

Thomas Amodeo, and Justice Robert T. Russell, Hank led the study to determine how the traditional criminal justice system could be improved and to develop a centralized tracking system to ensure judges received timely updates.

With no additional funds, this court analyst became the newly designated Project Director with Buffalo's City Court innovative C.O.U.R.T.S. (Court Outreach Unit: Referral and Treatment Services) that began to identify defendants' social problems and link them to needed services. Hank once described his role as "a treatment and communication broker for the court. We basically can meet any need of a person who comes through the doors."

And under his direction, needs were met, results measured, and responsibility and reform rewarded. The program linked individuals coming through the justice system with a full range of social services, including drug treatment, mental health treatment, medical care, anger management, family counseling, youth counseling, and domestic violence programming, vocational/educational services, and housing.

Within ten years, the C.O.U.R.T.S. program had made over 40,000 referrals. From 2000 to 2005, defendants completed over 75,500 hours of community service, including graffiti removal and demolition of crack houses. The value of labor contributed to the community during that time was estimated to be \$453,000.

Mental Health and Veterans Courts would follow this model which has since been successfully replicated across this country. His profound sense of professionalism, humanity, and collaboration was recognized by the New York State Bar Association Justice award in 2003.

Hank's ability to successfully integrate the value of community partnerships and the implementation of information technology within the criminal justice system led to national recognition as he became the first western New York resident to be inducted into the Stanley M. Goldstein Drug Court Hall of Fame.

Retired in 2010, Hank lost his battle with a long, debilitating illness on February 12. He is survived by his loving family which includes wife, Gloria, son, Henry, four sisters and two brothers and many nieces and nephews. His legacy of public service will now be carried on by his son who took the oath of office as the Council President in the City of Lackawanna on January 1, 2012.

Henry "Hank" Piorowski will be missed but he will be remembered by those whose lives were made better and whose families were reunited through his work and commitment to the soldier's creed to "leave no one behind."

REMEMBERING ALEXANDRIA PARAMEDIC JOSHUA WEISSMAN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I enter into the RECORD the passing of Paramedic Joshua Weissman. Paramedic Weissman was born in Ithaca, New York, lived in Bristow, Virginia with his wife Rebecca and worked for the City of Alexandria.

While responding to a car fire on I-395 last week, Paramedic Weissman had a tragic fall from the roadway, down an embankment, where he suffered a severe head injury.

City of Alexandria and Arlington County firefighters, paramedics, and police responded immediately, rushing to the scene. Despite their valiant efforts, and those by the medical team at the Washington Hospital Center, Paramedic Weissman's injuries proved fatal. It was a great loss for the Weissman family and the entire Alexandria community.

Mr. Weissman served as a paramedic for the City for nearly six years. In that time, he compiled a record of outstanding performance ratings as an enthusiastic, energetic and engaging instructor who took great pleasure providing innovation to the work of his department.

Joshua was very active in a variety of career-related organizations that interacted with the community and honed his abilities. He was a regular participant in, and member of, the EMS Training Committee, the EMS Quality Management Committee—where he was in charge of the Call of the Quarter Submissions—and the EMS 1/5/10/20 Committee. Josh was also instrumental in the establishment of the Field Training Program for EMS Interns, receiving the Alexandria Jaycees Award in 2011 for his contributions to that effort.

Josh's reputation as a top paramedic was well known. Numerous letters to his department commending his work from members of the Alexandria community are testament to that fact. In one instance, Josh responded to a home incident in which a grandmother, carrying her young grandson, tripped and fell. The boy's mother, upon arriving home after the incident, was concerned with the medical status of her son. Josh went out of his way to revisit the home to reassure the little boy's mother that he had been thoroughly checked out during the initial response, thus alleviating the mother's concerns and an unnecessary and likely expensive trip to the hospital. The mother was so impressed by Josh's concern that she wrote a letter to the Fire Chief expressing her appreciation. That's the way Josh lived day in, day out, going the extra mile to serve those in need.

