

Morocco "Roc" Coleman, Robert "Big Bob" Blackwell, Cheryl Holland-Jones, the Educational Corporation of America (ECA), T. Michael Sullivan and the William Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences, and Congressional staff members Ronnie Simmons, Lee Footer, Stephanie Anim-Yankah, Jonathan Halpern, Adam McCombs, George Henry, Hannah Kim, and Reba Raffaelli.

Congratulations on 25 years, during which the journey has been the destination.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 91 on H.R. 3370, Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2013, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATING THE MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ON ITS 45TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE OPENING OF MBDA BUSINESS CENTER AT HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Minority Business Development Agency, MBDA, on its 45th anniversary and commend its commitment and success in promoting the growth and competitiveness of a critical segment of the U.S. economy, the minority business community. For the past 45 years, the MBDA has provided an essential service to this nation, working to level the playing field for minority-owned businesses.

The results speak for themselves. At the time of MBDA's creation there were only 322,000 minority-owned firms in the nation. Today, the number stands at 5.8 million; 215,000 of which are in the City of Houston. Over the last five years in particular, the MBDA has assisted firms gain access to over \$19 billion in contracts and capital resulting in the creation and retention of nearly 60,000 jobs.

Today, the MBDA is celebrating this day in my district by launching a new MBDA Business Center at Houston Community College, which was awarded a three-year \$900,000 grant to operate the MBDA Business Center. HCC's MBDA Business Center will help boost job creation and global competitiveness of minority-owned businesses across the nation. I look forward to continuing to work with MBDA and Houston Community College to create jobs locally so that we may thrive globally.

Congratulations, MBDA, on 45 years of great work. May the next 45 years be even better.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 85, I was unable to attend the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING PATRICK DENEEN

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor an Olympic athlete from Washington State's 8th District, Mr. Patrick Deneen. Mr. Deneen just returned from representing our nation in the XXII Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia. Mr. Deneen is an incredible athlete who has reached the pinnacle of his sport and achieved a well-deserved 6th place finish in the Men's Moguls event.

I applaud both his achievement and the hard work and perseverance that paid off during these games. Simply to attend the Olympics is an honor, and to do so well is a testament to everything Mr. Deneen has accomplished. I thank him for representing America so well, and I am proud to call him a constituent and a Washingtonian.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. BENJAMIN J. LAMBERT III

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my friend and former colleague in the Virginia General Assembly, Dr. Benjamin J. Lambert III, who passed away on Sunday, March 2, 2014.

Benny, as he was affectionately known by his friends, family, and constituents, was a pioneering figure in Virginia politics. We were both elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1977. In 1980, Benny became the first African American elected to represent the Commonwealth on the Democratic National Committee. In 1985, he was elected overwhelmingly to fill the seat vacated by then-Lieutenant Governor Doug Wilder. During my time serving alongside Benny, I always admired his ability to build strong relationships with his colleagues, work across the aisle, and take the tough positions that were not always politically popular but were the ones he believed were right for his constituents.

Benny was born in Richmond on January 29, 1937 to Frances and Benjamin J. Lambert, Jr. He attended Henrico County Schools at a time when they were still racially segregated. He graduated from Virginia Randolph High School in Glen Allen, just outside of Richmond. He went on to earn his undergraduate degree from Virginia Union University, and his graduate degree from the Massachusetts College of Optometry. After graduate school, Benny returned to Richmond and practiced

optometry in the Jackson Ward neighborhood. He was an active member of the Virginia, National and American optometric societies and was chosen as Virginia's Optometrist of the Year in 1980.

Benny came to the Virginia General Assembly after years of political and civic activism, which helped him to become a very influential and effective legislator during his 30 year tenure. He served on several committees in the General Assembly, including Education and Health, General Laws, Privileges and Elections, General Government, and Health and Human Resources. He also has the distinction of being the first African American in the 20th century to serve on the Virginia Senate Finance Committee.

Additionally, he chaired the Subcommittees on Higher Education and General Government, the Brown v. Board Scholarship Commission, and the Lead Abatement Subcommittee. Benny also served as a member of the Joint Commission on Health Care, the Joint Subcommittee Studying the Election Process and Voting Technologies, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission, the Commission on State Employees Health Benefits Reform, and the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus. In 2010, Governor Bob McDonnell appointed him vice chair of the Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring.

