

HONORING DR. CHARLES R. ROOTS

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Dr. Charles R. Roots on his retirement and to recognize his tireless work as the Senior Pastor of the Free Methodist Church in Ripon. Ministering to thousands, Pastor Roots has earned the respect of fellow clergy and civic leaders alike.

Although born in New Haven, Connecticut, on September 5, 1948, he claims California as his home. In 1969, he began his military career as an enlisted Marine. He served with numerous commands during his nine years in the Marine Corps: AE-A School, NAS Jacksonville, Florida; VMFA 531, MCAS El Toro, California; VMCJ 1, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan; VMCJ1 det A (Cubi Point, the Philippines and Da Nang, South Vietnam); VMA 133, NAS Alameda, California; and 4th LAAM Battalion, Fresno, California. He was commissioned as a Navy Chaplain December 23, 1983. After attending the Navy Chaplain Corps Basic Course, NS Newport, Rhode Island, he served the following commands: Chaplain, MAG 39, MCB Camp Pendleton, California; Command Chaplain, USS *White Plains* (AFS4), NS Guam; Base Chaplain, NCS Stockton, California; Post-Graduate School, School of Theology at Claremont, California; and Chaplain at NS Rota, Spain. Within the active naval reserve he has served as: Chaplain, 1st MEFREL 220, Treasure Island, San Francisco, California; Battalion Chaplain, 1st Battalion 14th Marines Artillery, Alameda, California; Battalion Chaplain, 2nd Battalion 23rd Marines Infantry, Encino, California; Plans and Policy, Navy Chief of Chaplains Office, Washington, DC (The Pentagon); Command Chaplain, NARC, San Jose, California; and Command Chaplain, I MACE, Camp Pendleton, California.

In November of 2002 he was called back to active duty for two years in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) I & II. He served as the Commanding Officer of 1st MEFREL 220, NMCR Alameda, California. He was chosen by the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) as "Chaplain of the Year" for 2004. His last duty assignment was the Wing Chaplain for the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, New Orleans, Louisiana. He retired in September 2008 after 34 years of total service.

During his illustrious military career, he has received many awards, including: Legion of Merit; Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Meritorious Service Medal; Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal; Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2nd Award); Joint Meritorious Unit Award; Navy Unit Commendation; Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation; Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal; Navy Fleet Marine Force Ribbon; Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal; National Defense Service Medal with two stars; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Vietnam Campaign Medal with one star; Iraq Campaign Medal with EGA device; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal with EGA device; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal; Navy/Marine Corps Sea Service Deployment with three stars; Navy/Marine

Corps Overseas Service Ribbon; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with hour glass and Mobilization devices; Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with bracket and palm leaf; Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation with bracket and palm leaf; Vietnam Service Medal; Marine Corps Rifle Expert Badge; and Marine Corps Pistol Expert Badge.

During his service, he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Radio and Television Broadcasting from San Jose State University in 1976. He continued his education by graduating from Western Evangelical Seminary in Portland, Oregon with a Masters of Divinity in Biblical Studies in 1979. In 1995, he earned his Doctor of Ministry Degree in Pastoral Counseling from the School of Theology at Claremont. Charles R. Roots is an ordained minister through the Free Methodist Church of North America.

Dr. Roots settled in Ripon, California and is the Senior Pastor of the Free Methodist Church. As a volunteer, he serves as the chaplain for the Ripon Police Department and is a member of the International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC). In addition, he is the past president of the Ripon Ministerial Association; the Police Activities League (PAL); a past director of the Ripon Chamber of Commerce, and numerous other community organizations. He belongs to the Military Chaplains Association (MCA); The Naval Reserve Association (NRA); the Reserve Officers Association (ROA); the Marine Corps Association; the Marine Corps Club of Stockton, California; the Joe Rosenthal Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association (MCCCA); the vice president of the Ripon Arts League (RAL); and the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA).

During his spare time, he became a published author: *The Sandwich Generation: Adult Children Caring for Aging Parents*. He also writes a weekly column, *Roots in Ripon*, for the *Ripon Record* newspaper. He is currently writing a historical novel about his great grandfather, Rev. Daniel Thatcher Lake, a Civil War veteran and one of the last of the Circuit Riding Preachers in the South.

Dr. Roots is married to the former Isaura Maria Cabral of Los Banos, California. They have two married daughters, Laura Christine Spence and Jennifer Kathleen Sousa, and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Charles Roots for his unwavering leadership, and recognizing his accomplishments and contributions as Pastor of the Free Methodist Church. Dr. Roots serves as an example of excellence to those in our community.

