

been present, I would have voted “no” on #112, “no” on #113, “yes” on #114, “yes” on #115, “yes” on #116 and “no” on #117.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VIRGIL WIKOFF

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Virgil Wikoff.

The Champaign-Urbana community grieves at the loss of Virgil Wikoff. This former Champaign mayor and State Representative was a rock of strength and stability through some of the most tumultuous times in local history. Virgil Wikoff saw us through those times with courage and a steadfast temperament.

His passing follows in far too short an order the passing of former Champaign Mayor Bill Bland, and former Urbana Mayors Jeff Markland and Hiram Paley. I served with Mayors Markland and Paley on the Urbana City Council, and with Mayor Wikoff in the General Assembly. The loss of these men hits close to home. One is always reminded of one's own mortality with the loss of friends and colleagues.

But the losses of these individuals, each of them exceptional, is even more profound. They represented the best of our two cities, selfless in their public service and passionate in executing the duties of their offices.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JUDGE ISIAH COURTNEY SMITH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of an outstanding human being. Isiah Courtney Smith, a former judge, pioneer and, personal friend of mine, passed away on February 29, 2012 at the age of 89.

Judge Smith, also known to many as “I.C.” was born on September 15, 1922 in Lake Helen, Florida. In 1940, after graduating from Euclid High School in Deland, he went on to enroll at Florida A&M College, where I also attended law school. Judge Smith's education at Florida A&M was interrupted by World War II, when he volunteered and was assigned to an intake facility near Raiford. It was at this facility where Judge Smith demonstrated his first acts of courage by marching through a segregated camp to inform the white officers of his resignation. A year later, Judge Smith was officially drafted. After his service, Judge Smith returned to his studies and graduated with a degree in history. At this point, he had also met and fallen in love with Henrietta Mays and together they moved to New York while Judge Smith attended Brooklyn Law School. They were married on January 1, 1949.

In 1954, Judge Smith received his law degree and started a practice with his college friend William Holland. This partnership would be the catalyst for the civil rights movement in

Palm Beach County. Judge Smith lived in a time where there were many barriers to social mobility for those of color. Institutionalized discrimination prevented many African Americans in this country from reaching their potential, but my dear friend Judge Smith possessed skills and abilities that could not be suppressed and that he used to fight for the civil rights of others.

As the third African American lawyer in Palm Beach County, Judge Smith was well aware of the injustices occurring in his community. He became a champion of civil rights and was a voice for those who were treated as second class citizens based on the color of their skin. Judge Smith and his partner William Holland orchestrated the movement to desegregate Palm Beach County's public schools after the Supreme Court's ruling of “separate but equal” being unconstitutional was largely ignored throughout the county. In his own words, Judge Smith wisely stated that: “Nothing separate can ever be equal”—a sentiment that I strongly agree with. In addition to his quest for equal access to public education, Judge Smith and Mr. Holland fought together to integrate the West Palm Beach municipal golf course and to eliminate separate eating and bathroom facilities on Florida's turnpike. It is hard to fathom the amount of courage required to combat bigotry and hatred, but Judge Smith faced these challenges head-on and spent his life taking a stand against those who sought to keep the status quo.

After spending many years in a successful private practice with Mr. Holland, he was appointed as a Palm Beach County Court judge in 1986 by Governor Bob Graham. During his time on the bench, Judge Smith was known for his professionalism. After serving in this capacity for six years, he retired at the age of 70.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere condolences to all those who have been impacted by the loss of such a great man. My thoughts are with Judge Smith's wife Dr. Henrietta Smith, their two children Robin Smith and Reverend Cynthia Smith Jackson, and all of their family and friends during this most difficult time. I was truly honored to have known Judge Smith. He was a tremendous individual whose commitment to bettering South Florida, and working selflessly to ensure equal rights for all Americans will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY D. CLYBURN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tremendous public servant, a passionate educator, and a dear friend and relative. Beverly Clyburn is being honored on March 23, 2012 for her service on Aiken City Council. She retired in November 2011 after 22 years of dedicated service to the City of Aiken.

