

IN RECOGNITION OF IRA LOMIS  
FLOWERS OF THOMASVILLE,  
GEORGIA

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2012*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Ira Lomis Flowers, a beloved citizen of Thomasville, Georgia, who will be honored at the 23rd Annual Black and White Scholarship Ball hosted by the Thomasville, Georgia Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.

The upcoming Black and White Scholarship Ball will take place on Friday, June 1, 2012 at 1200 West Jackson Street in Thomasville. During the event, Mr. Flowers will be presented with the Joseph R. Jenkins Award, the highest award that can be bestowed upon a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.'s Southeastern Province.

A native of Thomasville, Mr. Flowers is a graduate of Thomasville High School. Following high school, he went on to complete his undergraduate studies at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Mr. Flowers also has his Certification in Secondary Education in English and Reading from Valdosta State University.

Mr. Flowers spent most of his professional life working as an educator and serving as a positive role model and influential mentor to children in Middle and Southwest Georgia. Throughout his dynamic and distinguished career he served as the Director of the Francis F. Weston YMCA in Thomasville; CEO & General Director of the A.J. McClung YMCA in Columbus, Georgia; Executive Director of the Thomasville Community Resource Center; and Senior YMCA Director for the USA YMCA Institute.

Despite the multiple and pressing demands associated with his professional career, Mr. Flowers always has and continues to play an integral role in several social, civic and community service oriented organizations in Georgia. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc. and has held memberships in the S.P. Masonic Lodge #118 and the Jones Masonic Lodge #118.

Mr. Flowers has achieved numerous successes in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God and the love imparted upon him by his late wife, Thedora Belinda Flowers, and his wonderful daughter Hope Allen Ellis-Flowers. He is also the proud grandfather of his adorable grandchildren Brianna and Christen.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Ira Lomis Flowers, an outstanding individual who has tirelessly devoted himself to progressively developing the academic and social skill sets of youth throughout the State of Georgia.

On a personal note, my wife, Vivian, and I would like to applaud Mr. Flowers and his family for his distinguished record of service on behalf of our Nation's children and his outstanding legacy of service to the communities of Middle and Southwest Georgia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2012*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on May 8, 2012, I missed rollcall votes 202–223 because of my primary election in Indiana. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall 202, “no” on rollcall 203, “no” on rollcall 204, “yes” on rollcall 205, “no” on rollcall 206, “no” on rollcall 207, “no” on rollcall 208, “no” on rollcall 209, “yes” on rollcall 210, “no” on rollcall 211, “no” on rollcall 212, “yes” on rollcall 213, “yes” on rollcall 214, “no” on rollcall 215, “no” on rollcall 216, “no” on rollcall 217, “no” on rollcall 218, “no” on rollcall 219, “no” on rollcall 220, “no” on rollcall 221, “no” on rollcall 222, and “no” on rollcall 223.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE OF C.  
DONALD BABERS

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2012*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished federal public servant, Mr. C. Donald Babers, as he retires from his position as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Southwest Regional Administrator on June 1, 2012. Over the last 42 years, all of it with HUD, he has provided dedicated service to the American public in a variety of positions.

Mr. Babers began his career in June 1970 as an unpaid intern in HUD's Fort Worth Office. He then moved on to Little Rock, Arkansas working in the local field office as an Equal Opportunity Specialist before being appointed the Acting Director of the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. He was next assigned to the Dallas Field Office where he held a number of positions, including 15 years as the Field Office Director.

In 2002, he was promoted again, this time to the position of Deputy Regional Director in the Fort Worth Regional Office. In 2006, he assumed additional responsibilities when he was appointed by the Secretary of HUD as the Recovery Advisor and Chairman of the Board for the Housing Authority of New Orleans, where he oversaw recovery efforts due to Hurricane Katrina. On May 27, 2010, he was recognized again for his hard work and dedication to the mission of HUD with a promotion to Regional Administrator of HUD's Region VI in Fort Worth. In this position, he is responsible for managing the operations of the Fort Worth office as well as eleven field offices in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Over the years, Mr. Babers has been the recipient of many prestigious awards for his work. In 2006, he received the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive, one of the highest awards given to career civil servants and restricted to no more than five percent of executives per year. In 2007, he also

received the Interagency Resources Management Conference Award from the General Services Administration, which is given to those government employees who have shown exceptional ability to operate across organizational boundaries and improve the public's experience with the government.