Outside of government, Benny had a very active civic life. He was a member of the NAACP, the Richmond Crusade for Voters, the Jackson Ward Civic Association, the Richmond Jaycees, the North Richmond YMCA, and he served on the board of his alma mater, Virginia Union University. Benny was also an active member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Benny devoted his career in and out of public service to the citizens of Richmond and Central Virginia, always doing what he thought was best for his community, regardless of the political consequences.

Mr. Speaker, words alone cannot express the tremendous loss to the Richmond community and the Commonwealth of Virginia with Benny's passing. Benny Lambert was a humble optometrist that achieved so much on behalf of his community during his 77 years of life. My thoughts and prayers are with Benny's wife Carolyn, his children and grandchildren, and his many friends and admirers during this difficult time.

RED BANK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUSINESS MENTOR PROGRAM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, The American Dream is attainable with hard work and dedication. South Carolina is very fortunate to have devoted teachers who dedicated to helping every child succeed. This week, a group of teachers and students from Red Bank Elementary School in Lexington, South Carolina, are visiting Washington to see the government at work. I am very proud of this group of young people, as they are dedicated to achieving a bright future by participating in their school's Business Mentor Program.

The Red Bank Elementary School Business Mentor Program engages children in learning by connecting them with local mentors affiliated with businesses in the Midlands community. Leaders from Michelin Tire Corporation, Lexington Medical Center, Prysmian Group, Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Garden, and the South Carolina State Museum have impacted close to 150 students over the past three years. By connecting the skills each student learns in the classroom to a professional environment, these bright children are given the opportunity to chase their dreams.

As a member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, I am encouraged by the opportunities these young students are able to enjoy and appreciate the business mentors for contributing to their future.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENSACOLA NEWS JOURNAL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 125th anniversary of the Pensacola News Journal. During its incredible 125 year history, the News Journal has been an invaluable resource for the people of Pensacola and Northwest Florida, and we are proud to have such a first-class newspaper in our community.

In 1889, two local newspapermen, John O'Connor and John C. Witt, gathered support from the local business community to start a daily morning paper. The paper, originally known as the Daily News, was first published on March 5, 1889, with a staff of ten people working to write and produce the paper in downtown Pensacola. The newly created paper quickly began to flourish and within a decade had a daily circulation of more than 1,500. Thanks to the success of the Daily News, a rival paper, the Pensacola Journal was started by M. Loftin in March 1897. The following year, the Pensacola Journal became a daily and began directly competing with the Daily News through publication of a highly regarded afternoon daily.

For more than two decades, these two competing papers fought to expand their reach in the growing Pensacola community. While this fierce competition raised the quality of both papers, it also required constant innovation and expansion, leaving them both in precarious financial shape. In 1922, John H. Perry, a Kentucky native, arrived in Pensacola and decided to purchase the Pensacola Journal. Two years later, he purchased the Daily News and merged the two publications to under the News-Journal Company umbrella.

With the reporting resources of both papers now working together and the business acumen of the News-Journal Company leadership, the two papers began an era of unbridled growth and expansion. The News-Journal Company moved to a new larger location in downtown Pensacola; however, because of the meteoric growth of the papers, they quickly outgrew this location and began plans for further development. In order to meet the needs of this growing company, the News-Journal Company funded the creation of an

entirely new street in downtown Pensacola, which was given to the City of Pensacola at no cost to the taxpayer.

With the space available in its new location, the News-Journal Company constructed one of the most modern and advanced newspaper structures in the Southeast. The company's meteoric growth continued throughout the 1950s when it added a new pressroom and brand new state-of-the-art three-unit Goss Headliner Press. By the end of the decade, the paper required even more room to operate its growing enterprise, and by 1960 the News-Journal company headquarters had more than doubled in space and added two additional press units.

Thanks to the two papers' well-earned reputation for quality journalism, the first-rate publication infrastructure, and robust circulations, the News-Journal Company was acquired by the Nation's largest newspaper publisher, Gannett Company, Inc., in 1969 for \$15.5 million. Six years after the purchase, the News-Journal building underwent another renovation, highlighted by the construction of a new plant that was on the cutting edge of newspaper technology.

