

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2013*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 307, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATING 64 AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MAKERS AT THE DEDICATION OF THE "CHARLES HOUSTON MURAL AND HALL OF FAME" IN ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA ON JUNE 22, 2013

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2013*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 64 African American history makers in Alexandria, Virginia on their induction into the Charles Houston Mural and Hall of Fame.

To walk through the streets of Alexandria is to walk through the annals of African American history in America from slavery to the Civil War to the Civil Rights era. The brick passageways chronicle the vast array of history makers and symbolic structures honored with the unveiling and dedication of the Charles Houston Ad Hoc Committee's "Charles Houston Mural and Hall of Fame" photographic exhibit.

"As an Alexandria History Maker, your legacy of service had added to the vitality and spirit of this community," the Committee wrote in honoring the contributions 64 inductees made to the historic city's African American heritage and culture.

It has been over 60 years since civil rights attorney Charles H. Houston passed away, but the good works recognized at this dedication show that the strength of his legacy has endured. Just like Mr. Houston, the honorees have played a major role in the City and have served as an integral part of the civic life of Alexandria and its citizens for generations.

The dedication ceremony was attended by 800 familiar Alexandria faces. Among the honorees present were Mr. Ferdinand Day, the first African American School Board Chairman for the state of Virginia, Police Chief Earl Cook, Mr. Eugene Thompson, former Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum, author Marie Bradby, journalist Judy Belk, athletic director and basketball coach James "Jimmy" Lewis, Minister Charles Hall, and community activist Dorothy Turner. Other honorees include athlete Earl Lloyd, John Naismith NBA Hall of Fame, educator Harry Burke, Dr. Thea James, Gen. Leo Austin Brooks Sr., and attorney Samuel Tucker who led what is believed to be the first public sit-in in the Nation, the 1939 protest of the Alexandria Library's ban on African Americans.

Historic structures on the mural include: Beulah Baptist Church, the Franklin & Arm filed Slave Office & Pen, the Freedman's Cemetery, Seminary School, Fort Ward, the Odd Fellows Hall, Alexandria Home Bakery, the Capital Theater, Out Cross Canal, Colored

Rosemont, the Carver Nursery/American Legion, the Johnson Pool, the Robert Robinson Library and the Departmental Progressive Club.

The photographic mural will be permanently located at the Parker-Gray Way, the Wythe Street entrance to the Charles Houston Recreation Center. It establishes the African American footprint in the city and celebrates neighborhoods, schools, churches and businesses vital to Alexandria's African American community. The intent of the Hall of Fame is to honor and memorialize the achievements of African American history makers in Alexandria; document the contributions of Alexandria's African American community to the city's history; and foster appreciation for diversity of the African American experience in the City of Alexandria.

Besides the City of Alexandria's sponsorship, the project committee consulted with George Mason University faculty and received support from Hoop Academy International, Simpson Development, and the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church, among others.

Mr. Speaker, these 64 individuals honored by the Charles Houston Mural and Hall of Fame are a testament to the human spirit, an example for resilience and defiance in the face of hardship, and an inspiration given what they achieved in their lifetimes. Thank you.

## OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. 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 \$16,738,238,434,108.96. We've added \$6,111,361,358,195.88 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

## HONORING THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2013*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the wonderful work of the Children's Advocacy Center of Southeastern Indiana.

On July 15, 2013, the Region 15 Children's Advocacy Center, serving the families of Dearborn, Decatur, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, and Switzerland Counties, will celebrate the completion of the Center's 1,000th forensic interview. These child-friendly forensic interviews are critical in identifying cases of mental or physical child abuse. Using non-leading and age-appropriate questions, a forensic interview uncovers the child's reality, in their own words, about the situation and is the most efficient means of providing support and accuracy to the criminal justice and child welfare systems in our State. For nearly a decade, my mother

served as a court appointed special advocate for children in abuse cases, and I appreciate how important the child's perspective is to a positive court outcome.