HONORING MICHELLE MILLBEN

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to take this opportunity to thank one of the most dedicated members of my Judiciary Committee staff, Michelle Millben, for her service to both the Committee and the House of Representatives. This month she will be leaving to join the White House in the Office of Presidential Personnel as the Outreach and Recruitment Director (Congressional Affairs).

To say that Michelle is a multi-talented attorney would be an understatement. A native of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Michelle received her Bachelor's degree in Music Performance, with honors in the violin and piano, from Oklahoma City University. Her musical talent is evidenced by a strong performance resume, impressively amassed while pursuing her legal education. She has performed in gospel choirs backing up Bruce Springsteen's Super Bowl halftime show and also sang at concerts for President Obama on the National Mall and at his first inauguration. In addition, Michelle has appeared as a choral singer in TNT's "Christmas In Washington" and participated as a vocal performer in the annual Kennedy Center Honors, providing background vocals alongside music legends such as Sting, James Taylor, Mavis Staples, Steven Tyler, Carrie Underwood, Heart, and Garth Brooks.

Michelle realized a longstanding dream of coming to Washington by studying at the Georgetown University Law Center as a visiting student during her third year of law school. She was ultimately awarded her Juris Doctor from The University of Oklahoma College of Law in 2009 and joined the Committee staff that fall. Michelle has served as a key resource to Members and staff on both sides of the aisle. While working as an Oversight Counsel, Michelle focused on such issues as the foreclosure crisis, the Fair Housing Act, and oversight of the Department of Justice. After our transition to the minority, Michelle's portfolio grew to encompass matters impacting women and women's health, civil rights, voting rights, human rights, election administration, and campaign finance. Michelle had significant staff responsibility for important pieces of legislation, most notably the National Defense Reauthorization Act of 2011 (H.R. 1540), the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 2014 (H.R. 3899), and a number of significant civil rights bills that have promising bipartisan support. Michelle has also worked to spearhead efforts around the filing of amicus briefs on behalf of Members of the House Judiciary Committee in the landmark Supreme Court cases of *Shelby County v. Holder* and *McCutcheon v. FEC*.

While her work on the Judiciary Committee staff clearly evidences a strong commitment to Federal service, Michelle has also taken the time to focus on service to youth and families in her newly adopted home state of Virginia and the City of Alexandria. Michelle currently serves as a Commissioner for the City's Redevelopment and Housing Authority, which strives to provide affordable housing and economic opportunity for city residents, and also serves on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington's DC region. As an Associate Minister at the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church, Michelle also directs children's programs during the summer for the congregation's Vacation Bible School which gathers almost 1,000 people nightly during one week in June, while also leading music ministry to hundreds of students during their weekly Tuesday bible study at the church.

Michelle's energy and dedication to community service have not gone unnoticed. She was accepted into the Political Leaders Program Class of 2014 at the bipartisan Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership in Virginia. Michelle has been awarded the Dawn Lawson Leadership Development Award from the Virginia Leadership Institute, and was also

awarded the Oliver Hill Award for Social Activism by the National Black Law Students Association for her efforts in battling against social injustices.

On behalf of the Judiciary Committee, its staff, and this distinguished body, I would like to thank Michelle for her exemplary work, generosity, sense of humor, and loyalty over the past five years. She will be sorely missed as a colleague, advisor, and friend. We wish her the best of luck and extend to her our deepest gratitude.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H. RES. 567, ESTABLISHING  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
BENGHAZI

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2014*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule for H. Res. 567, which establishes a Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi.

I oppose this resolution because it is a distraction, intended by the House Republicans to divert public attention from their failure to address the problems Americans care about like creating jobs, raising the minimum wage, passing immigration reform, and extending unemployment insurance benefits to the long-term unemployed.

Mr. Speaker, instead of working with Democrats to address the priorities of the American people, Republican leaders are gearing up to exploit the tragic attacks in Benghazi with another deeply partisan review.

There have already been seven reviews of that terrible attack: one by the State Department Accountability Review Board, two bipartisan reviews in the Senate, and four reviews in the House—producing more than 25,000 documents and dozens of interviews with high-level officials throughout the government.

Mr. Speaker, responding to endless, repetitive and partisan congressional requests has cost the Department of Defense and other agencies thousands of man-hours and expenses running “into the millions of dollars,” according to Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs Elizabeth King.

