

yet that is what the Administration's proposed Postsecondary Institutions Ratings System will attempt to do.

On December 17, 2013 the Department of Education solicited in the Federal Register a Request for Information on the Postsecondary Institution Ratings System (PIRS), suggesting that the Federal Government knows better than students and their families what makes a college or university valuable and appropriate for each individual. A rating system, administered by the Federal Government and potentially tied to Federal student aid, will drive postsecondary institutions to standardization, thereby decreasing choice, diversity, and innovation.

I rise today in opposition to this proposal and instead stand in support of students and their families—they know best what will meet their educational needs. The House Resolution I offered today with my friend, Congressman CAPUANO, strongly supports the quality and value of diversity in our higher education system and strongly disagrees with the Administration's proposal to rate our Nation's colleges and universities.

It is true that all taxpayer dollars, including those spent on Federal student aid, should be spent efficiently; however, it is also important that we trust students' free choices and allow for postsecondary institutions to be evaluated, not only by their accreditation and Federal eligibility for federal aid, but also by the free market choices of the students they are competing for.

Our Nation's colleges and universities are as diverse as our students. Historically black colleges, women's colleges, faith-based colleges, research universities, career training schools, work colleges, land grant universities, institutes for the arts, and other specialized institutions all offer a world of opportunity and innovation in postsecondary education. We must protect this American tradition and reject any proposal that will intentionally, or unintentionally, destroy it.

#### HONORING FRED WILFORD

#### HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2014*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Fred Wilford on his retirement after thirty-six years of service to his community as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Sagaponack Common School District in Sagaponack, New York, located in my district. Mr. Wilford has served his community and his country with dedication and distinction, and I am proud to call him a resident of New York's first congressional district. In addition to his long-time work on the school board, he is also a fifty-year veteran of the local volunteer fire department and a veteran of the United States Navy.

First elected to the Sagaponack school board in 1978, Mr. Wilford has served twelve consecutive terms on the board. He is known as a dedicated and caring person who always works for what is best for the school, its students and its teachers. His connection to the school district stretches back to his grandmother, Maebelle Clarke, who taught at the school at the beginning of the Twentieth Cen-

tury and where she met her future husband, Fred Topping. With its historic little red schoolhouse and one teacher, the Sagaponack school district has one of the few remaining one-room schoolhouses in the country.

Mr. Wilford, who has lived all of his life in Sagaponack except for the four years he served in the Navy, attended the Sagaponack schoolhouse as did his mother, Elmira, his six siblings and his four children. During his tenure on the board, he served as board president, vice president and trustee. His wife Ellen served as a member of the school maintenance support staff, the scholarship committee and the shared decision making committee throughout his tenure on the board.

"I love the job, I love the school, and I love what I do," Mr. Wilford, said recently about his plan to retire this month. "It's been part of my life for so many years that you hate to give it up."

In addition to his service to the school, Wilford also served for fifty years as a member, past chief and commissioner of the Bridgehampton Fire Department. He worked for the Long Island Lighting Company for over thirty years and currently operates an estate care business.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the school district will miss Fred Wilford's expertise and commitment after he retires. On behalf of New York's first congressional district, I would like to wish him well and thank him for all he has done for our community.

#### HONORING SAMUEL GRANBY, JR.

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2014*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, communities are built upon the shared values and good will of neighbors. Samuel Granby, Jr., known to his friends as "Granby," has continually demonstrated his selfless commitment to his community and to enhancing the lives of others. He lives by the principle, "Service to Mankind."

Granby was introduced to mortuary science while serving our great nation. He was responsible with transporting deceased personnel to the morgue, even though he had suffered from second and third degree burns as the result of a lightning strike. He received an honorable discharge from the United States Army in 1955, and later graduated from the McAllister School of Embalming.

Granby married his high school sweetheart, Ayris Evans, and the pair is blessed with two children, Ayris and Rev. Lamont. Granby and his wife also have three wonderful grandchildren.

An entrepreneur at heart, Granby dreamed of owning his own funeral service. Granby operated his funeral business out of the Wiley's Funeral Home, before opening Granby's Funeral Service, Inc., on April 27, 1984. Granby's is truly a family enterprise; his wife and children have helped him manage and grow the business.

After 37 years of service, Granby retired as a general supervisor for the United States Postal Service in 1988. He was very popular with his coworkers and would train his staff for other opportunities within the USPS.

Granby has shown the same type of steadfast dedication to his community as he has to his profession. He served as the Chairperson for the Carnegie Hall concert given by the Friends of the United Negro College Fund Choir, which raised money for the United Negro College Fund and helps defray travel costs for the United Negro College Fund Choir.

