

and Hugh; as well as by 17 great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Kevin O'Donnell. His work and legacy will live on with all those who were blessed with knowing him.

HONORING NEWARK, NEW JERSEY
MAYOR CORY BOOKER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Newark, New Jersey Mayor Cory Booker for his heroic efforts on April 13, 2012.

Mayor Booker returned home last Thursday evening to find flames erupting out of his neighbor's home. His neighbor screamed that her daughter was still inside. The mayor ran inside without hesitation, hoping to rescue the woman he had known for years. In doing so, Mayor Booker suffered second-degree burns and smoke inhalation. The woman who was trapped inside the burning home suffered second-degree burns on her back. Mayor Booker's neighbor, Zina Hodge, said "If Cory wouldn't have come in there and rescued me, I would have died in there."

Mayor Booker is one of our Nation's foremost Mayors. As Mayor of Newark, he has worked diligently to create thousands of jobs, reduce crime, and improve education. Mayor Booker's leadership has attracted approximately \$100 million in private philanthropy to the City of Newark, and a variety of nonprofits and public-private partnerships have been created with the goal of improving the lives of Newark residents. Mayor Booker is a shining example of what being a public servant truly means.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Booker continues to strive to improve the lives of the citizens of Newark. I would like to recognize the Honorable Cory Booker for his determination, hard work, and bravery. His dedication and leadership are outstanding models for public service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MERVA E.
JACKSON

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Ms. Merva E. Jackson, who sadly passed away on April 4, 2012.

Few times in one's life do you come across a person with such great passion, grace, and expertise like Merva Jackson. Merva had an indelible impact on everyone she met, including me. I vividly remember a meeting I had with her and several of her colleagues in my Washington office in the spring of 2010. It was one of those inspiring meetings that you never forget. The excitement in the room and the commitment to change was palpable as we brainstormed ways to combat the pervasive school-to-prison-pipeline that entangles too many of our youth. We left the meeting ener-

gized and with a plan for a statewide conference to tackle ways to reform the system. Merva's passion ignited my own, and I remember feeling so lucky that the State of Connecticut had her to advocate on behalf of vulnerable youth. A few months later our vision became a reality when over 150 people from across the State—and the Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education—came together to listen to Merva and others discuss the critical issue of promoting dignity in schools. Of course, she provided invaluable insight and perspective that day, as she did every day.

I am deeply saddened by the loss of Merva Jackson but feel so lucky to have known her. I last saw Merva in October at a juvenile justice event in Wethersfield, Connecticut. She was busy planning events for the future, to continue her work for justice and equal opportunity for all. I hold that memory near to me, and hope all who knew her find some comfort in reflecting on their own many loving memories of Merva and take pride in all that she did and all that she was.

IN HONOR OF MS. MALAK
JADALLAH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Malak Jadallah and to acknowledge her receipt of the Community Service Award from the Cleveland American Middle East Organization (CAMEO). Ms. Jadallah is being recognized for her service, dedication, leadership, volunteerism and advocacy on behalf of the Arab American Community of Greater Cleveland.

Malak was born and raised in Jerusalem, Palestine. She is a former art and German language teacher. Ms. Jadallah later moved with her beloved husband, Muhammad Amer, to Kuwait in 1972. Later, the Palestinians that had settled in Kuwait were forced to leave their homes and lives. Malak immigrated to the United States in 1990 and settled with her mother and sisters in Brooklyn, Ohio.

Soon after becoming a Member of Congress, I asked Malak to join my Congressional staff in Lakewood, Ohio. She has been faithfully serving the residents of the 10th District for 15 years as a constituent service representative specializing in immigration and visa issues. Prior to working in my office, Malak was a program director for the Arab American Community Center for Economic and Social Services (AACCESS). She has continued her work in the Arab community and has been a member of CAMEO for 18 years. She also worked with the Council of American-Islamic Relations, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, American Arab Institute, Beit Hanina Federation and the Ramallah Federation.