Beverly LaVerne Dozier was born in Georgetown, South Carolina to Maggie and William Dozier. She was the fifth of eight children and one of seven girls. From an early age, Beverly loved to learn and she graduated

in 1961 as Salutatorian of Howard High School.

She went on to attend Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina, and graduated with honors in 1965, with a degree in Chemistry and Mathematics. It was there that she met her husband, and my cousin, William “Bill” Clyburn. In 1978, Beverly earned a Masters Degree in Secondary Guidance from the University of South Carolina.

Beverly's first love is education, and she spent 42 years as an educator in both Aiken and Allendale counties. She served as a guidance counselor at Midland Valley High School and guidance director at South Aiken High School, a position she retired from in 1999. Following retirement she was drawn back into education to help improve the Allendale County schools after a State take-over. Today she continues to work in education at the Aiken Performing Arts Academy as a part-time assistant director and guidance counselor.

In 1988, Beverly was urged by members of the community to run for Aiken City Council. She took on the challenge, and won the District 1 seat. She is known for her thoroughness on council, diligently studying every issue and visiting the sites that would be impacted before she cast her vote.

During her tenure on council, she has participated in numerous development projects including the 10-year renewal plan for Aiken's Northside, the Crosland Park redevelopment project, the Center for African American History, Art and Culture, and the Aiken Visitors Center and Train Museum. She served as Mayor Pro Tem from 2002–2004, and has been honored for her work in chairing the first four NLC Diversity Breakfasts. She has also served as the chair of the Aiken County DSS Board.

In 2001, the South Carolina General Assembly honored Beverly for her work in Aiken and Allendale counties and the State of South Carolina. The Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce named her the 2009 Woman of the Year for her commitment to the Aiken area. She has also earned the honor of Woman of Distinction from her church, Cumberland African Methodist Episcopal.

Beverly and Bill have been married for 47 years, and are the parents of three adult children—William, Jr., Wilson, and Courtney. They also served as foster parents to daughter, Carmen. Today they have three grandchildren, and spending more time with her beloved family was the impetus for her retirement from Aiken City Council.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in congratulating Beverly Dozier Clyburn on a job well done. She has spent her entire career in public service whether as an educator or an elected official. Her efforts have made Aiken County a better place, and she has been a positive influence on countless lives along the way. I wish her all the best in this new chapter in her life, and knowing Beverly as I do, look forward to her continued work on behalf of others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 19, 2012, due to an unexpected flight

delay in Chicago, Illinois that prevented my travel, I was unable to cast my vote for roll Number 111.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 3992 which passed by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 371–0. I believe by allowing our allies, such as Israel, to invest in businesses in the United States, we are encouraging job creation and bringing more innovative ideas that will benefit all Americans.

Currently, citizens in 75 countries are eligible to apply for E–2 visas which are non-immigrant visas valid for up to two years and allow visa holders to oversee businesses in which they have considerable capital invested. Prior to 2003, countries could become eligible if specified in trade agreements but now separate legislation is required to add countries to the program.

Countries eligible for E–2 visas span from Albania to Pakistan to the United Kingdom and in Fiscal Year 2010, more than 25,000 E–2 visas were granted. Israel has a reciprocal program allowing United States investors the same ability. E–2 visas invest in our economy and foster working relationships with other countries. Adding Israel to this list will only continue these efforts.

Again, had my flight from Chicago to Washington, DC had not been delayed, I would have voted in support of H.R. 3992.

HONORING SAYDI WOLLNEY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Saydi Wollney is a senior at Pearland High School in Brazoria County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Although the United States government provides services such as roadways, protection from harm—both foreign and domestic—and regulation of food and drugs, I believe the government has, at times, stepped over their boundaries and infringed upon the rights of the people.