Mr. Speaker, Joshua Weissman made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. His untimely death is a loss to the entire community. Not only was he an outstanding paramedic, Joshua was also a dedicated family member, coworker, and friend. Paramedic Weissman's service will not be forgotten. He has left us a legacy of honor, kindness, and bravery.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. MARTHA WILLIAMS DAVIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Martha Williams Davis of Holmes County, Mississippi. Dr. Davis was the Founder and former President and Chief Executive Officer of the Dr. Arenia C. Mallory Community Health Center, Inc. from 1993 to 2007. In addition to her professional career, she devoted much of her life

to improving the lives of others and was a true friend to her community.

Dr. Davis' formal education included having received her Doctorate in Philosophy from Mississippi State University, a Master's of Science from Michigan State University, and a Bachelors of Science from Alcorn State University. In addition to having served as Chief Executive Officer, President and Founder of the Dr. Arenia C. Mallory Community Health Center, Inc., Dr. Davis worked as a consultant with various organizations and companies across the United States.

Dr. Davis was tremendously active in the community. She was associated with several local and national groups and committees. She served as a member on the National Association of Community Health Center Legislative and Health Policy Committee, the Association of Health Administrators, Diamond Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., Order of Eastern Star, Organized Youth Advisory Council, Student Advisory Council, Organized Delta Health Partners, President of Mississippi Primary Health Care Association, President of the Mississippi School Food Service Administration's Five State Nutrition Project, Trustee to Holmes Community College, and Organized Healthy Start within Mallory Community Health Center System. She was also a Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star Modern Free and Accepted Masons and held the position of Sunday School Superintendent at Saint Paul Church of God and Christ in Lexington, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martha Williams Davis for her steadfast devotion in serving and giving back to her community.

RECOGNITION OF THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CARONDELET

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the hard work of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

They recently celebrated their 175th anniversary of serving those in need.

Dedicated to a mission of unity and reconciliation, nonviolence and peacemaking, the Sisters have worked tirelessly to make the St. Louis community a better place.

Sisters of St. Joseph celebrate 175 years in the United States.

Having arrived from France in New Orleans in March 1836, the first six sisters traveled up the Mississippi River to reach St. Louis.

They spent some time learning English and then opened their first mission in Cahokia, Illinois, in April, 1836.

On September 12, 1836, they moved into a log cabin in Carondelet, a small village south of St. Louis.

Today, the Sisters continue their social justice work in the Carondelet neighborhood in South St. Louis City.

They serve in a variety of places and work in an array of areas, such as health care, child care, deaf education, youth ministry and adult education.

Our community, state, and country are beneficiaries of the mission and work of the

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and I am proud to honor them and their work today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, my scheduled flight into Washington was cancelled yesterday for mechanical reasons. As a result, I was absent from the House Floor during Tuesday's rollcall vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 49.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,359,384,163,919.51. We've added \$10,557,978,988,625.23 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT OF MR. JIM BERGDAHL

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Jim Bergdahl, on his retirement from the federal government after 52 years of service.

Jim Bergdahl was born and raised in Chicago, was educated at Northwestern, and served in the Air National Guard while attending college.

In 1959, during his senior year at Northwestern, Jim began his federal civil service career as an appraiser with the Army Corps of Engineers in Chicago. Six years later, he joined the General Services Administration in the San Francisco regional office as an appraiser in the Real Property Division.

Jim's work quickly caught the attention of his supervisors. He was soon nominated for and received a "Career Education Award", sponsored by the National Institute of Public Affairs and the Civil Service Commission. The prize for receiving this prestigious award was one year of free graduate study at the University of Virginia.

Following graduation, Jim relocated to the Office of Real Property in Washington, D.C. where he was in charge of reviewing the fast growing Federal property holdings, which had literally doubled between 1954 and 1969. The government was on pace to own the whole

country by the year 2000. Jim was asked to determine the cause of this tremendous expansion.

As he quickly discovered, while U.S. federal land holdings had doubled, the phenomenon was directly related to the increase in the number of States in the U.S. between 1954 and 1969. Jim determined that the newest state, Alaska, had the distinction of having more government-owned land within its borders than all of the other 49 States combined. Case closed.

In 1974, Jim transferred to the Federal Buildings Fund Management Division to help get the new division up and running. Here he again was tapped for a special project, working to develop critical information to persuade the Department of Defense to correct congressional testimony as to the total amount they were spending on rent. In short order, the record was corrected.