He is also a member of: Prince Hall, Fidelity Lodge #97 of Free and Accepted Masons; Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Epsilon Sigma Chapter; 369th Veterans Association, Westchester District; Saint Luke's Episcopal Church's "Men on a Mission" and the Williamsbridge Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Granby has been recognized and honored by several organizations for his service. Among his honors, Granby and his wife jointly received the "Pierre Toussaint Medallion" from the New York Archdiocese in 2007.

He strongly believes that education is the key to uplifting the community, and in the spirit of his beliefs, Granby's Funeral Service has established a scholarship fund for college-bound students and those seeking to attend vocational school.

Samuel Granby's story illustrates the power of striving for our dreams. I applaud him for his commitment to our nation through his service in the armed forces, to his community and to his family.

#### RECOGNIZING DR. CORA L.E. CHRISTIAN

#### HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2014*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend a medical colleague who has been a trailblazer for over 30 years, in the area of health care in my district of the U.S. Virgin Islands, in the wider Caribbean and in the national arena as well.

Dr. Cora L.E. Christian was the first native female to become a medical doctor in the Virgin Islands and this Saturday, June 14th, she will be honored for a lifetime of dedicated public service, by the Virgin Islands Medical Institute, (VIMI), a group that she founded in 1977 to improve the quality of health care for all territorial residents. Today I join them in paying tribute to a fellow physician, administrator and public servant for her vision, courage and diligence as she worked to make a difference in the lives of the people of our community.

Dr. Christian completed her medical studies at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, her residency in Family Practice at Howard University Medical Center and her Masters in Public Health at Johns Hopkins University.

Upon completion of her studies, she returned to the Virgin Islands to serve the economically depressed area of Frederiksted, St. Croix. There, she served as emergency room physician, and Physician in Charge of the Ingeborg Nesbitt Clinic. In 1977, she became Assistant Commissioner of Health for the Virgin Islands, and served in that capacity for over 15 years, spanning three political administrations. She was in charge of health services on the island of St. Croix as well as having territory wide responsibility for ambulatory

care, chronic diseases, immunization, maternal and child health, public health laboratories, neighborhood health centers, the sexually transmitted disease program, the HIV program and family planning programs. Dr. Cora Christian is credited with the development of the Frederiksted Health Center, both its renovations from the old hospital into a functioning health center and its staffing with qualified professionals. She also spearheaded and managed a regional system of preventive and health promotion activities for the territory.

In 1991, Dr. Cora Christian became the Medical Director of HOVENSA, one of the largest oil refineries in the Western Hemisphere located on St. Croix and served as the Chief Medical Consultant until its closure in 2012. She is board certified in forensic medicine and is President of the V.I. Chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. She has been President, Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Virgin Islands Medical Society, past Public Relations Chair of Project Impact—St. Croix, Board Member of the St. Croix chapter of the American Cancer Society and Board Member of the Interfaith Coalition. Dr. Christian chaired the Foundation of the University of the Virgin Islands for 10 years, and is currently still a Board Member. Dr. Christian continues to lead the Virgin Islands Medical Institute, which brings over \$3 million to the territory with each contract cycle.

On the national level, Dr. Christian has served as Vice-Speaker and member of the Board of Directors for the American Health Quality Association, the national quality improvement organization. She was consultant to the NY/VI AIDS Education and Training Center and was past Chair of the by-laws committee and member of the Commission on Government Advocacy for the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). She is delegate to the Congress of Delegates of AAFP and Sergeant of Arms for the Congress. In 2013, she received the AAFP Humanitarian Award for outstanding community service. From 2004 to 2010, she served on the National AARP Board overseeing over 36 million members. She was a member of the Health Insurance Trust and numerous committees of the AARP National Board.

Dr. Christian has also served as President of the Caribbean Studies Association, an association of scholars from across the Caribbean, Latin America, the United States, Canada and Europe that studies Caribbean issues. She is well published and a frequent presenter and public speaker.

Dr. Christian has been honored as the Virgin Islands Physician of the Year in 2003, the VIMI Physician for Community Service in 1997, and Best Doctor in American in 1999. She is a Paul Harris Fellow.

Dr. Christian is married to Dr. Simon B. Jones-Hendrickson, Ambassador from St. Kitts & Nevis Federation to CARICOM and Latin America and she has two children, Nesha, a practicing attorney and Marcus, a biologist and entrepreneur.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask the 113th Congress to join me in congratulating Dr. Christian for her tireless work on behalf of the health and well being of the people of the Virgin Islands.

