

the Western New York community and wishing her and her family the best in all of their future endeavors.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

**HON. TULSI GABBARD**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2014*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of continued funding for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant.

In 1921, Congress enacted the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA) to help Native Hawaiians who, after the overthrow and annexation of the Kingdom of Hawaii, were largely disenfranchised from their traditional homelands. HHCA sought to provide for the rehabilitation of the Native Hawaiian people through a homesteading program that would reconnect them with former Crown Lands.

In 1959, the State of Hawaii adopted the HHCA as a provision of its constitution in accordance with the Hawaii Statehood Admissions Act, Public Law 86–3. This reaffirmed the responsibility that this nation has to its indigenous people and forever embedded the mission of HHCA in Hawaii's modern history and society.

The Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant provides the financial means to support HHCA and its mission of promoting Native Hawaiian well-being through homesteading. This is an important step towards reconciliation for the historical injustices that underline the social and economic inequality of our Native Hawaiians.

Safe and affordable housing helps to empower families to be productive members of society. Housing fulfills physical needs by providing security and shelter from weather and climate. It fulfills psychological needs by providing a sense of personal space and privacy. It fulfills social needs by providing a gathering area and communal space for the family. These factors combine to help ensure the well-being of our future generations, and are why continued funding for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program is so important.

Homesteading provided through this program helps to ease Hawaii's high cost of living and allows Native Hawaiians to remain connected to their traditional homelands. I strongly urge funding for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program, and would like to express my support for the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act as well.

HONORING RABBI AVI AND TOBY WEISS

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2014*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, there is a saying that "talent does what it can, while genius does what it must." The inner strength and spirit which moves Rabbi Avi Weiss and his wife Toby cannot be contained. The genius of their shared vision and commitment to social justice shines brightly and for all to see.

Rabbi Weiss' work isn't limited to the confines of any city or synagogue, nor has he shied away from raising his voice to lift the oppressed. He says that he is an activist because he has no other choice; it is something he must simply do.

I believe that my dear friend responds to the calling laid out by his faith. Rabbi Weiss is compelled to act in the service of others and to live by the spirit of tzedakah. It is reflective in all that he has done and all that he strives to do.

It is why his voice will always be heard in support of the oppressed. It is why he participated in a hunger strike urging the release of Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky. It is why he protested for the right of Soviet Jews to leave their homeland and seek haven elsewhere and it is why he denounced horrendous acts of genocide in Darfur.

Rabbi Weiss founded Yeshivat Chovevei Rabbinical School in order to train a new generation of Orthodox rabbis to live with the spirit of openness that he himself exemplifies. Under Rabbi Weiss' guidance, students learn how to serve not just the Orthodox community, but also the larger Jewish diaspora. Yeshivat Chovevei Rabbinical School is a family that continues to grow as each graduate takes their place in the rabbinate. I have watched its legacy grow and pray for its continued prosperity.

Rabbi Weiss is so well-known, that whenever I tell people I am from the Bronx they immediately ask if I know Rabbi Weiss. I cannot be any more pleased to say that not only does he live in my District, but he is also my neighbor and dear friend.

I would be remiss if I neglected to say that behind every good Rabbi is an equally strong woman who supports him. Toby Weiss has been both his guiding light and the foundation that gives him the strength to carry forth his work.

Religious leaders embody our hopes, aspirations and even our trepidations and fears. We look to them for guidance—for a path in which to follow—so that we might overcome the challenges before us in our own lives.

Rabbi Avi Weiss and his wife Toby are truly exemplary individuals and leaders within the Bronx community. Please join me in celebrating their legacy as Yeshivat Chovevei Rabbinical School honors them for their service and enduring commitment to making the world a better place to live.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PETER WELCH**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2014*

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 277, the Nadler Amendment to H.R. 4745. As a strong supporter of this amendment, my intent was to vote "yes."

