

IN HONOR OF DR. JEFF BRAFF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize the life, career, and public service of Dr. Jeff Braff. Dr. Braff passed away on January 16th. He will be remembered for his optometric services to the city of Salinas, his contribution to political change in the Central Coast of California, and as my personal friend and doctor.

Jeff grew up working in his father's contact lens laboratory in Arcadia, California. He attended the University of California at Berkeley where he earned a degree in optometry in 1964. After graduating, he traveled to India where he helped set up the country's first contact lens fabricating laboratory.

After returning to the United States, Jeff was drafted in to the US Army and served as an optometrist at the Fort Ord military base. He completed his military service in 1972 and moved to Salinas where he practiced optometry for the next 37 years.

As the representative for the California Optometric Association and the Monterey Bay Optometric Association, Jeff played an invaluable role in local politics in the Central Coast of California. Jeff volunteered for many political campaigns, including for Leon Panetta's first election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976 and my own run in 1976 for the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. Jeff was also instrumental in drawing support for several political campaigns in Bainbridge Island, Washington.

His ability to draw support to local elections and political change earned him a following. "Jeff's Group" became an informal name given to those he could count on to show up and wave signs, hand out coffees, and recruit neighbors to support the many causes he was involved in.

In a document entitled "How I Want to be Remembered" Jeff wrote: "Between being born and dying, he didn't take some things seriously that should have been, took some things seriously that shouldn't have, was getting the hang of love, and anger, and play, and all that; he tinkered with life, and did OK."

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pain that I announce the passing of Jeff. I would like to personally acknowledge his service to the people of California. It was the relationships that he fostered at his practice that kept him invigorated and loving his work. I would like to express my deepest condolences to Sue, his loving wife of 36 years, his son, Zack and his brother, Brian.

RECOGNIZING MRS. KERRIN A. FLOWERS FOR HER SERVICE IN THE MISSISSIPPI HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY

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 recognize the distinguished career of Mrs. Kerrin A. Flowers, a prominent

Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner serving with the Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility and the Family Health Care Clinic in Grenada, MS.

Mrs. Flowers has been a certified RN for 15+ years and began her advanced practice nursing role in 2009. Throughout her career, she has assumed progressive roles of responsibility such as staff nurse, charge nurse, Nurse Manager, and Assistant Director of Nursing. Mrs. Flowers' hard work and dedication earned her the Employee of the Month Award for outstanding job performance.

Mrs. Flowers received an Associate's Degree in Nursing from Mississippi Delta Community College. She later earned a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Delta State University, and a Master's Degree in Nursing from Mississippi University for Women. Mrs. Flowers is dedicated to the improvement of health care, which is evident in her continuing pursuit of advancement studies in dermatology and narcotic substance abuse. Mrs. Flowers has made many contributions to scholarly nurse research, which includes recent presentations in Treatment Therapy for Bronchiolitis and Treatment in Pediatric Patients Diagnosed with Bronchiolitis.

Service to the greater community is another attribute of Mrs. Flowers' career. This is reflected in her service as Chairperson for the Health and Wellness Community Program and her service with the Mississippi Nurses Association, the National Honor Society and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Her participation in a nationwide study earned Mrs. Flowers a Certificate from the National Council of State Board of Nursing.

Mrs. Flowers is married to Fredrick Flowers and is the mother of two sons, Darryl and Deracius Winfield. In her spare time, she enjoys movies and exercising.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues join me in recognizing Mrs. Kerrin A. Flowers for her commitment and service to the cause of health care.

STOP TRADING ON CONGRESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I am one of 285 proud cosponsors of H.R. 1148, the original House version of the STOCK Act, which was introduced by my colleague from Minnesota, Mr. WALZ. It is a simple, common-sense bill that would reaffirm the restriction on insider trading by Members of Congress and our staffs, as well as officials within the executive branch. I also heard from dozens of my constituents from across Central New Jersey who support this bill as a necessary first step to restoring the American public's trust in its legislature and in our democracy as a whole.