## HONORING EAGLE SCOUT RECIPIENTS

### HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2014*

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate five young men from Dyersburg, Tennessee: Alan Cecil, Daniel Clegg, Peyton Hickman, James D. Johnson III, and Hunter Webster who have achieved the Eagle Scout award, a Boy Scout's highest honor. This recognition is well deserved and represents these young men's commitment to public service.

In order to become an Eagle Scout, each young man had to earn more than twenty-one merit badges as well as serve their fellow troops in a variety of leadership roles. They also had to develop and plan an Eagle Scout project to benefit their local communities.

Achieving the status of Eagle Scout is a huge accomplishment, and I commend these gentlemen for being positive role models to young people across our great state and the nation through their commitment to community service.

Once again, congratulations to these five young men for their outstanding accomplishment. I am very proud of them all and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

## HONORING JOHN MUSTO

### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2014*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, education is the bedrock of our society. Education teaches our children to dream and allows them to achieve their ambitions. Teachers are thus one of our most valuable assets.

Albert Einstein once noted that, "it is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." Their passion, drive and dedication to their students is inspirational. We entrust them with the responsibility of shaping our leaders, which is why today I must commend one such individual, John Musto.

John is the Assistant Principal for Student Affairs at St. Raymond's High School for Boys. He began his 23-year tenure there as a history teacher and later became Chairman of the department, before becoming an assistant principal.

John is driven by a desire to give back to the community that has afforded him such opportunity and fond memories. He was instilled with the values of service and volunteerism by his father and the deep respect he fostered toward volunteers within Morris Park Community Association, who patrolled the neighborhood to ensure the community was a safe place to grow up. John has continued to demonstrate this sense of commitment through his volunteer service as a basketball coach at St. Francis Xavier for the past three decades.

Along with his wife Liz, John is the proud father of three daughters: Sabrina, Gabriella and Olizia. His family undoubtedly shares in his pride in our community and for his life of commitment to service. Much of what is accomplished within our community by devoted indi-

viduals is also a reflection of the strong support they receive from their families.

Mr. Speaker, teaching is not a job, it is a vocation. I join with the Morris Park Community Association in honoring John at their 40th Annual Dinner Dance. I wish John Musto every success in the future, as he continues to work to shape the lives of our nation's youth into tomorrow's leaders.

## THE OCCASION OF THE TENTH AN- NIVERSARY OF REVEREND DOC- TOR STEVE BLAND JR. AS PAS- TOR OF LIBERTY TEMPLE BAP- TIST CHURCH OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN

### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2014*

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Dr. Steve Bland Jr. on the occasion of his Tenth Anniversary as the Senior Pastor of the congregation of Liberty Temple Baptist Church in Detroit, MI.

As the son of the late Reverend Steve Bland Sr., who was pastor to Bethesda Baptist Church, Dr. Bland grew up immersed in the teachings of Christ. It is hardly surprising that, like his father, Dr. Bland would heed the call and desire to serve his community. Dr. Bland entered the ministry full-time after working at a Kansas City accounting firm in the early 1980's. He is also the former Minister of Music, Youth Pastor and Assistant Pastor to the late Rev. Dr. Mac Charles Jones at the St. Stephen Baptist Church of Kansas City, MO. After faithfully serving for over 14 years in Rockford, Illinois as Pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church, Dr. Bland was called to serve the congregation at Liberty Temple Baptist Church.

Under his leadership, the congregation at Liberty Temple has flourished with an increase of well over 900 members in a brief time. During his 10 years as Senior Pastor, Dr. Bland has brought a great sense of spiritual revitalization and excitement to Liberty Temple Baptist Church and the city of Detroit. Dr. Bland is a dynamic leader who offers a vibrant worship experience, inspirational teaching, and uplifting preaching, while meeting the holistic needs of the church, his family, and surrounding community.

As a Miles Jones Fellow and doctoral graduate of the Samuel Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, Dr. Bland's intellect and achievements have been sought out leading to appointments on several boards and leadership positions in the BM&E State Convention, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Michigan District Baptist Association, the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit & Vicinity, the Ministers Council of the Michigan Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. of Detroit, Michigan and the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

In every way possible, Dr. Bland finds avenues through which he can further God's kingdom and genuinely pursues them. Dr. Bland's grand efforts have been strengthened by his wife, Phyllis, and his three children, Steven, Brandon, and Sydney.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the profound impact that