As a result of her steadfast dedication, Malak has been honored numerous times throughout the years. She has been recognized by the Arab American Community Center, Albanian American Association of Cleveland and Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission to the U.S.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Ms. Malak Jadallah as she is

honored by the Cleveland American Middle East Organization.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN PAYTON

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, "Democracy, at its core, requires that all of the people be included in 'We the People.'" Uttered by Mr. John Adolphus Payton during a 2008 speech in Michigan, this quote embodies his legacy. A true pioneer, John Payton rarely turned down an opportunity to advocate for the least among us and reminded America time and again of the necessity to advance toward a more inclusive and tolerant society. From his youth until his last days, John Payton fought for the recognition of individual rights and taught us how to work toward democracy—not just speak about it.

A quick glance at John's background quickly reveals the makings of a civil rights giant. At the height of the overt racial tensions of 1965, John Payton was one of only a handful of black students at Pomona College. Even as a working student, John found time to enhance the quality of collegiate life for disadvantaged students by founding Pomona's Black Student Association, organizing and participating in anti-war and civil rights demonstrations, successfully lobbying Pomona's administration to recruit more black students, and for the creation of a black studies program. A year after graduating from Pomona College, John enrolled at Harvard Law School in 1974. As a law student he obtained affidavits from black student activists who were injured during Boston's school busing controversy. John served as an ideal model of what true civic engagement should be. Even without a formal title, he used his resources to fight for the rights of others.

Serving as the sixth president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF), John led many victories before the U.S. Supreme Court, including the 2010 case *Lewis v. City of Chicago*, where John successfully represented a group of firefighters who argued that the city had discriminated against black recruits by using a grading system that resulted in no black applicants being hired. Though their claims had been barred by a statute of limitations defense in the lower court, the Supreme Court reversed those findings, allowing the recruits' claims to move forward. Prior to taking the helm of the NAACP LDF, in 2003 John argued in *Grutter v. Bolinger* that the University of Michigan had a compelling interest in promoting class diversity, and that acknowledging race as one of many factors in admissions decisions was not a quota. In a 5–4 decision, the Supreme Court agreed with John's argument, and put our nation one step closer towards achieving equitable higher education for all.

John's journey to erasing the "badges of slavery" meant challenging racism head on. As an associate with the D.C. law firm Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering (now known as Wilmer Hale), he contributed to the firm's representation of the NAACP in various legal matters, including assisting with the 1982 Supreme Court case *NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware Co.* The

Claiborne case rescued the NAACP from certain bankruptcy by avoiding a financial penalty after the group organized a 1960s boycott against white merchants in Mississippi. In 1988, John represented the city of Richmond's program which set aside 30 percent of municipal construction jobs for minority-owned businesses. The Supreme Court ruled that the Richmond law was unconstitutional because it violated the white-owned construction firms' right to equal protection. Many would have been discouraged by the loss, but as John eloquently stated in the 2008 edition of *The Civil Rights Monitor*, published by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, "We must recognize that this is a marathon and not a race if we are to find solutions that will work."

As I sat at John's memorial service, I not only sat as a legal colleague, but as a friend. Many shared their respects for a man who gave so much to promote justice and equality. I thank his wife of 20 years, Gay McDougall, for sharing her lifelong partner so that we could be beneficiaries of his lifelong mission.

WE SAY NEVER AGAIN TO THE
HOLOCAUST

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on Yom HaShoah, better known as Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day, people from all walks of life regardless of politics, faith, race, gender, or sexual orientation recognize the Holocaust as one of the most horrific events in world history. Since the end of World War II the United States and our allies have promised to never allow such mass genocide to be repeated. Never again shall humanity experience the evil and destruction that brutally robbed eleven million people of their lives.

After the Allies took back Europe from the forces of evil, millions of Jews emigrated to the United States and to the area now globally recognized as the State of Israel. It is here where the Jewish people found a home to restore their identity in the aftermath of the War. When General Dwight Eisenhower arrived at Buchenwald, he ordered the U.S. 4th Armed Division to tour the facility. He wanted them to bear witness to the atrocities unleashed on human beings so that no person would ever question what happened.

For the Holocaust survivors, they live with the nightmares and trauma of having seen their brothers and sisters treated like animals. To this day former prisoners wake up seeing the most visible scar from that era, an identification tattoo forced on them upon entering the concentration camps.