Unfortunately, despite the overwhelming bipartisan support for this legislation, the majority has brought before us today a watered-down version of the bill that received nearly unanimous support in the United States Senate. While the basic premise of the bill remains intact, I regret that important provisions

such as increased disclosure requirements for so-called "political intelligence consultants" are not included in the bill before us today.

Though unrelated to insider trading, I do support the provision in this measure to prohibit the payment of bonuses to executives at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Like many Americans, I was alarmed to learn last year that ten Fannie and Freddie executives were set to receive more than \$12 million in bonuses. It is inconceivable that the leadership of these organizations, who profited at the expense of millions of middle class Americans who lost their homes, be further rewarded.

While I support this measure, I remain hopeful that the stronger provisions included in the original House version, as well as the version that passed the Senate last week, can be incorporated as this bill continues to move forward.

RECOGNIZING GARY SINDERBRAND FOR HIS SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE CROHN'S AND COLITIS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated service of Mr. Gary Sinderbrand as Chairman of the National Board of Trustees for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America over the last three years.

Joining the National Board of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America in 2003, Mr. Sinderbrand has passionately committed to meeting financial goals and a rigorous research agenda while accomplishing an extraordinary number of professional milestones and achievements.

Mr. Sinderbrand is a veteran of the New York investment banking community and currently serves as managing director with Wells Fargo in Manhattan, New York. He is also an active volunteer pilot for Angel Flight and Veteran's Airlift Command. As a parent of a child with Crohn's disease, Mr. Sinderbrand has shown great commitment and leadership to raising awareness of inflammatory bowel disease, a debilitating disease that currently does not have a cure to eliminate the suffering of over one million Americans.

Under Mr. Sinderbrand's leadership, the Foundation has been able to focus on new research initiatives including the Microbiome Initiative, Genetics Initiative and CCFA Partners, which has helped advance the science and bring us one step closer to cures for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. While we still do not have all the answers, there is hope. An increasing number of genes have been identified, eight in 2007 alone. In 2011, that number grew to more than 70 genes identified, and with new technological advances researchers are working furiously to find cures.

Together, we've made our mark on Capitol Hill with the newly formed Congressional Crohn's & Colitis Caucus promoting awareness and support for the cause. We've identified funding sources at the Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health and have

successfully restored funding at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the IBD Epidemiology Program. These are no small feats in such challenging times.

Mr. Sinderbrand has set the bar high, and I'm confident he has put the Foundation on the right path for continued success in the future. I am grateful for his commitment to the National Board of Trustees for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America at a time when the field of inflammatory bowel disease research is achieving such great success.

HONORING MICHAEL GREENE

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Michael Greene's 21 years of service on Missouri's Eighth Congressional District Service Academy Review Board. Membership on this board is an important public service and one that I entrust only to those who have truly shown quality of character and judgment. An exceptional example is Michael Greene.

I want to thank Michael for his service to the Eighth Congressional District and to the five branches of military in our great nation. His leadership on the Service Academy Review Board has been influential in the lives of countless young men and women from southern Missouri who have worked hard to better themselves in the service of our country.

As an advocate for our nation's five service academies, I have relied on his sound judgment and good guidance. Michael has always taken seriously the important task of reviewing the applications of students who seek an appointment to the service academies, encouraging them in their decision-making process and furthering a long, proud tradition of military service. Because our congressional district is so well represented at the nation's service academies, we also have a reputation for producing motivated, honorable young people who are earnest in their desire to serve others, steadfast in their obligation to defend freedom, and pure in their patriotic love for America. Michael shares these virtues with the young Missourians he has helped to nominate and place in positions of leadership in all branches of the armed services.

From the bottom of my heart, I appreciate everything he has done for the Service Academy Review Board program to further its aims and to achieve its goals. I deeply appreciate his role in this important congressional responsibility. Like our Americans in uniform, Michael volunteered for this duty, and he has long served ably, honorably and well.

IN HONOR OF JEAN LEIDIG DRAPER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, public service and philanthropy of Jean Leidig Draper, Carmel's "Grand Dame." Mrs. Draper passed away January

20th. She will be remembered for her generous support of local, civic, and cultural organizations on the Central Coast of California and for the many lives she touched through her community work in the city of Carmel.