Throughout these reviews, Republican Members have made numerous accusations in public that have turned out to be untrue after further investigation, undermining the credibility of their investigations and the House.

Mr. Speaker, our colleagues across the aisle have shown no interest in making the Select Committee on Benghazi any different from the extreme and counter-productive partisanship that has defined their previous investigations into the Fast and Furious and the IRS, and their dogged efforts to hold the Attorney General in contempt of Congress.

For example, in the resolution establishing the committee, Republicans stack the committee with seven Republicans to Democrats’ five, and explicitly exempt the new committee from adopting written rules.

From the pointless vote to hold former IRS official, Lois Lerner, in contempt, to the latest committee on Benghazi, it is clear that Repub-

licans will do anything to divert attention away from their do-nothing record.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better. They want and deserve for us to work together to solve the real problems facing our country.

I urge my colleagues to reject this rule and vote against the underlying resolution.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JENNIFER  
PETT-RIDGE

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in Livermore, California.

The Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Science has selected Dr. Jennifer Pett-Ridge to receive funding as part of the Department’s Early Career Research Program (ECRP). Her project, entitled “Microbial Carbon Transformations in Wet Tropical Soils: The Importance of Redox Fluctuations,” was selected by the Office of Biological & Environmental Research.

The ECRP is crucial to our ability to maintain American leadership in science. It was created to support the development of individual research programs of outstanding scientists early in their careers and stimulates research careers in the disciplines supported by the DOE Office of Science.

Dr. Pett-Ridge is the lead scientist of LLNL’s Genomic Science Biofuels Scientific Focus Area and is a Deputy Group Leader of the Isotopic Signatures Group within LLNL’s Chemical Sciences Division. She received her B.A. in biology and environmental studies and her M.S. in forest sciences from Yale. Her Ph.D. in soil microbial ecology from the University of California at Berkeley was earned in 2005.

Awardees were selected from a large pool of university and national laboratory-based applicants. Selection was based on peer review by outside scientific experts.

I am privileged to represent LLNL and its brilliant scientists like Dr. Pett-Ridge. Their hard work and skill are what keeps America secure and at the forefront of scientific innovation. I want to congratulate Dr. Pett-Ridge and wish her well in her work with ECRP.

SUCCESS AND OPPORTUNITY  
THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER  
SCHOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2014*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to amend the Charter School Program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Success and Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Act, a bill that strengthens the existing charter schools pro-

gram while including important reforms for accountability and access.

Public charter schools are an important testing ground for new ideas and innovative practices that can benefit our entire school system. Today’s bill supports the expansion of high quality charter schools while making vital improvements to the program to increase oversight and access. While current law requires charter schools to be open to all students, this bill would encourage enrollment and retention of underserved populations like students with disabilities and English language learners. It also enhances charter authorizing practices to include quality controls for student achievement and management.

I applaud the Education and Workforce Committee for working in a bipartisan fashion to bring this legislation to the Floor. I hope that we can apply that same spirit of cooperation to fully reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and improve education for all students in every public school.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAMARAC  
CITY COMMISSIONER DIANE  
GLASSER

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend Diane Glasser, who currently serves on the City Commission for Tamarac, Florida. I have been lucky to work with Diane for many years to make Florida a better place for all Floridians, but, for over 40 years, I have been even luckier to call Diane a friend. It is a 40-plus year friendship that has meant the world to me, and I thank her for it.

Diane hails from Mill Basin in Brooklyn, New York. She went to high school and college in New York, but then in 1973, we in Florida were lucky enough to entice her down our way—getting to avoid those New York winters probably helped us look like a good place to live too. Diane moved to Florida with her husband who was a 100 percent disabled veteran having served bravely in World War II. Diane’s husband, due to the injuries he suffered fighting for his country, was unable to work, but this did not stop him from being a tireless advocate for veterans. I think Diane would agree that her husband’s advocacy helped in part in laying the ground work for her future successes as an advocate for the members of our community.

After working in the construction industry for 12 years, Diane was ready for something new. Mr. Speaker, my friend Diane turned her tremendous energy and insight to helping the members of her community by volunteering for her local Democratic Party. Of course, Diane was not going to volunteer here and there. No, instead, Diane, through dedicated effort, went from starting as a volunteer and worked her way to First Vice Chair of the Florida Democratic Party. In addition, she was elected to the Democratic National Convention as a National Committeewoman, and was appointed to the Electoral College.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all Floridians and members of the Democratic Party, I would like to thank Diane for her tireless work in pursuit