

changed. That is the kind of man Congressman Owens was.

He was a change-maker, educator, and librarian. He was always there to say that his district and America's poor people needed to be represented. He was, in fact, the people's Congressperson because he extended his hand. He loved the people. He provided resources and he fought the good fight.

I want to thank you, Congressman Major Owens, for being my friend and a friend of those in Congress, Republicans and Democrats. Most of all, I want to thank Congressman Major Owens for being the friend of poor people around the Nation who could not speak for themselves.

I am glad that his giant footsteps had a great impact on the congressional district he represented. More importantly, he had a great impact on America. He was a soldier on the battlefield for those who could not speak for themselves.

May he rest in peace. God bless him and his family.

Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great American, a fighter for justice and equality, one of the most passionate advocates for educational opportunity, and a man who served in this body with distinction, Major R. Owens of New York. Congressman Owens died Monday, October 21, in Manhattan at the age of 77.

Major Owens was born June 28, 1936, in Collierville, Tennessee. He was educated at Morehouse College, from which he received his baccalaureate degree, and Atlanta University, from which he earned a Master of Science degree. Major Owens later moved to New York where he worked as a librarian before accepting an appointment from Mayor John V. Lindsay to serve as Director of the New York City Community Development Agency. He also served as a faculty member in the Department of Public Administration at Medgar Evers College.

In 1974, Major Owens was elected to the New York State Senate and was reelected to serve a second term in 1978. In 1982, Major Owens won a competitive primary to fill the seat of retiring Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman elected to the House of Representatives and the first woman ever to seek the Democratic nomination for President of the United States.

As the Member of Congress for the 11th Congressional District of New York, Major Owens represented a diverse district and eclectic district centered in Brooklyn, and including low income areas of Brownsville and parts of Bedford-Stuyvesant, the large Hasidic community of Crown Heights, the heavily Caribbean areas of Flatbush and East Flatbush, and the more affluent neighborhoods Park Slope and Prospect Park.

Affectionately known as the "Education Congressman" by his constituents, Major Owens fought tirelessly throughout his twelve terms in Congress to protect and expand educational opportunity for all Americans, especially those from economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds. As he often reminded his colleagues in the House, education was "the kingpin issue." In an article he published in *Black Issues in Higher Education*, he

wrote: "We have to believe that all power and progress really begins with education."

Major Owens served on the House Committee on Government Reform and the Committee on Education and the Workforce. As the Ranking Member on the Education and Workforce Subcommittee for Workforce Protections, Congressman Owens helped lead the fight for minimum wage increases, blocked the attempt to eliminate cash payments for overtime, fought against efforts to roll back or repeal Davis-Bacon and to weaken the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

As Chairman of the Education Subcommittee on Select Education and Civil Rights (1988–94), Congresswoman Owens was one of the earliest and strongest supporters of the Americans With Disabilities Act, which was enacted into law in 1991. In recognition for his yeoman work to pass the ADA, Major Owens was awarded an honorary degree by Galludet University, the world's premier higher education institution serving deaf and hard of hearing people.

Major Owens loved serving in this body and he was a valued member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus. As Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Task Force on Haiti, he led the successful three-year fight which restored the democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Madam Speaker, Congressman Owens was a legislator's legislator. Our prayers and condolences go out to his wife Maria, his sons Chris, Geoff, and Milard; his grandchildren; and to all his friends and loved ones. Major Owens touched so many lives in so many helpful ways that he will always be remembered by people he served so ably and selflessly for more than thirty years.

Madam Speaker, a dear colleague has fallen. We are all saddened at the loss but overjoyed to have had the honor of serving with the distinguished gentleman from Brooklyn, New York, the honorable Major R. Owens.

FIGHTING AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and bring attention to the recent candlelight vigil held in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, honoring the 38 deaths from domestic violence this year.

The vigil, which was organized as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month by the local domestic abuse prevention nonprofit, Cornerstone, was held at Purgatory Creek Park earlier this month. There was an incredible showing of support by members of our community and local police departments and law enforcement for those that are affected by domestic violence.