IN MEMORY OF DON DAVIS AND HIS REMARKABLE IMPACT ON THE GREATER DETROIT COMMUNITY

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2014*

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a great citizen of the State of Michigan, Mr. Don Davis, a pioneer in music and business. Mr. Davis passed away on Thursday, June 5, 2014, at the age of 75. He is survived by his wife, Kiko, and his three children.

A three-time Grammy winner, Don knew that he had a passion for music at an early age and once told the Detroit News, "The music industry chose me. If there is a gene for music, I had one."

Don began his music career as a session musician in the early sixties for Detroit based Motown Records. He played guitar on their hits, "Money (That's What I Want)" by Barrett Strong, a song that would later be covered by The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, and The Doors, and "Bye Bye Baby" by Mary Wells, reaching number 45 on the Billboard Charts.

As a songwriter, Don experienced his first major hit in 1968 with Johnnie Taylor's "Who's Making Love," which peaked at number 5 on the Billboard Charts. In 1976, he collaborated with Johnnie Taylor again, producing the song "Disco Lady", the first single to be certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America.

Twenty years later, Don would expand beyond his outstanding music career to become the CEO and Chairman of the First Independence Bank, the only African-American owned bank in Michigan.

First Independence Bank, which operates a number of Detroit branches, has been named by Black Enterprise Magazine as one of the top 15 African-American owned banks in the country. In 2012, coming out of the Great Recession, First Independence Bank was able to record the most profitable year in its history and increase its total assets to \$185 million.

As CEO, Don took his responsibility to his community seriously. In his 18 years as CEO, Don made it a priority to improve his community by focusing on its housing needs and providing excellent banking services to small business owners and families in Southeast Michigan.

Over many years, Don grew First Independence Bank into a trusted financial institution with loyal customers. Don believed that First Independence Bank could provide quality services to communities and customers who were previously overlooked by other banks. He was successful in advancing this mission.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss Don greatly and I know he will be missed by many in our community. I ask that you all join me in honoring his lifetime achievements and service. He will remain in our thoughts and his legacy will live on in Michigan and across our Nation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 254, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

IN RECOGNITION OF SCHUYLKILL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2014 AWARD WINNERS CINDY PETCHULIS, BOB GREENE, MARIA ROWLANDS, THERESA POTHERING, JOSEPH JONES, SR., THE COTLER GROUP, AND THE SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE & COUNSELING CENTER OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY (SARCC)

### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce 2014 Award Recipients. Each year the Chamber selects several individuals and organizations that have contributed to economic and community development in Schuylkill County. The honorees this year are Cindy Petchulis, Bob Greene, Maria Rowlands, Theresa Pothering, The Cotler Group, and the Sexual Assault Resource & Counseling Center of Schuylkill County.

Cindy Petchulis of the Providence Place Retirement Community is the 2014 Business Woman of the Year. Cindy was critical in helping expand the Providence Place Facility, and is well known for her positive attitude and love of community. A caring people-person, Cindy excellently maintains Providence Place as a peaceful community where its patients can live and its employees can be productive.

Bob Greene of Pioneer Pole Buildings, Inc. is the 2014 Business Man of the Year. Bob treats all his employees as family, which encourages retention and helps the company grow. He strives to be on the cutting edge of his business and wants his company to be the best. Bob is always willing to help the people of Schuylkill County. He is a sponsor for Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Wounded Warrior Project, Pottsville Lions Car Cruise, 4-H, and his local community Easter Egg hunt. Under his leadership, his company has been recognized by the National Frame Builders Association with the Building of the Year award.

Theresa Pothering and Maria Rowlands are the Entrepreneurs of the Year, as they established an accounting firm, Rowlands and Pothering. With their strong leadership skills and expertise, they were able to turn a dream into a successful business. Clients enjoy that Rowlands and Pothering is a place where "everybody knows your name," and clients do not hesitate to recommend them.