In particular, I want to recognize the leadership of the Children's Advocacy Center of Southeastern Indiana. Executive Director Sarah Brichto and forensic interviewer Stephanie Back, both founding members of the Center, provide daily leadership and execution of the program's goals. I also want to extend special recognition for the vision of the Center to Board of Directors President Aaron Negangard and fellow board members Tom Baxter, Chad Lewis, Monica Hensley, Richard Hertel, Jennifer Tackitt, and Barbara Bowling. Their influential contribution to our local communities is truly inspirational.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in congratulating the Children's Advocacy Center of Southeastern Indiana for their continued leadership in developing safer communities for all Hoosier children.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2013*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 318, I inadvertently missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

## IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIE WILLIAMS

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2013*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant General Willie J. Williams, our Nation's third-highest ranking Marine, for his distinguished service to the United States of America. For nearly 40 years, Lieutenant General Williams has served in the Marine Corps and today he will be retiring from his post as the Director of Marine Corps Staff and from the Marine Corps. He will be honored at a retirement ceremony on Wednesday, July 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Marine Barracks in Washington, DC.

Lieutenant General Williams was born to the late Herman Jones and the late Ella Mae "Bolden" Hill in Livingston, Alabama but grew up in nearby Moundville, Alabama. After graduating from Moundville Public High School, he attended Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama after his high school teachers, seeing his talent and high potential but limited financial means, helped him obtain a scholarship. Faced with many difficult decisions about his future, he reflected on his life growing up in the segregated South and he was enticed by a Marine Corps recruiter to join an institution where he would be evaluated based on merit and not the color of his skin. Lieutenant General Williams was commissioned in the Marine Corps in May 1974 and began his career with the 11th Marine Artillery Regiment in May 1975, serving as a Battalion Supply Officer and later as the Regimental Supply Officer/Assistant S4 Officer.

In October 1977, he served as the Officer-In-Charge of the 3rd Force Service Support Group in Iwakuni, Japan. After a year, he returned to the U.S. to serve as the Ship's Detachment Supply Officer, Pacific Ocean Area/Marine Barracks Supply Officer and Barracks Executive Officer at Marine Barracks, North Island, San Diego, California. In June 1982, he reported to Quantico, Virginia for duty as Platoon Commander, Officer Candidate School, and subsequently attended the Amphibious Warfare School.

In May 1983, he became the Supply Officer, Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, California and from August 1985 to June 1989, he was assigned to the 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa, Japan as the Assistant Division Supply Officer before attending the Armed Forces Staff College. While serving with the 3rd Marine Division, Lieutenant General Williams deployed as the Logistics Officer, Contingency Marine Air Ground Task Force 3-88 during its Persian Gulf Deployment from May to December 1988.

After completing Armed Forces Staff College, Lieutenant General Williams was assigned to joint duty with the Department of Defense Inspector General's Office in January 1990. From 1993-94 he studied at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and upon graduation assumed command of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) MEU Service Support Group from September 1994 to September 1996. He then served as the Assistant Chief of Staff G4, 3rd Force Service Support Group. In June 1997, he departed Okinawa for duty with the 1st Force Service Support Group first as the Assistant Chief of Staff, G3 and in 1998, as the Commanding Officer of Brigade Service Support Group 1. In July 2000, he returned to Okinawa, Japan as the Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Smedley D. Butler until June 2001 and then served as the Commanding General, 3d Force Service Support Group, III MEF until 2003. From October 2003 to May 2005, Lieutenant General Williams served as the Assistant Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics (Facilities), Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

The Second Congressional District of Georgia gained a respected and compassionate leader when Lieutenant General Williams moved to Albany, Georgia in June 2005 to take command of the Marine Corps Logistics Base, a focal point of the service's worldwide supply chain and equipment maintenance efforts. He became a close friend and confidant as he served in my district for the next four years, throughout the height of the Iraq War and one of the service's busiest periods.

In 2009, Lieutenant General Williams returned to Washington to pin on a third star and ultimately become the Director of Marine Corps Staff. In addition to his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Stillman College, Lieutenant General Williams holds a Master of Arts Degree from National University in San Diego, California and a Master of Science Degree from National Defense University, as well as an Honorary Doctorate of Law from Stillman College, and an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy from Albany State University.