Madam Speaker, this is an issue which affects families and communities all across our country, and we must do more to put an end to these horrible acts.

Earlier this year, I was proud to author a provision in the Violence Against Women Act to assist domestic

abuse victims in locating safe housing, which is a critical step on the path to recovery, but more work needs to be done to bring attention and an end to domestic violence in our neighborhoods.

REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN MAJOR ROBERT ODELL OWENS

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, like my colleagues, I mourn the death of Major Owens, but I also want to celebrate his life. My purpose for rising tonight is to do just this: celebrate his life.

Major Owens was a person of character who had a great reputation. I had the honor of knowing him through my chief of staff, who was his chief of staff for 16 years. In working with her, she explained to me all of the many things that he was a party to over the course of the years, not only here in Congress, where he worked on legislation to help persons who had disabilities, but also back in his home district, where he was a person who championed the causes of people who were in need.

It means something to me to know that he has this great reputation, but it is equally as important for me to share with people that he did have character.

When I met with him to discuss the hiring of Jackie Ellis, my chief of staff, because she was working with him, and he was contemplating some other things and moving, he explained to me how important it was in this body to keep your word. He explained that, among your friends and your colleagues, your word is the thing that will give you the opportunity to continue to have support in the Congress of the United States of America. His words about character and integrity are still with me.

I suspect that because he was a teacher—and as you know, teachers impact eternity—I will pass on to others what he has done because he passed it on to me, and what his chief of staff caused me to learn vicariously from him will impact my office eternally.

I am grateful to him. I pay tribute to him. I want his family to know that he has been a blessing to me and to my staff and to the people I serve.

God bless you, and thank you, Major.

CONGRESSMAN MAJOR ROBERT ODELL OWENS

Born—June 28, 1936 (Collierville, TN).

Elected to Congress representing Brooklyn's 12th Congressional District from 1983–1992 (98th–102nd Congress).

After redistricting—Represented Brooklyn's 11th Congressional District from 1993–2006 (103rd–109th Congress).

Transitioned to Eternity—October 21, 2013 (Brooklyn, NY).

Father of five children.

First librarian elected to Congress.

Chaired the Brooklyn chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

Past Commissioner of New York City's Community Development Agency.

Served on the Education and Labor Committee throughout his tenure in Congress (From 1987–1993 chaired the Education and Labor Subcommittee on Select Education and Civil Rights).

Served on the Government Reform Committee throughout his tenure in Congress.

Chaired the Congressional Black Caucus Higher Education Braintrust.

Floor manager and original co-sponsor of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Sponsor of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Authored legislation that prevented the Immigration and Naturalization Service from deporting the parents of American-born children under age 18 and legislation that extended citizenship to immigrant children under 12 who were in the U.S. without their parents.

Founder and organizer of the National Commission for African American Education.

Strong Organized Labor advocate—Championed the need for maintaining the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Lead sponsor of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act—Providing for major reforms in the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) Program (Programs designed to aid community agencies in combating urban and rural poverty).

Past chair of the CBC's Haitian Task Force.

Has written several books including: "Roots and Wings", a semi-autobiographical book about his life.

In 2006 was named a distinguished visiting scholar at the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress, where he completed a case study of the CBC and its impact on national politics.

Prior to his death, Congressman Owens taught at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, NY.

OBAMACARE CHOICE ACT OF 2013

(Mr. BARTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to announce to my colleagues in the House that I just introduced H.R. 3348, the ObamaCare Choice Act of 2013.

This is a simple 1½-page bill. It simply lets the American people choose for the next year whether they want to participate in what we commonly call ObamaCare. If it is as good as the President says it is, people will join and get the benefits from it. If, on the other hand, they can't get the software fixed, the policy mandates are unsustainable, and the costs are too high, the American people will choose not to participate. It is a simple bill that makes participation voluntary by suspending the tax for nonparticipation.