The Cotler Group is the 2014 For Profit Organization of the Year. The Cotler Group has been family-owned for over 60 years and has contributed significantly to Schuylkill County's quality of life and economic vitality. Through its various holdings, the multifaceted business group provides employment for many in the County. The Cotler Group is well known for the development and expansion of one of Schuylkill County's premier golf courses, Mountain Valley. Their ventures bring out-of-county businesses and individuals into the area, enhancing sales for many local vendors. This company and its owner, Steve Cotler, work quietly behind the scenes and are involved with a wide and varied number of organizations and charities.

The Sexual Assault Resource & Counseling Center of Schuylkill County (SARCC) is the 2014 Non-Profit Organization of the Year. This non-profit engages all individuals, families, and communities in healing from sexual violence plus advocates and educates to eliminate sexual violence. It has served approximately 7,500 individuals within Schuylkill County who turned to them for support. SARCC works hard to make Schuylkill County a better and safer place to live. This organization serves its clients on a person-to-person basis and is instrumental in prevention education in schools throughout the county. All of their services are available for free to all men, women, and children in Schuylkill County.

Lastly, the 2014 James Stine Lifetime of Service Award honoree is Joseph Jones, Sr. Mr. Jones exhibits outstanding commitment and achievement, and his efforts have dramatically benefited Schuylkill County. After graduating from the Shamokin public schools, Mr. Jones served three years in the Navy during World War II as a Lieutenant, JG in the Pacific Theater. He then went to Ursinus College, Dickinson School of Law, and New York University law school for an LL.M. He served as the editor-in-chief of the Dickinson Law Review and graduated first in his J.D. class. Mr. Jones was admitted in 1950 into the Pennsylvania Bar Association and moved to Pottsville where he began practicing law with Hicks, Williamson & Friedberg. He is now a senior partner with the firm, which is now known as Williamson, Friedberg & Jones, LLC.

Mr. Jones has also chaired successful capital fund raising campaigns for the Schuylkill United Way, Greater Pottsville Industrial Development Corporation, Salvation Army, Boy Scouts of America, Pottsville Free Public Library, Good Samaritan Hospital, Pennsylvania State University—Schuylkill Campus, Ursinus College, Hawk Mountain Council B.S.A., Pottsville Hospital, Pottsville Area Development Corporation, and Schuylkill Economic Development Corporation.

It is a great honor to recognize the Schuylkill County Chamber of Commerce 2014 Award Recipients. These leaders are creating opportunity and raising the quality of life for others in Schuylkill County. May they continue to flourish for many years to come, and may they continue giving back to the community that supports them.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

### HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the provision within the Transportation Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations legislation to fund the contract tower program, which includes the tower at the Dubuque Regional Airport, and for funding of the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program. While I voted against the THUD legislation, I do support these provisions. Unfortunately, the overall bill cuts important transportation and housing programs, and on balance, the bill is not a win for Iowa.

The contract tower at the Dubuque Regional Airport is extremely important to commercial air service in the Dubuque region, and helps ensure the safety of passengers flying in and out of the Dubuque airport. The tower is also an important training tool for students at the University of Dubuque's professional pilot training program. Additionally, the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program provides important services to our veterans including housing services for homeless veterans. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that these programs are fully funded, while working to improve the other transportation and housing components of the bill which need significant improvement.

HONORING RABBI DR. JONATHAN AND TZIPPORAH ROSENBLATT

### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Riverdale Jewish Center has fostered spiritual development and sought to nurture strong bonds between the Shul and the greater Riverdale community for 60 years. Anchored by his wife Tziporah, Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Rosenblatt has been at the helm of the RJC for nearly 30 years, and their guidance can be felt throughout the lives of those whom they have touched.

Rabbi Rosenblatt is a true scholar. He was ordained by the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University in 1982 after having studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion in Israel. Rabbi Rosenblatt earned both a B.A. and M.A. in Comparative Literature from Johns Hopkins and a PhD in Modern British Literature from Columbia University.

Rabbi Rosenblatt has invested in the next generation of Jewish leaders, by training and mentoring young Rabbis. Under this direction,