As Mr. Babers retires from a long and dedicated career, I would like to recognize his service and congratulate him on a job well done. His experience and skills will certainly be missed by both the employees he worked with and the citizens he served. I wish Don Babers and his wife Sheila a long and happy retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF  
LANCASTER, WISCONSIN, ON ITS  
175TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2012*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise before you today to honor the historic City of Lancaster as we celebrate its 175th anniversary.

Lancaster was established for its central location in Grant County. Though it wasn't located on a stream or major source of power, its location was ideal for the efficiency and accessibility of a county government. Shortly after its founding, Lancaster was named the seat of Grant County. In fact, the county courthouse was built before Lancaster's founding, creating a unique opportunity for entrepreneurs once Lancaster was established. Hotels and stores were among the first establishments to be built. But, growth in Lancaster was slow with only 350 residents in 1853. However, the dedication of a few people, including Wisconsin's first Governor, Nelson Dewey, was all Lancaster needed to thrive. After the construction of houses, commercial buildings, warehouses, stores, and a railroad depot, Lancaster's population surpassed 1,000 residents by 1880, enough to allow incorporation.

Just as Lancaster was beginning to mature, a fire destroyed half of the square and the city was faced with the challenge of starting anew. The folks of Lancaster took on that challenge and as they always have; the people of Lancaster worked together and the square was built again. Many of these buildings still stand today, signifying the deep historical roots in Lancaster and its ability to endure the test of time. The Grant County Courthouse, Lancaster Municipal Building, and the Lancaster Post Office are all listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, Lancaster is home to more than 3,800 people. Lancaster embodies the quintessential small town that is a staple in rural Wisconsin. The historically rich community still thrives on the agricultural successes of surrounding farms and its quaint and pure atmosphere make Lancaster a beautiful place to call home. I wish the City of Lancaster and its residents a happy 175th anniversary and all the best in the years to come.

DONOVAN NICHOLS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Donovan Nichols for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Donovan Nichols is a 12th grader at Jefferson High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Donovan Nichols is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Donovan Nichols for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

HONORING ROBERT F. JORDAN

**HON. RANDY HULTGREN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2012*

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring the attention of the House of Representatives to a momentous occasion, the 85th birthday of Mr. Robert F. Jordan, to be celebrated on May 25, 2012, and to recognize the work he has done, first as a United States diplomat for more than 36 years, and in retirement, as an integral part of the US-Asia Institute.

Mr. Robert F. Jordan was born and raised in Framingham, Massachusetts. He served overseas in the U.S. Army from 1945 to 1947 and then attended the University of Massachusetts, graduating in 1951. From 1951 to 1956 he was a high school teacher of Algebra and Spanish.

In 1956 he started a 36-year diplomatic career with the U.S. Information Agency, serving as the Public Affairs Officer and director of the United States Information Service in 11 countries in Asia, Europe and Latin America with responsibility for all U.S. government press and cultural exchange programs. Mr. Jordan learned four foreign languages—Spanish, Italian, French, and Portuguese. He was president of the Fulbright Commission in several countries and was also president of the Government of Ireland's scholarship board. While on a Washington tour he was assigned to USIA's inspection corps and conducted policy and public diplomacy inspections of American embassies in some 40 countries worldwide.

Mr. Jordan is the recipient of several meritorious and superior honor awards and performance pay awards from USIA, the Department of Defense and the Department of State. He also received the Order of Merit from the Government of Portugal.

Following retirement in 1992 Mr. Jordan was called back by both USIA and the Department of State to conduct policy inspections of some

20 embassies worldwide. Then from 1995 to 2001 he worked for the Federal Emergency Management Agency handling the Spanish-speaking media on disasters around the country. All total during his career, he has honorably represented the United States in over 100 countries around the world.

