile in his final years, he never complained. He lost most of his short term memory, but retained most of his long term memories. With his ever present smile, we smiled with him, when on nearly every day he said, "I'm telling you, this might be the best day of my life."

IN CELEBRATION OF THE HARLEM ARTS ALLIANCE ADVOCACY WEEK 2012 "HARLEM AT THE CROSSROADS: SUSTAINING OUR ARTS AND CULTURAL RESOURCES"

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2012*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Harlem Arts Alliance, Inc. as they celebrated their Sixth Annual Arts Advocacy Week 2012 at The City College of New York Aaron Davis Hall, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The Manhattan Neighborhood Network's El Barrio Firehouse Community Center, The Studio Museum in Harlem, The ImageNation and The Dwyer Cultural Center. From Monday, October 1 through Sunday, October 7, the Harlem Arts Alliance (HAA) presented a seven day series of mostly free events, designed to elevate the platform for Harlem's illustrious arts and cultural scene and to renew enthusiasm and support for its great cultural institutions and artists. HAA recognizes the correlation between a community's vitality and economic health and its vibrant cultural life and is committed to fostering the development of Harlem's artists, arts institutions and cultural organizations for the benefit of artists, residents, local businesses and tourists alike.

The HARLEM Arts Alliance (HAA) is a not-for-profit arts service organization committed to nurturing the artistic growth, capacity, and development of artists and arts organizations based primarily in Harlem and the greater Harlem communities. With a membership of over 750 individual artists and arts organizations, HAA plays an essential role by helping to build the resources, network, and capacity of its richly diverse association. HAA also maintains strong partnerships with numerous arts organization and institutions throughout New York State, the region, and the nation to maintain vital collaborative efforts to promote the arts in communities.

This year's theme "Harlem at the Crossroads: Sustaining Our Arts and Cultural Resources," highlights the need to maintain and preserve some of the city's most stellar arts organizations, artists, individuals and entities and to help them to secure and sustain the critical resources needed to continue their missions. HAA Chairman Voza Rivers and Executive Director Michael Unthink have billed this year's advocacy week as the Harlem Arts Summit. The undertaking involves the collaboration of key Harlem arts institutions, artists and arts leaders creating an exciting array of events showcasing the Uptown arts landscape.

On Monday, October 1, the Harlem Arts Summit honored three extraordinary cultural icons who have contributed greatly to African American Arts and Culture, the Village of Harlem and our great nation: activist and actor Danny Glover, legendary theatrical producer Vy Higginsen and pioneering arts producer and consultant Mikki Shepard.

Danny Lebern Glover was born in San Francisco, California, the son of Carrie (née Hunley) and James Glover. His parents, postal workers, were active in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

(NAACP), working to advance equal rights. Glover's mother, daughter of a midwife, was born in Louisville, Georgia and graduated from Paine College in Augusta, Georgia. Danny Glover grew up with a love for sports, like his father. As a teenager and a young adult, he suffered from epilepsy, but he claims to have "developed a way of concentrating so that seizures wouldn't happen." Using this technique, which he describes as "a type of self-hypnosis", Glover says he has not suffered a seizure since age 34. Danny Lebern Glover is an American actor, film director and political activist. He is well known for his roles as Mr. Albert Johnson in *The Color Purple*, as Michael Harrigan in *Predator 2*, as corrupt cop James McFee in *Witness*, as Detective Roger Murtaugh in the *Lethal Weapon* film franchise (where he coined the catchphrase "I'm too old for this shit"), as Detective David Tapp in *Saw*, and as George Knox in *Angels in the Outfield*. He has also appeared in many other movies, television shows, and theatrical productions. He is an active supporter of various humanitarian and political causes.

Danny began his activist career while attending San Francisco State University, as a member of the Black Students Union, which, along with the Third World Liberation Front and the American Federation of Teachers, collaborated in a five-month student-led strike to establish a Department of Black Studies. The strike was the longest student walkout in United States history and it helped to establish not only the first Department of Black Studies, but also the first School of Ethnic Studies in the nation. Danny's long history of union activism includes support for the United Farm Workers, UNITE HERE, and numerous service unions across the nation. He challenged former President George W. Bush, when he was Governor of Texas for leading a penitentiary system that executed more people than any other state, people who were predominately African Americans and Hispanics. His activism continues today as an outspoken critic of the War in Iraq; and as a humanitarian for the arts, the Jazz Foundation of America and board member of the TransAfrica Forum. Danny Lebern Glover was the recipient of the Harlem Arts Summit/Harlem Arts Advocacy Week 2012 Humanitarian Award.

Vy Higginsen's accomplishments are vast and her impact on the media and culture in New York City is immense. This Harlem native, who was born and raised on 126th Street, is a noted author, playwright, radio, and TV personality. Vy has a remarkable reputation as a trailblazer. Her list of pioneering achievements include first African-American female radio personality in the prime time New York City market on WBLS; first woman to host a morning show on New York radio at WWRL; first woman in advertising sales at *Ebony* magazine; first African-American woman to produce a drama on Broadway with Joe Turner's *Come and Gone* by August Wilson; and first African-American female writer, producer, director of the longest-running, Off-Broadway musical in the history of American theatre with *Mama, I Want to Sing*, which had an unprecedented 2,200 performances over eight years from 1983 at Heckscher Theatre in East Harlem. It was also a national and international hit with performances across the United States, Japan and Europe, including a six-month run in London's fashionable West End.