After attending Dominican College in San Rafael and the California Institute of Arts in San Francisco, Jean married Raymond Draper. Together they had three children: Wendy, Michael and Susan.

Jean was widely known for her love of Carmel and the causes she supported. Included among the many recipients of Jean's generosity were the Carmel Library, the Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula, the Forest Theatre Foundation, the Carmel Foundation, the Pacific Repertory Theater, the American Red Cross, Westland House, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Jean served as the first elected Chaplain of the Stillwater Cove Yacht Club. She was a dedicated supporter of Chartwell School and a longtime parishoner of the Carmelite Monastery.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pain that I announce the passing of Jean. I would like to personally acknowledge her life and commitment to the city of Carmel. I would also like to extend my deepest condolences to her family, friends and all those who benefitted from her service, generosity, and kindness.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF WHITNEY HOUSTON

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathy to the family, friends and fans of Ms. Whitney Elizabeth Houston whose sudden death on February 11, 2012 has left us all saddened. Her passing leaves a void in the lives of those of us who knew and loved her. It also marks the silencing of a voice that was one of the greatest in the history of the recording industry and one that will be missed throughout the world.

Ms. Houston, known lovingly to her legions of fans as Whitney and to her family and friends as "Nippy" was born and raised within the borders of the 10th Congressional District in the cities of Newark and East Orange. Whitney made her singing debut at the family's longtime church home, New Hope Baptist Church in Newark. The fact that Whitney would love to sing came as no surprise to anyone who knew her family's history. The Drinkard Sisters, on her mother side were legendary in the Greater Newark area and beyond. Her mother, Cissy Houston and cousin, Dionne Warwick are both well known talents. What we would discover over the course of Whitney's career would be her incredible international appeal driven by her angelic voice and God given talent. Not only was Whitney a gifted singer but she was an actress, a model, film producer, record producer and songwriter.

Whitney Houston was a Super Star and in 2009, the Guinness World Records cited her as the most awarded female act of all time. These awards include two Emmy Awards, six Grammy Awards, 30 Billboard Music Awards and 22 American Music Awards. She was a trend setter and influenced many of the artists

performing today. Her incomparable style will live on forever with every mention of incredible voices.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues here in the House of Representatives agree that our nation has lost one of its greatest talents in Whitney Houston. Fortunately for her family especially Bobbi Kristina, her legacy will live on. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

HONORING FIREFIGHTER JAMES DYKSTRA

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of the long and distinguished service of Firefighter James Dykstra of the Streamwood Fire Department on the occasion of his retirement. He recently concluded his loyal service of over 30 years to the community.

Jim earned his Associate Degree in Applied Science from Thornton Community College in December of 1980. Firefighter Dykstra began his firefighter career in Streamwood in 1981 as a Paid-On-Call Firefighter. His training included becoming an EMP/Paramedic and Firefighter before being hired as a career firefighter.

With dedication and persistence, he worked alongside his colleagues at the Streamwood Fire Department to promote the safety and well-being of his community. As a testimony to his service and commitment to Streamwood, he earned several Illinois certifications, including Firefighter III, Fire Apparatus Engineer, HazMat First Responder Operations status, Fire Prevention Officer, Fire Investigator, Provisional Fire Office Instructor I, and Certified Officer I. Jim was a founding member of the Department's Fire Investigation Team. On February 28, 1999, he received the Disaster Service Medal for participating in a structure fire. His leadership has been demonstrated through an unwavering display of courage and achievement.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in celebrating this special occasion and wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF REX EUGENE GEITNER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rex Eugene Geitner who has been selected as the 2011 Farmer of the Year by the San Mateo County Farm Bureau. Rex has cultivated land from the Midwest to California where he has grown some of the best wines in the world.

Rex was born on August 6, 1950, inavenport, Iowa, while his mother was visiting her sister. He then grew up in the family's hometown of Peoria and several other rural communities in Illinois. The family owned and operated a small farm near Elmwood which is where Rex developed his love for the land.