

Chet Dobis, a resident of Northwest Indiana, attended Merrillville High School and went on to further his education at Indiana University Northwest in Gary. He also studied at the University of Wisconsin, undertaking graduate coursework. In the years to follow, Chet, through hard work and acumen, would become a vice president at Bank One. He has also worked with the Indiana National Guard and the Gary Sportsmen Club. Representative Dobis was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives in 1970 and has represented the people of Indiana House District 13 for the past forty-two years. Over the years, he has been a strong leader in the development of Northwest Indiana and has always been a true advocate for the citizens of his district. Among his major accomplishments, Chet was extremely helpful in the establishment of Merrillville, Indiana as a town. He also played a pivotal role in the creation of the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA). This agency has been charged with implementing catalytic economic development projects throughout Lake and Porter counties. Representative Dobis's hard work has materialized as the RDA works with local communities to transform the south shore of Lake Michigan and to expand the Gary/Chicago International Airport. Throughout his career in the Indiana General Assembly, Chet has served as the House Assistant Minority Floor Leader and Speaker Pro Tempore. His current legislative committees include the Committee on Courts and Criminal Code and the Committee on Financial Institutions, and he serves as Chair of the Select Committee on Government Reduction. For his passionate commitment and continuous support to Northwest Indiana, Representative Dobis is to be highly commended.

In addition to his exemplary career, Chet is involved in numerous community and charitable organizations. He has served on the Executive Board of the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission and as a member of the Indiana University Northwest Advisory Board.

Representative Dobis's dedication to Northwest Indiana is noteworthy; however, it is his commitment to his family that is most impressive. Chet and his wonderful wife, Darlene, have two beloved children, Aaron and Ashley, and one adoring granddaughter, Teagan.

I am honored to call Chet Dobis a friend, and we should all be blessed with such wonderful friendships. More importantly, Chet has been a friend to all, a gentleman in the truest sense of that word, and the epitome of a public servant. His is a life we should all seek to emulate.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Indiana State Representative Chet Dobis for his outstanding devotion to Northwest Indiana and in wishing him well upon his retirement. Chet's unselfish, lifelong dedication and exceptional contributions to the community are worthy of the highest praise, and it has been a pleasure to work with him throughout his years in office.

IN MEMORY OF ALEXANDER
HILDEBRAND

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2012

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with my colleagues Congressman GEORGE MILLER, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, and Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI to honor the life of Alexander Hildebrand, who passed away at age 98 on January 23, 2012.

Alex was a father, farmer, engineer, and defender of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Alex graduated with honors from UC Berkeley with a degree in Physics and Chemistry in 1935. Alex went on to have a lengthy career with Standard Oil, working in refining and other areas. During World War II, Alex contributed to the war effort by serving in the Navy Reserves and then as chief engineer at an oil refinery in the Persian Gulf. He took an early retirement from Standard Oil and moved his family to a farm near Manteca in San Joaquin County, California in 1962. Alex loved the land and was working on his farm into his 90s.

Alex was a champion of Delta water and agriculture as the consulting engineer to the South Delta Water Agency. Additionally, he served on numerous boards and committees including the San Joaquin Farm Bureau board, the California Farm Bureau water committee, the Delta Water Users board, the Water Education Foundation advisory board, and the California Central Valley Flood Control Association board. He worked to create the San Joaquin River Flood Control Association and was appointed by Governor Wilson to the CalFed Bay Delta Oversight Committee and the CalFed Bay Delta Advisory Committee. Alex also served as president of the McMullin Reclamation District.

Alex was a valued and respected leader whose understanding of the Delta and California's water challenges was unsurpassed. Alex was always generous with his time and eager to teach new generations of leaders about the Delta and its precious waterways. Alex's work as an unwavering voice in defense of the Delta and its farmers leaves a legacy that will continue to benefit the people of San Joaquin County and the Delta. It is for these reasons that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Alexander Hildebrand and sending our thoughts and prayers to his beloved family and friends.

RECOGNIZING FIRST WESLEYAN
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2012

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct honor to recognize First Wesleyan Christian School in Gastonia, NC, which celebrates 40 years of service and education on April 21, 2012.