Lieutenant General Williams' personal awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with gold star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine

Corps Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Department of Defense Service Badge.

Lieutenant General Williams has certainly accomplished many things in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife of 40 years, Bobbie, and their late daughter, Yolanda, who sadly passed away in 2008.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, and the nearly 700,000 people in Georgia's 2nd Congressional District, and all Americans, in extending our sincerest appreciation to Lieutenant General Willie Williams, an innovative leader who, in addition to his selfless service and instrumental role in supporting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, has the respect, admiration, and affection of his fellow Marines and leaves behind an outstanding legacy of service and leadership in the Marine Corps of the United States of America.

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2609) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which is a poster child for why this House needs to get serious about replacing the sequester with a balanced, long-term budget agreement that keeps faith with our values and funds critical to national priorities.

According to data compiled by Bloomberg New Energy Finance for the Pew Charitable Trusts, China overtook the United States in the 21st century's clean energy race last year, attracting \$65.1 billion in clean energy investment compared to just \$35.6 billion in the U.S. Rather than responding aggressively to this challenge, today's legislation effectively proposes to throw in the towel and slashes clean energy funding by 60 percent. As a result, America's families and businesses will be forced to pay more than they otherwise would on their utility bills as fewer homes are weatherized, deployment of cost-effective clean energy technologies is delayed and smart grid modernization is postponed.

The Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy, or ARPA-E, faces an even more devastating 81 percent cut. This early stage, high-impact program created by the bipartisan America Competes Act has already leveraged more than \$450 million in private sector investment from \$70 million in funding to game-changing opportunities in areas like energy storage, advanced biofuels and smart grid technology. ARPA-E—and the transformational breakthroughs it is driving—would be all but shut down under this legislation.

From basic research at DoE's Office of Science to environmental cleanup at our nation's nuclear defense sites to tackling the current \$60 billion backlog at the Army Corps of Engineers, this legislation shrinks from America's challenges and shortchanges America's future.

We can and should do better.

#### CELEBRATING BILL GRAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 8, 2013*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Congressman William H. Gray III, who suddenly passed away last week in London. As politicians, we all have certain people that we looked up to as role models and mentors so that we could carry out our duties in a dignified manner. For myself, I had my father, former Congressman Bill Clay, and Mr. Gray. During my youth, I served as a doorman for the House of Representatives where I had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Gray on numerous occasions. Over time, I had developed profound respect for Mr. Gray. He was a man that had a sincere interest in the concerns of his constituents and a man that fought for minorities across the country during a time when racial tensions were still high.

Mr. Gray was elected to the Congress in 1978, representing Pennsylvania's 2nd Congressional District. Many remember Mr. Gray for his quick rise within the Democratic Party. From 1985 to 1989, Mr. Gray was the chairman of the House Budget Committee—the first African American to do so. He used his power as chairman to influence legislation and economic sanctions against the apartheid regime of South Africa, which sparked a close friendship between him and Nelson Mandela. In 1989, he was the first African American to serve as the Majority Whip and many saw this as his stepping stone to becoming the first African American Speaker of the House.

Aside from the powerful roles that he assumed in Congress, Mr. Gray is remembered most for his contributions to the city of Philadelphia, through his preaching and leadership. Since 1972, Mr. Gray served as the pastor at Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia. Even while serving in Congress, Mr. Gray never lost sight of his role as the spiritual leader of his community. On numerous occasions, Mr. Gray would say, "First and foremost, I am a Baptist preacher." Through his leadership in Congress, Mr. Gray secured needed funding for Philadelphia's transportation and school systems. His success in Congress was secured by his ability to reach across party lines in order to build strong bipartisan coalitions.

Mr. Gray's story began at Simon Gratz High School in Philadelphia. One day, Mr. Gray's father was invited to speak to the students. Before taking the stage, the principal told Mr. Gray's father, "Don't worry, you can keep it short; these kids aren't going anywhere." His father replied, "I don't know about these other kids, but I know one kid who is going somewhere." His father's intuition proved to be more than accurate. A gifted basketball player,