

Classing and leading to her work as a cotton merchant. She later practiced law in Manning and served as a trial attorney with the Civil Division of the United States Department of Justice in Washington, DC.

Judge Mason was elected to the South Carolina Senate in 1966 representing Clarendon and Sumter Counties. She was the second woman to serve in the South Carolina Senate, and on February 22, 1967, she was called to preside over a session of the Senate becoming the first woman to preside in that body.

In 1960, she served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles and attended the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City in 1968.

She served the Clarendon County Democratic Party as a party precinct secretary for more than a decade.

In 1971, she was appointed as a Federal Administrative Law Judge for the Social Security Administration's Office of Disability Adjudication and Review.

During her tenure, she was the first Administrative Law Judge to sit on the Appeals Council as an Acting Member of the Council, and she served as Hearing Office Chief Administrative Law Judge for 17 years.

A proud South Carolinian she has served her state and community in numerous volunteer positions, including the Board of Trustees of Clarendon Memorial Hospital for 16 years, the South Carolina State Mother of the Year Search Committee, the Alumni Council of the University of South Carolina Alumni Association, and the American Red Cross as an Area Director for Clarendon County. She was a member of Summerton Baptist Church, the Daughters of the American Revolution, several garden clubs, and Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

A member of the American Legion Auxiliary for over 60 years, she worked with Palmetto Girls State, serving as director for more than ten years and as a counselor, committee member, or legislative leader for more than 40 years.

In her professional life, Judge Mason was a member of the South Carolina Bar Association, the Richland County Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the Federal Executive Council.

In 2008 in recognition of her distinguished career as a public servant and community leader, Judge Mason was awarded the Order of the Palmetto by Governor Mark Sanford.

Active in sports and recreational activities throughout her life, Judge Mason loved the outdoors and enjoyed spending time on Lake Marion. At the age of 79, she decided she could no longer continue to water ski, so she learned to drive a jet ski.

She is survived by loving and devoted nieces, MaryAnne Grayson Moore and her husband Nebraska Edward Moore, II, of Summerton and Cora Gene "Cookie" Grayson Culbertson of Lawrenceville, Georgia; great nephews, Nebraska Edward Moore III and his wife Stephanie Faltus Moore of Summerville, Mason Palmer Bethea Moore and his wife Jodi Woods Moore of Belgrade, Montana, and James Fulton Grayson, IV and his wife Susan Walton Grayson of Grayson, Georgia; a great niece, Elisabeth Grayson Mills and her husband Alan Mills of Gainesville, Georgia; and several great, great nieces and nephews. Judge Mason was preceded in death by her brother, James Fulton Grayson, Jr.; and her nephew, James Fulton Grayson, III. The family extends grateful appreciation and acknowledgment to caregivers Roberta, Tee, Willene and Maggie and to Southern Care of Florence, SC.

Graveside services will be held on Sunday, May 6, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. at the Summerton Evergreen Cemetery with the Rev. Brent Hutsell and Rev. Bob Ashba officiating. Pall-

bearers are Thomas H. Gentry, Alton Truesdale, Nebraska Edward Moore III, James Fulton Grayson, IV, Eugene A. Failmezger and R.P. Felder, Jr. Following the services, the family will receive visitors at the home located at 1664 Jack Touchberry Road, Summerton.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Summerton Evergreen Cemetery, c/o Ellen Ardis, PO Box 366, Summerton, SC 29148. Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church St., Manning, is in charge of arrangements. (803) 435-2179. www.stephensfuneralhome.org. Visit our guestbook at www.legacy.com/obituaries/charleston.

HONORING FR. THOMAS BERNAS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fr. Thomas Bernas, Pastor of St. Richard Catholic Church in Chicago, Illinois, for his 15 years of dedicated service to the parish.

Born in 1958 in Evergreen Park, Illinois, Fr. Tom has spent his life in service to the local community. Attending St. Pancratius Grammar School and then Quigley Preparatory Seminary South, Fr. Tom started his Catholic education at an early age. Graduating from high school in 1976, he enrolled at the Loyola University of Chicago, completing his degree at the university in 1980.

Fr. Tom entered seminary in 1989 at the St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois. Ordained in 1994 at Holy Name Cathedral, seat of the Archdiocese of Chicago, by Cardinal Bernardin, Fr. Tom was assigned to St. Richard Catholic Church in 1997 as an administrator; his conscientious and tireless work for the parish resulted in his appointment as pastor in 1999.