The recent SOPA (Stop Online Piracy Act) and the Protect IP Act wanted to shut down websites which illegally provided services such as making music, videos, and movies available for free download. In doing this, the government also restricted and suppressed websites which were informational and helpful to the public. In this way, the government inadvertently infringed upon the rights of citizens of the United States. After the incident of SOPA closing down Wikipedia for a short while, I noticed it was a popular conversation being held around school. My peers were unhappy and disliked the fact that the government seemed to have

overstepped their boundaries. I realize that the government was doing what they think was best for United States citizens at this point in time, but I believe their actions could have been delivered in a more friendly and informative way.

The issues with Medicaid and Medicare have citizens of the United States disagreeing with one another. Some people believe that Medicaid is a system that simply takes the money that citizens pay in taxes and utilizes it to care for people with a lower level of income. On the other hand, the other people believe that Medicaid is a good cause and is beneficial to those who are in need. The recent health care reform laws have been viewed by many as the government slowly taking control of the health care system. However, other people believe that the health care reform is beneficial and helpful to the American people, including those who could not previously afford health care.

Recently, there have been many debated issues over whether or not the government of the United States is overstepping its own boundaries and regulations of the country. I believe that most of the actions that I have discussed have been beneficial for the United States citizens, with exception of the SOPA and PIPA acts.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SOLDAN HIGH SCHOOL TIGERS, WINNERS OF THE MISSOURI CLASS 4 STATE TITLE FOR BASKETBALL AND STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Missouri's own Class 4 State Basketball Champions, the Soldan High School Tigers.

Soldan High School's convincing 55–42 victory over Springfield Hillcrest at the Mizzou Arena in Columbia was the culmination of three years hard work and dedication, resulting in the Tiger's first state championship in basketball in 31 years. Under the leadership of Head Coach Justin Tatum, the Tigers defeated some of the best teams in the nation, outscoring their playoff opponents by an unbelievable average of 24 points a game.

The men of the Soldan High School Tigers are more than merely teammates, they are a band of brothers. Many of the Tigers have played on the same teams since grade school, their recent victory a fitting reward for years of dedication to both each other and the sport of basketball. Especially for Soldan's nine-man senior class of Devin Booker, Aaron Diamini, Kawan Griffin, Randy Holmes, Paul McRoberts, Jibreel Muhammad, Partice Sanders, Elva Shelton, and Rashad Simmons, the season, and their high school careers, ended exactly how they hoped they would.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Tatum and the men of the Soldan High School Tigers are true examples of character and sportsmanship, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring their remarkable achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 117, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING LARRY SLY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize and congratulate Larry Sly, Executive Director for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, as he retires after 35 years of public service.

A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Larry began his career as an Executive Director with the Food Bank of Contra Costa in 1976. Starting with just two employees, Larry brought the organization a truck and trailer, where he stored bread that he picked up from a local grocery store. Soon, people in the area from local churches began distributing this bread to underprivileged people of the community.

In Larry's first year as Executive Director of the Food Bank of Contra Costa, the organization distributed approximately 36,000 pounds of food to people in need of assistance in the local area. Eventually, the Food Bank would merge with a struggling Solano County Food Bank and develop a greater outreach program within the region. Every year, with Larry's leadership, the Food Bank steadily increases the number of families who received food donations and groceries; last year they distributed over 14 million pounds of food.

During his time with the Food Bank, Larry has developed successful programs to help locals and agencies distribute food in a cheaper, more efficient manner. One such program, the Senior Food Program, provides low income senior citizens the opportunity to receive free groceries each month. Another, the Farm to Kid Program, provides five pounds of food every week for low income families as well as three to five pounds of fresh produce for every child in after school programs at low-income schools.

Throughout his career in public service, Larry has served at a number of statewide and national organizations. He served as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of Feeding America and the National Food Bank Network, as well as on the Board of Directors at the California Association of Food Banks and the Emergency Food and Shelter Board in Contra Costa County. In 2009, Larry also served as Interim Executive Director for Feeding America San Diego, where he helped improve and manage the organization.

Mr. Speaker, I invite this chamber to join me in recognizing Larry Sly for his commitment