Following that daunting yet successful challenge, Jim returned to the Office of Real Property as Program Policy Advisor to the Assistant Commissioner in 1976. He played a major role in the establishment of the Federal Property Resources Service, where he became Director of Special Projects. One project involved the sale to the public of a large number of Carson City Silver Dollars minted in the 1800s that were found in a vault. The sale began just as the Hunt brothers were trying to corner the silver market and the price of silver skyrocketed. Suddenly, the coins were worth more for the silver they contained than their value to coin collectors. To avoid delaying or postponing sales of the coins, toll free phone lines were set up for buyers to obtain the price of the coins based on the price of silver each day. This fast action by Jim and his office was fortuitous. Shortly after the sales were completed, the Hunt brothers failed in their attempt to corner the market and silver prices collapsed.

The curtain rose on Jim's final act as a civil servant when the new Public Building Service was rolled out in 1995. Jim was part of the Courthouse Management Group, formed to provide oversight, program management and budgeting for the largest federal courthouse construction program in the nation's history. As a senior member of the Group, Jim provided extensive knowledge and expertise in many aspects of the federal courthouse program, working with Congress, the Office of Management and Budget, and the federal Judiciary, as well as regional GSA offices to see that the ambitious program succeeded. When he retired this year, he was the last charter member still remaining with the agency.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Bergdahl on his retirement from the federal service. During Jim's successful 52 year career, he was a model employee, consistently recognized by his peers and his congressional colleagues as providing the highest level of professionalism, superior subject knowledge, and willingness to take on and solve even the toughest problems. I wish him only the very best as he continues tackling new endeavors and conquering even greater challenges in the years ahead.

PASSING OF MRS. FRANCES BROCK STARMS FEBRUARY 9, 2012

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and work of Mrs. Frances Brock Starms, a compassionate leader, educator, writer and advocate for children who passed away on February 9, 2012, at the age of 97.

She was considered a treasure by our community and an active member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (Epsilon Kappa Omega Chapter), Links Inc. (Milwaukee Chapter), Town & Country Garden Club, Jack and Jill of America Inc., Delta Kappa Gamma Honor Society, Milwaukee Urban League, and a lifetime member of the N.A.A.C.P.

Frances Starms was born and raised in Montgomery, Alabama, and she graduated with honors from Spelman College. She continued her education at Atlanta University, receiving a Master of Arts Degree in Early Childhood Education.

Her postgraduate work included scholarly research at the University of Southern California and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In 2004, she was recognized by UWM with an honorary doctorate in Public Service.

In 1948, Frances Starms moved to Wisconsin and continued her career as an educator with Milwaukee Public Schools, MPS. During her teaching career, she became the first African American to be appointed as director of the Head Start Program.

Mrs. Starms was one of few living Milwaukeeans after whom a Milwaukee Public School had been named; in fact, three schools now claim her as namesake: Starms Early Childhood Center, Starms Monumental Baptist Early Childhood Center, and Starms Discovery Learning Center.

Mrs. Starms was a prolific writer and received numerous awards and citations for her work. She was published in numerous local and national publications and was best known for her poems which focused on the richness and enduring strength of the African American Heritage. Her book entitled "Love is Best" expressed the beauty and texture of this heritage.

Her poetry was described as coming straight from the "heart" and reflected the elegance and authenticity of her own experience, reaching out to children and adults alike. For her commitment to our children and for her many efforts and gifts, Mrs. Starms was awarded with the 1979 Award for Meritorious Service from the UW-Milwaukee School of Education; 1983 Special Citation from Governor Tony Earl for her inclusion in the Smithsonian Institute/Wisconsin Humanities Committee exhibit "Black Women Achievement Against the Odds"; the 1984 Sarah Scott Administrative Leadership Award from the Metropolitan Milwaukee Alliance of Black School Educators for her leadership and commitment to improving educational opportunities for children; 1989 G.A.E.P. Award from Delta Sigma Gamma Society International Sigma State for the publication of her poetry; and was the recipient of St. Marks's Anvil Award for service to the church and the community. Mrs. Starms