Throughout his 13 year tenure as pastor, Fr. Tom devoted his time and energy to improving the community of St. Richard Catholic Church and the surrounding area. Through prudent financial practice, he overhauled the parish's finances, paying off its debt and keeping it debt-free. Upon becoming pastor of St. Richard's, Fr. Tom completed several renovation projects initiated by his predecessor that included re-painting the church, replacing the organ, and installing an elevator to facilitate handicapped access. He also oversaw the construction of the St. Richard Parish Center that now houses all parish offices and a gymnasium used by the St. Richard Grammar School children as well as many community groups. Additionally, he supervised a complete renovation of the priest's residence and further transformed the health of the church with a recent building renovation and floor plan reconfiguration to enrich the spiritual experience of all worshippers.

Fr. Tom has continued to engage in all aspects of community life far beyond his expected duties. Each year he has hosted the Archer Heights Civic Association Halloween Party for community children in the church hall and an annual blessing of Chicago firefighters, paramedics, and police officers.

Through a diligent and caring approach, Fr. Thomas Bernas has transformed the fortunes of St. Richard Catholic Church and touched

the lives of many members of the local community. Please join me in celebrating the accomplishments of Fr. Tom, a model citizen and an inspiration to us all. I thank him for his service and wish him the best as he starts his new assignment at St. Rene Goupil Parish.

COMMENDING A MAJOR ADVANCEMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise my colleagues of an important decision issued earlier this week by the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Blood Products Advisory Committee (BPAC) that will revolutionize HIV testing and the fight against AIDS. The 17-member advisory panel unanimously recommended approval of the first over-the-counter HIV test. The OraQuick In-Home HIV test detects the presence of HIV antibodies in roughly 20 minutes after a simple oral swab.

OraSure Technologies, a company in my congressional district, has been at the forefront of HIV/AIDS diagnostics for over a decade. If the FDA follows the recommendation of the advisory panel and approves OraSure's In-Home HIV test, it will be the first oral fluid rapid test made commercially available over-the-counter.

BPAC's decision represents a significant milestone in the nation's fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Disease status awareness enables individuals to protect their health and the health of others. Over-the-counter testing will provide an option for individuals to get tested in the privacy of their own home and importantly, is expected to reach traditionally underserved communities. According to an FDA analysis, the OraQuick test is predicted to lead to 45,000 new positive HIV/AIDS diagnoses and avert more than 4,000 HIV transmissions within the first year of deployment.

Nearly 50,000 Americans become infected with HIV each year and some 240,000 are unaware of their status. The availability of an over-the-counter test will lead to greater testing, increased diagnoses, reduced transmissions, earlier treatment and saved lives.

It is my honor to commend OraSure in leading the way in transforming diagnostic testing through innovative new technologies, and I am proud of the company's dedication and accomplishments in making HIV/AIDS testing more accessible.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. ALFREDO GUTIERREZ JR.

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Alfredo Gutierrez Jr. Dr. Gutierrez was a beloved and trusted doctor and dedicated former mayor of Del Rio, Texas. On April 24, 2012, at the age of 80, Dr. Gutierrez passed away from heart failure. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Olga Hernandez Gutierrez, seven children, seventeen grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Dr. Gutierrez was a leader and role model in the Del Rio community. His passion and love for Del Rio was most exemplified through his work as a doctor and leadership as mayor. Dr. Gutierrez served for 20 years as Del Rio's mayor, earning the title "dean of Del Rio's mayors." He was also as equally dedicated to serving the community through his medical practice, delivering nearly 5,000 babies over a career that spanned five decades. Only after suffering a heart attack in 2010 did he decide to close his practice.

While Del Rio has lost an icon and hero, Dr. Gutierrez's impact and passion for the community will certainly live on.

TAIWAN PRESIDENT MA YING-JEU'S SECOND INAUGURATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, Ma Ying-jeou will be sworn in for a second term on May 20, 2012, as Taiwan's president. It's worth saluting President Ma on this special occasion, as the United States has a no better friend or ally than Taiwan. For decades, Taiwan has been of significant security, economic and political interest to the United States. Today, Taiwan's 23 million people enjoy self-governance with free elections, and Taiwan's economy is the 17th largest in the world—and growing. Taiwan is the ninth-largest U.S. trading partner, including the sixth-largest market for U.S. agricultural exports, a significant economic consideration for my district.

Going back to the onset of the Cold War, Taiwan and the United States have stood beside one another in some of our countries' darkest hours and most challenging times. Taiwan was an indispensable link in America's Korean War effort. U.S. General Douglas MacArthur rightly labeled Taiwan "an unsinkable aircraft carrier in the Pacific" when speaking of the joint U.S.-Taiwan Korean War effort. Taiwan ground troops fought side by side with U.S. forces in the fierce battles at, below and above the 38th Parallel. The Washington-Taipei alliance was later institutionalized in the Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty and Formosa Resolution of 1955. Taiwan was also a key base, and intelligence-gathering source, for U.S. forces in the Vietnam War. Under President Ma's leadership, our relationship has remained strong, as he has sought U.S. support for his policies, including U.S. arms sales, to ensure Taiwan is in a strong position to continue cross-strait talks.