So I would encourage all of my colleagues to join as a cosponsor of H.R. 3348, the ObamaCare Choice Act of 2013.

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REMEMBERING THE HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased tonight to lead a Special Order in memory of the life and service of our dear friend, our colleague from Florida, Mr. Bill Young. We will hear from members of the Florida delegation and also from leaders from the committee on which he was a leader, himself.

To lead off tonight in our Special Order in that vein, I am very pleased to yield first to the chair of the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives, on which Mr. Young served so distinguishably, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Let me thank my colleague from Florida for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today with a very heavy heart to honor the memory and service of our dear friend and colleague, Bill Young.

Bill served in this House and he served this country for decades with compassion and distinction. I have not known this institution without him—most of us are in that same situation—and I believe it will take a long time to fill the hole that his absence has left. As an appropriator, he was a role model for all of us. When I became chairman of the committee, I knew I had some very large shoes to fill in following in the footsteps of Chairman Young, among others. He fought with determination and enthusiasm to make this country a better place.

Bill was a champion for our troops and veterans especially, both in the Halls of the Congress and outside. His fierce determination and dedication to our troops and veterans never wavered. As we all know, he and his dear wife, Beverly, were to be found very frequently at Bethesda or at Walter Reed in the city or at a hospital overseas where troops were sick, and they spent hours and hours helping those who were injured.

He was, of course, the chairman of the Defense Subcommittee on the Appropriations Committee for many years. He also served on the Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee, and his thumbprint is very visible in the improved medical care and in the quality of life of our troops, among the many other issues that he held dear to his heart.

Bill was a leader in this House who was able to make his mark with grace and fortitude. He was a lion about the things that he cared about; but he was a gentle lion, and he did things with grace and with a quiet voice until you crossed him on the betterment of our troops. Then Bill Young would let you know where to get off.

I will miss Bill Young greatly as I know all of us will. My prayers are with his family, with Beverly, with his many friends, and with all of those who had the privilege of knowing and working with Bill Young. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. MICA. I thank the gentleman.

We are also pleased to have with us tonight a distinguished leader of the Florida delegation and now the dean of the Florida delegation—our senior member—to pay tribute to Bill Young. I yield to the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Chairman, thank you for the time.

A good man, a warm friend and a true patriot, Bill Young was an example for all of us here in Congress, and it was an honor and a privilege to serve with him. Madam Speaker, the loss of Bill's experience and knowledge will be felt by everyone in this Chamber.

The consummate gentleman from Florida, Bill was always ready to listen to his colleagues on both sides of the aisle, greeting everyone with a smile. Both principled and honest while maintaining civility with his colleagues, Bill never allowed differences of opinion to devolve into partisan bickering, and he worked with Republicans and Democrats to balance our budget as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

A tenacious public servant, Bill dedicated his life to his constituents. His number one priority was ensuring those who serve our country get the help and the services they need to be successful. Improving the quality of life for veterans and for all Active Duty personnel, including those in the Reserve and the National Guard, was Bill's mission. Bill was always there for those returning from combat, visiting and helping our wounded warriors with his wife, Beverly, and providing for our veterans at the medical facility in Bay Pines, which now bears his name.

As chairman of the Appropriations National Defense Subcommittee, Bill oversaw spending by the Pentagon and worked to ensure the readiness of our military in combat. His efforts helped not just those in his district but Americans across the Nation. His legacy will be seen around every corner, from the beaches of Pinellas County to our fighting forces around the world.

A genuine statesman, Bill's accomplishments are as varied as they are numerous. He fought to protect Florida's environment by blocking drilling close to our gulf coast and in helping to restore eroding beaches. With Beverly, Bill helped create a national bone marrow registry with almost 10 million donors registered thus far. Just as he fought for his own district, he could always be counted upon to help us with our constituent needs.

In 1991, in his district, he saved MacDill Air Force Base from closure; and a year later, he helped rebuild and protect Homestead Air Reserve Base in