First Wesleyan Christian School first opened its doors in 1971 in Gastonia, North Carolina, bringing individualized, Christ-centered education to preschoolers and students of all denominations.

Since 1971, more than 2,000 children have attended First Wesleyan Preschool, and more than 1,800 students have attended First Wesleyan Christian School. Over 250 students have proudly graduated from First Wesleyan Middle School, ready to excel and lead academically and spiritually in high school, college and beyond. Thousands of Gaston-area residents have benefited, and continue to benefit, from the individual instruction, caring and leadership of hundreds of dedicated teachers, staff members, church members and community leaders over the past 40 years.

First Wesleyan students have gone on to serve as outstanding citizens, community partners, professionals, spiritual leaders, missionaries, teachers, parents and grandparents in our region, throughout North Carolina, across the United States and around the world.

I am proud to represent the faculty, student body and community of First Wesleyan Christian School, and congratulate them on their past, present and future success.

CELEBRATING STATE REPRESENTATIVE DAN STEVENSON'S RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous respect that I take this time to recognize one of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, State Representative Dan Stevenson, and to thank him for his service as a member of the Indiana General Assembly. After eighteen years as a member of the Indiana House of Representatives, Dan has decided to retire from elective office. Known for being a great leader and a true public servant, Representative Stevenson's presence in Indianapolis will surely be missed by his colleagues and the people he has so loyally served.

A lifelong resident of Northwest Indiana, Mr. Stevenson graduated from Highland High School in 1977 and later attended Calumet College of Saint Joseph. Later, Dan, like many hardworking people of Northwest Indiana, began working at Inland Steel Company, now ArcelorMittal. It is here where he witnessed the needs of the working class, for whom he tirelessly labored as a public servant. Even outside of his role in the General Assembly, Representative Stevenson has been a steadfast advocate for working men and women. As a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 1010, Dan has served his co-workers as a grievance committee representative. Fully aware of the importance of keeping people informed, Dan has also served as the editor of the union newspaper. Dan Stevenson's dedication to those who toil for a living is to be commended.

First elected to the Indiana House of Representatives in 1994, Dan leaves a lasting impression. Described by his colleagues as a quiet, yet driven leader, it was apparent upon his arrival in Indianapolis that a true champion of working people had arrived. A truly well-rounded legislator, Representative Stevenson currently serves as the Ranking Minority Member on the Utilities and Energy Committee, as well as a member of the Environmental Affairs

and the Interstate and International Cooperation Committees. As a member of the House, Representative Stevenson has fought tirelessly for economic justice, earning him many distinguished accolades, including: the Service to Labor Award from the Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor, the Legislative Achievement Award from Indiana University Northwest, the Legislative Award from the Indiana Library Federation, and the Legislator of the Year Award from the Indiana Association of Police Chiefs.

While his constituents will miss his dedicated leadership, I am certain that Dan will treasure the additional time he will get to spend with his beloved wife, Dawn; his children, Michelle, Lola Ann, and Dan, Jr.; and his adoring grandchildren, Erik, Karen, Austin, and Ethan.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Indiana State Representative Dan Stevenson for his dedicated life of service. Dan's tireless efforts on behalf of those he represented is worthy of our admiration, and it has been a pleasure to work with him throughout his years in office.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF REVEREND GWENDOLYN BOYD

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2012

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Gwendolyn Boyd, a community leader, humanitarian and a woman of faith, whose legacy continues to enrich the lives of the people around her. Her dedicated community service has brought professionalism and compassion to every endeavor she has so graciously undertaken. Her dedication and commitment to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the public is the reason for this recognition and celebration.

Rev. Boyd served as the 22nd National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., from 2000–2004. She accomplished many things during her time as president including the building of a home for AIDS orphans in Swaziland, establishing the Delta Computer Training Center in Lesotho and establishing the Leadership DELTA training program. Also, she established project SEE, which promotes the learning of math and science for middle school African American girls.

Rev. Boyd is the perfect example of someone who continues to make a difference, as she has never backed away from a challenge that helps her community or those in need. Her imprint can be found in such worthy initiatives as Children's Research Institute, Children's National Medical Center and Education Across the Miles. She is also responsible for the coordination of HBCU initiatives.