New York is home to half of the Holocaust survivors living in the United States. Although we can never undo this tragedy, we can continue to remember and pay tribute to the survivors and their families. I am proud to live in a country that recognizes human rights and has provided sanctuary to oppressed people throughout the world. America must continue to remain that beacon of hope.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLEVELAND
PEACE ACTION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cleveland Peace Action as they gather for the Second Annual Save Our Communities—Books Not Bombs, Jobs Not Jails, Families Not Foreclosures Forum and Dinner and Rally on April 14 and 17, 2012.

Cleveland Peace Action, a chapter of Peace Action, was established in 1981 as the Greater Cleveland Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign. Their mission is "To reduce the threat of violence, war and terrorism by working through peaceful, just and democratic means." Cleveland Peace Action works for global nuclear disarmament, a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty, a reduced military budget, alternatives to war and violence, cooperation with other nations and protection of human rights.

On April 14 and 17, 2012, Cleveland Peace Action will host the Save Our Communities—Books Not Bombs, Jobs Not Jails, Families Not Foreclosures Forum and Dinner and Save Our Communities—Make Taxation Fair! Bring the War \$\$\$ Home! Invest in Real Security! Rally. The community forum will be held on Saturday, April 14 at the Pilgrim United Church of Christ and will feature National Priorities Project's Senior Research Analyst, Chris Hellman, as the keynote speaker. The rally will be held on April 17 in Cleveland Public Square.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Cleveland Peace Action as members of the Northeast Ohio community gather for the Second Annual Save Our Communities—Books Not Bombs, Jobs Not Jails, Families Not Foreclosures Forum and Dinner and Rally.

CELEBRATING STANLEY GORSKI
ON HIS 50 YEARS OF TEACHING
IN THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Mr. Stanley Gorski on his 50 years of teaching in the state of New Hampshire.

For the past fifty years, Mr. Gorski has inspired hundreds of high school students to pursue their talents and goals, and excel in their studies. As an English teacher, he has helped to spark an interest in reading and writing, and broadened the minds of many students in his classes, doing so with a great sense of humor and kindness appreciated by all. He is to be commended for his many years of service and dedication to his profession and students, and recognized for the impact he has had on their lives.

Throughout his fifty years of teaching, both at Bishop Brady High School and Trinity High School, Mr. Gorski has not only become a trusted and valued employee, but a mentor

and friend to his fellow teachers. He generously shares his knowledge and experience with those around him and we are all thankful for his many contributions to teaching.

I congratulate Stanley on reaching this great milestone and for his outstanding commitment to education and his students. Tonight's celebration is well deserved for the many years of service he has given and I wish him all the best for continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION RE-
GARDING RECORDED VOTE ON
THE HOLT AMENDMENT TO H.R.
4809

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to correct a vote I made yesterday, regarding the Holt Amendment to H.R. 4809, the Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2012. I mistakenly voted against the amendment, when I intended to support it. I strongly support Rep. HOLT's intention, which was to make a technical correction to the legislation to allow a local park manager to close a park to hunting and recreational shooting when necessary. My record in supporting and protecting our national parks is a testimony to my strong commitment to these important places, and I believe that Rep. HOLT's amendment was an important technical correction.

I wish to clearly state for the record that I supported the Holt Amendment to H.R. 4809 and did not intend to vote against it.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLEVELAND
FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD'S
26TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 26th anniversary of the Cleveland Federal Executive Board, and to thank all the federal employees in our community for their individual and collective dedication to the public good.

The community of federal employees in Cleveland, Ohio is comprised of more than 25,000 individuals who contribute their talent and expertise daily in an array of roles, including park rangers, administrators, accountants, clerical employees, attorneys engineers, military personnel, mail carriers, scientists, nurses and physicians.

The professional contributions extended daily by federal employees serve as a foundation of support, safety and security throughout the community. Every day, the environment is protected; the mail is delivered; veterans receive medical care; our national park is preserved; immigrants are guided to citizenship; citizens are provided with benefits and programs; and the universe is studied and explored thanks to federal employees in Northeast Ohio.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the members of the Cleveland