The United States has stood by Taiwan as it has faced challenges from across the strait over the last 62 years. And while travel, trade and investment flourish across the strait today, threats remain, as Beijing refuses to renounce its right to use force against Taiwan. And yet, Taiwan has shown that a strong democracy can thrive even in the face of continued threats.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in congratulating President Ma on his second inauguration. I also would ask my colleagues to remain mindful of the promise we made to the people of Taiwan almost 33 years ago under the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) of 1979, the cornerstone of our two nations' bilat-

eral relationship. Ties or tension across the Taiwan Strait affect global peace and stability, and a more stable East Asia is not only in the best interest of Taiwan, but also in the best interest of the United States.

HONORING SOUTH GIBSON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to honor the first ever graduating class of South Gibson High School, located in Medina, Tennessee.

Undoubtedly the work of starting a brand new high school is extremely difficult but today's graduation offers the opportunity to celebrate in a job well done. Congratulations to Principal Phil Rogers and his dedicated team of teachers and staff in preparing the young minds of the Class of 2012 to enter their next phase of life.

The vision of South Gibson High School is to create a community of empowered learners. Although today ends their journey in high school; the ever-changing demands of the 21st century economy requires them to always be thinking, challenging, and innovating. And it's that kind of life-long learning that will keep America's place, as President Ronald Reagan said, "a shining city on the hill."

Please join me in honoring the first graduating class in the history of South Gibson County High School.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4310) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chair, I offer this bipartisan amendment with Congressman JEFF LANDRY to increase transparency surrounding the issuance of waivers allowing foreign vessels to carry cargo between points in the United States. I thank Congressman LANDRY for his leadership on this issue.

A report recently released by PriceWaterhouseCoopers found that in 2006, the most recent year for which data were available, the Jones Act fleet supported nearly 74,000 direct jobs in the U.S. shipbuilding and domestic waterborne transportation industries.

These jobs, in turn, supported more than \$36 billion in economic output in 2009 and provided \$6.5 billion in labor compensation.

Among other provisions, the Jones Act requires that a vessel cannot carry cargo between two U.S. points unless the vessel has been built in the United States, and is owned and crewed by Americans.

The Jones Act can be waived in the interest of national defense. However, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) must first assess whether Jones Act-qualified vessels are available to carry the cargo under consideration.

Following the release of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in 2011, the Department of Homeland Security waived the Jones Act dozens of times despite the availability of Jones Act-qualified vessels.

According to documents provided by the Department of Transportation, waivers were issued at the request of firms such as Shell Oil Company, ConocoPhillips Company, and BP Products North America.

As a result, the American oil released from the American Strategic Petroleum Reserve was then carried by vessels flagged in such countries as Liberia, the Marshall Islands, Singapore, the Bahamas, and Panama.

The amendment I offer with Congressman LANDRY is a simple one. Let me be clear: though I think waivers should be issued only in the rarest of circumstances, this amendment does not prohibit the issuance of any waivers.

Instead, it would require the Maritime Administration (MARAD) to include in its assessments of the availability of Jones Act-compliant vessels information on the actions that could be taken to enable Jones Act-qualified vessels to carry the cargo for which a waiver is sought.

MARAD would also be required to publish its assessments on its website and provide notification to Congress when a waiver is requested or issued.

Adoption of these provisions will significantly enhance the transparency surrounding the issuance of Jones Act waivers so that we can assess whether every possible opportunity to utilize Jones Act-compliant vessels in the coastwise trade has been utilized.

I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to support our bi-partisan amendment to ensure that every available step is taken to utilize American mariners to carry American cargoes on American ships between American ports.

KIPP BALTIMORE'S BRAD NORNHOLD WINS BALTIMORE CITY "TEACHER OF THE YEAR"

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, Bradley Nornhold was a founding teacher at KIPP Ujima Village Academy when the public charter school opened in 2002. In the past ten years, Brad has been a transformational force in the lives of the students in Northwest Baltimore. As a middle school math teacher, his results speak for themselves. In 2011, his seventh grade students produced the highest math test scores in the city as measured by the Maryland School Assessment. Brad makes no excuses and leaves no child behind. 100 percent of his students passed the test. The advanced scores were the fourth highest in the State of Maryland.

But test scores do not tell the whole story. Brad's students embrace the work that it takes to produce such results, and believe that the