As the first African American to earn a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Yale University, Rev. Boyd championed issues and worked for solutions. Over the years her stature continues to grow as she is an active member on numerous boards, foundations and committees. Her admirable work is as diversified as her many interests, resulting in a positive impact on the community and greater quality of life.

Rev. Gwendolyn Boyd demonstrates in her everyday actions and words that determination is the pathway to success. She is an ordained itinerant elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She earned her Master's of Divinity degree with honors from Howard University and she serves as the Executive Minister for Church Operations at Ebenezer A.M.E. Church in Fort Washington, Maryland.

Rev. Boyd has dedicated numerous hours to developing and enriching the lives of our youth. She was nominated by President Obama and served on the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. She is an advocate for young people interested in careers in the engineering, science, and math fields. Rev. Gwendolyn Boyd is a passionate, energetic and highly motivated individual and her public speaking has inspired many.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting Reverend Gwendolyn Elizabeth Boyd, a distinguished ambassador for human rights, a role model for our youth and a true heroine for all of America. I salute her for a lifetime of achievement, and am both proud and honored to call her my friend. Thank you, Rev. Boyd, for all you have done, and for all you contribute to our lives.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,566,570,829,745.94. We've added \$4,939,693,780,832.86 to our debt in 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

REMEMBERING MARGARET KUCHTA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness and great respect that I take this time to remember one of Northwest Indiana's most beloved citizens, former Hobart Mayor Margaret Kuchta. Mayor Kuchta, who was very much committed to making improvements within the City of Hobart and improving the quality of life for its residents, devoted a lifetime of service to her community. Margaret was very well known throughout Northwest Indiana and will truly be missed. Margaret passed away on Thursday, February 23, 2012, but her legacy will continue to live on in the hearts of those she served.

Margaret Kuchta's service in an official capacity began when she was elected clerk-treasurer for the City of Hobart, a position she held from 1976 to 1987. Margaret then served as Hobart's first elected female mayor from 1988 to 1991. Following her tenure as mayor,

Mrs. Kuchta remained an active member of the community and later served as councilwoman for the fifth district from 1996 to 2000, as well as a member of the Hobart Township Board from 2002 to 2010. At the time of Mrs. Kuchta's election to the city council, she established her place in Hobart's history as the only person to hold all three elected offices: council member, clerk-treasurer, and mayor. Mrs. Kuchta was also a part of many other organizations and boards, dedicating her life to making a difference in the lives of others. Mrs. Kuchta is remembered as a great leader and committed volunteer, but many also recall her as a mentor and trusted political advisor.

When I began my public career I had few resources and minimal chances of success. Margaret did not care, and her encouragement, tireless effort, and strong public support in the face of great opposition is one reason I am able to address you today as a Member of Congress.

The kindness Margaret showed to me as a friend is illustrative of her caring heart and lifetime of devotion to improving the lives of others; sometimes very privately for one individual or family, sometimes very publicly for many, but always selflessly. Each of us, our community, and our nation, are enriched because Margaret Kuchta walked among us.

Margaret is survived by her beloved sons: Robert, Richard, and Michael. She also leaves behind seven beautiful grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and many other dear friends and family.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in remembering the great life of Mrs. Margaret Kuchta. Her dedication to the people of her community and the city of Hobart is inspirational and most worthy of our admiration and Northwest Indiana will forever be grateful for all that she has done.

TRIBUTE TO REV. GEORGE ST. ANGELO

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2012

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Rev. George St. Angelo, a resident of the state of Illinois, who dedicated his life to being a civil rights and social justice advocate.

In 1955, St. Angelo was the first chaplain at North Central College where he encouraged discussion of social justice issues by inviting a variety of important speakers to the college's campus. These speakers included "Freedom Ride" organizer and Committee on Racial Equality founder James Farmer, Morehouse College President Benjamin Mays, and St. Angelo's good friend Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Despite local opposition, two weeks after the first historic voting rights march that ended in the "Bloody Sunday" beating of citizens in Alabama, St. Angelo took a group of students from the suburban Chicago college to participate in the third Selma to Montgomery voting rights march, which ended at the state capitol with Dr. King's "How Long, Not Long" speech.

I have profound respect for St. Angelo's devotion to the civil rights movement. He dedicated his life to service and remained personally involved in promoting intercultural understanding until his death.