After operating under the same roof for more than six decades, the Pensacola Daily News and the Pensacola Journal were combined in 1985, to create one morning newspaper called the News Journal. The News Journal carried on the proud traditions of both long-time Pensacola institutions and continued its commitment to meeting the needs of the expanding Northwest Florida community. A new Goss Headliner offset press was installed to enhance the quality of their printing operation, and the paper won several national newspaper awards for investigative reporting and environmental coverage.

In 2004, the News Journal expanded into the digital age during coverage of the devastating Hurricane Ivan. Despite the catastrophic impact of the storm, which caused nearly \$20 billion in economic damages, the News Journal was able to use its generator and one working phone line to transmit photographs and news coverage of the storm to a sister paper to post on the News Journal's website. During this difficult time, the News Journal relayed stories to millions across the world, aid their outstanding coverage earned the newspaper a Pulitzer Prize finalist nomination, the second in the paper's history.

Pensacola's proud newspaper tradition continues today as the Pensacola News Journal celebrates its 125th anniversary. The News Journal continues to provide excellent coverage to more than 31,000 daily and 47,000 Sunday subscribers. In addition, the paper's website, pnj.com, provides constant news to more than 500,000 visitors, logging more than 4.3 million page views per month. The News Journal's tradition of evolving to meet the needs of the community will continue this summer when the company moves into a new digital facility that will help the paper continue to provide the quality reporting that local residents have grown to trust.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the 125th anniversary of the Pensacola News Journal. Freedom of the Press, as guaranteed by the First Amendment, is one of the cornerstones of our Nation's democracy, and it has helped pave the way for American success and innovation. The Pensacola News Journal

is a shining example of the kind of world-class newspaper envisioned by our Founding Fathers. They have enriched Northwest Florida for 125 years, and my wife Vicki and I send our congratulations to all the staff of the News Journal, both current and former, and wish them continued success in the future.

HONORING MIDFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AS ALABAMA'S CLASS 3A BOY'S STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Midfield High School Patriots for their victory in the 2014 Class 3A Alabama State Basketball Championship. On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, I congratulate the Patriots for the tremendous athleticism and teamwork they displayed throughout the season under the outstanding leadership of Head Coach Darrell Barber and his coaching staff. Midfield High School won its second state championship in three years with its victory over Barbour County on Saturday, March 1. These young men and their coaches pursued excellence and were driven by hard work and determination during every game of the season. The Patriots finished the season undefeated in their region and lost only 7 games overall.

As the daughter of a high school basketball coach, I know this decisive victory is the result of the tremendous efforts of both the players and coaching staff of Midfield High School. Coach Barber is known for setting high expectations for his players and assisting them in meeting those expectations. The exemplary leadership and dedicated support from the coaching staff was a major factor in the success of the Midfield Patriots.

In the championship game, the Midfield Patriots defeated Barbour County by 22 points for a final score of 62-40. The Patriots forced 11 turnovers, but only gave up the ball seven times.

In the second half, the Midfield Patriots led by as many as 25 points and never less than 13 points. During the entire fourth quarter, the Patriots never led by less than 20 points. Tournament MVP Aaron Gaines scored 22 points with four 3-pointers. Alvin Murry completed the game with 15 points and 10 rebounds. Jermaine Turner scored 11 points and made eight assists and seven rebounds.

Following the victory, Head Coach Darrell Barber thanked God, his family and the Midfield community for supporting the Patriots throughout the season. He explained how the nay-sayers gave the team motivation making them more dedicated to win. "It gave us a little fuel," he told Al.com following the victory. "As you all know myself and my guys, we play with a chip on our shoulder and we coach with a chip on our shoulder to get this program recognition."

Winning the state championship is a proud moment these boys achieved through hard work and commitment. Members of the team include: Eric Billups, Kelvin Eatmon, Aaron Gaines, Ahmad Isaac, Derrick Morse, Jabril Muhammad, Alvin Murry, Joseph Murry, Jeremy Shields, Jermaine Turner, and Cedric Russell.