Vy has won numerous honors for providing excellent products and services to African-American audiences. In addition to her success behind the microphone at several major New York stations, notably WBLS-FM, WWRL-AM and WRKS-FM, she's also excelled in publishing. Always the visionary, one of her first publications was a 1970s magazine providing opportunities for black photographers, graphic designers and media salespeople to hone their crafts. Unique NY Magazine, which she published and edited, was a lifestyles magazine designed for African-Americans and tourists. Another of her successful publishing ventures was "This Is My Song: To pass the legacy of gospel music on," an illustrated book for children. In 1996, Vy Higginsen founded Mama Foundation for the Arts as a conduit for her philanthropic work. The non-profit is dedicated to nurturing talented black singers, musicians, and arts administrators. As the Foundation's executive director, she's the primary force behind its programs including the acclaimed, *Gospel for Teens*. Product spokesperson, public relations professional, keynote speaker, and ordained Interfaith Minister, the list of Vy Higginsen's credits go on. Vy Higginsen was the recipient of the Harlem Arts Summit/Harlem Arts Advocacy Week 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Arts Producer and Consultant Mikki Shepard is the current Executive Producer for the world famous Apollo Theater. In this capacity, Mikki is part of the senior executive staff and creates institutional policies and oversees programming, marketing and development. Her past consultant work in the arts focused on organizational development, institutional program development and assessment, strategic planning and implementation. Mikki's clients included: The Ford Foundation, Heinz Endowments, Media Democracy Fund, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Jacob's Pillow, Opera America, Future of Music Coalition, and the National Black Arts Festival.

Mikki was the Director for the Arts and Humanities at the Rockefeller Foundation and Artistic Director/Executive Producer of 651ARTS. As Producer, Mikki Shepard presentations includes 100 Years of Jazz and Blues Festival, Women In Jazz, Lost Jazz Shrines and an international new works program, Africa Exchange. She also produced and created for the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) over 25 major performing arts events, such as DanceAfrica, Steps In Time, a Tap Dance Festival, DanceBlack America, a festival and PBS special celebrating 300 years of black dance in America. Mikki also currently serves as the Chair of the Boards of the Mertz Gilmore Foundation; and on the Boards of the Brooklyn Community Foundation, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), the Creative Capital Fund and the Association of Performing Arts Presenters. Mikki Shepard was the recipient of the Harlem Arts Summit/Harlem Arts Advocacy Week 2012 Arts Leadership Award.

I would also like to congratulate and recognize Mr. Fred Powell, who was the recipient of the Harlem Arts Summit/Harlem Arts Advocacy Week 2012 Business Award. Fred was honored for his contributions and business collaboration with local arts groups over the years.

The Festivities continued into the evening with the Harlem Arts Summit 2012's opening reception kick off and panel discussion entitled "A Conversation with Harlem Arts leaders:

Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Promise," introduced by accomplished actress, director, producer and Harlem resident, Tamara Tunie (Law and Order SVU) and moderated by multimedia journalist, Katti Gray at Aaron Davis Hall.

In a unified effort to continue building Harlem's legacy as a cultural Mecca, Harlem Arts Summit 2012 is presented by the HARLEM Arts Alliance in collaboration with key Harlem organizations including Columbia University, Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, 125th Street Business Improvement District, Studio Museum in Harlem, Aaron Davis Hall/City College of New York, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Harlem Business Alliance, Harlem Stage/The Gatehouse, Caribbean Cultural Center, Harlem Community Development Corporation, New Heritage Theatre Group, MIST Cinemas and Manhattan Neighborhood Network (MNN)—El Barrio Firehouse Community Media Center.

Major support for the Summit is provided by the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corporation, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts and The National Endowment for the Arts. Let me take this opportunity to thank all of our Harlem Arts Advocacy Week community sponsors, supporters and collaborators as we celebrated "Harlem at the Crossroads: Sustaining Our Arts and Cultural Resources" during the Sixth Annual Harlem Arts Advocacy Week 2012.

Mr. Speaker, the Harlem Arts Alliance under the great leadership of Chairman Voza Rivers and Executive Director Michael Unthink has contributed daily to the survival and enhancement of Harlem's beloved cultural artist and arts organizations. During these economically challenging times for our arts and cultural organizations, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Harlem Arts Alliance as they continue their advocacy for the arts on behalf of the Village of Harlem and a very grateful nation.

RECOGNIZING MIKE BIDDLE,  
PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER OF  
MBA POLYMERS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing and congratulating Mike Biddle, President and Founder of MBA Polymers, a plastics recycler, upon being awarded the 2012 Gothenburg Award for Sustainable Development.

In receiving this prestigious award, which is considered the equivalent of a Nobel Prize for the Environment, Mr. Biddle joins a distinguished list of past recipients, including UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Vice President Al Gore, and the former Prime Minister of Norway and Director General of the World Health Organization, Gro Harlem Brundtland.

The United Nations estimates nearly 85 billion pounds of electronics waste is discarded around the world every year. Yet due to the difficulties involved in separating and sorting through the different types of plastics, only a small fraction of these plastics are recycled,