In 1994–95 and then since 2007, Mr. Jordan has volunteered his time at the US-Asia Institute as a senior advisor and serving as Vice President of International and Government Affairs. In this role, he works closely with the Asian diplomatic community as well as with the U.S. Congress, and numerous delegations from Asia. He is committed to the mission and goals of the US-Asia Institute, promoting dialogue on international issues of common interest to the United States and Asian nations, whenever and however possible. In the course of his work, Mr. Jordan has led numerous delegations of Congressional staff to China and Singapore. He spent his 80th birthday on the Great Wall of China.

In his retirement, Mr. Jordan continues to work tirelessly to promote mutual understanding and communication between the U.S. and the countries and people of Asia. As he celebrates this latest milestone, we say thank you to Mr. Jordan for his sage counsel, his inimitable vision, his quiet behind-the-scenes diplomacy, and his unwavering commitment to the U.S.-Asia relationship.

IN HONOR OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF FLORENCE LARIVIERE**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2012*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Florence LaRiviere, a passionate citizen activist responsible for creating our country's first urban national wildlife refuge. Without Florence, it is safe to say that thousands of acres of wetlands and salt ponds along the San Francisco Bay would have been destroyed and developed. The Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, in my Congressional District, is the result of her tireless commitment to preventing urban sprawl from taking over unspoiled natural area.

On May 10th, Florence is being rightly honored for her decades of environmental and community service with the National Wetlands Award from the Environmental Law Institute of Washington, DC. Although Florence is being honored now, at the age of 88, her work to preserve the Bay spans seven decades.

In the 1950's Florence would take her children to enjoy the Bay's natural marshes and wetlands. Even then, development was steadily encroaching on this fragile ecosystem and threatened its very survival. Marshes were being drained and filled and the Bay's health was in severe decline. Florence organized other concerned citizens and launched a battle to preserve the wetlands and restore the Bay. They took their fight to then Representative Don Edwards, who championed legislation to create the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in 1972. She didn't stop there. In the 1980s, she established the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge and led the fight to expand the refuge by 20,000 acres.

After all these accomplishments, Florence LaRiviere still works to preserve and protect California's wetlands. In the last few years, I've been honored to work with Florence to restore the Eden Landing salt ponds along the Hayward Shoreline. Now, instead of sterile ponds, we have a thriving marsh where hundreds of bird species can be seen and the public can access the bay for hiking and kayaking.

The National Wetlands Awards are presented annually to individuals who have excelled in wetlands protection and is administered by the Environmental Law Institute and is supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Forest Service, and Federal Highway Administration. A committee of wetlands experts representing federal and state agencies, academia, conservation organizations, and the private sector selects the Award recipients.

Florence is well deserving of this award. Her work to create and preserve the refuge has produced enormous benefits. It has sustained an immense number of birds and endangered species. It has also brought awareness to the Bay Area of the value of wetlands, and vastly improved residents' quality of life by providing them with public spaces to escape from the hustle and bustle of urban life. Florence is an inspiration to all of us who care about passing on a healthy environment to future generations.

RECOGNIZING DOWNTOWN  
WASHINGTON INC.**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2012*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Downtown Washington, Inc. On April 2, 2012, Downtown Washington was named a recipient of The Great American Main Street Award. The winners of this award are recognized for their exceptional accomplishments in revitalizing the nations' historic Main Street commercial district by using the National Trust's Main Street Four-Point Approach.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Downtown Washington, Inc. for its work to nurture and enhance its downtown area. A key part of Downtown Washington's success is due to the dedication and determination of Downtown Washington, Inc.'s board of directors and staff. With its outstanding leadership, the board of directors and staff have spearheaded the renovation of several historic buildings that have and will continue to attract fellow residents and visitors to the downtown area for years to come.

In addition, one of their top priorities is business retention, and Downtown Washington, Inc. works to make sure business owners have the latest information on grants and other incentives. Through their partnerships with the local chamber of commerce and city government, Downtown Washington, Inc. organizes many public events throughout the year, which truly help showcase the city's success.