

process. This makes the “Quick Count” being planned by a coalition of Nigerian civil society groups vital in providing any confidence that the vote on February 14th reflects the will of the people.

In the face of all the challenges faced by Nigeria, its allies—such as the United States—must understand fully the context of this situation in order to determine how best to be of help. We hope that the Nigerian Government resulting from the February elections will be accepting of outside advice and assistance. Nigeria is the proverbial “too big to fail” nation. A collapse of its economy, increase in refugees to its neighbors or spread of its homegrown terrorism to the region and the broader international community clearly will be problematic for more than just Nigeria. Religious extremism already is a problem elsewhere in the Sahel region. Last month, Muslim extremists destroyed more than 40 Christian churches in Niger because of what they felt was irreverent depictions of the prophet Mohammed—not in Niger but in Europe. The hearing was just the beginning of our renewed efforts to help Nigeria address the problems that threaten its stability. We must be honest with Nigerians and ourselves about the difficulties we both face. This is why we have asked our witnesses to give their honest assessments of where we are in the various situations Nigeria encounters and to suggest what actions our Government can and should take to be most helpful. It is in our mutual interest to do so, and therefore, we will continue our efforts to restore full military and security cooperation between our two countries.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL BROADCASTERS

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable service that local broadcasters bring to North Carolina’s 8th Congressional district.

From coverage on the most serious issues facing our communities to commentary on local sports teams, we often turn to our local television and radio stations to provide us with timely and relevant news coverage.

Just this week, North Carolina experienced a winter storm that impacted my constituents. It was local broadcasters who were there to deliver emergency communications, weather forecasts, tips on staying safe, and information regarding school closures.

Time and time again, the tireless efforts of our local broadcasting teams produce in-depth reporting that keeps citizens informed on a variety of topics that are important to their lives.

They often lead the way in generosity in our communities and encourage citizens to lend a helping hand to their fellow neighbor.

It is an honor to extend these remarks thanking the local broadcasters in North Carolina’s 8th Congressional district for their service to our communities.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH—WEEKSVILLE (BROOKLYN, NY)

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, as Black History Month comes to a close, I would like to share with you the untold story of Weeksville. Weeksville, though rarely mentioned among the historically black and vibrant neighborhoods, was very dynamic and was founded by African-American free men in Brooklyn during the 19th century.

In 1838, a former Virginia slave named James Weeks bought land from another free African-American man. Several African-American investors, political activists and other free men from the South started moving to this plot of land bought by Mr. Weeks. As more and more people moved to this Promised Land, it became known as Weeksville. By 1850, more than 500 African-American free men were residing in Weeksville.

According to historical reports, the population of Weeksville was quite diverse, two of the residents were born in Africa, 40% of the residents were south-born and the rest of the inhabitants were from all over the East Coast. Not only was Weeksville diverse, but it was also a successful and independent community. One-third of the men in the neighborhood over the age of 21 were landowners, the community had its own churches, had a school which was the first school in the U.S. to integrate both staff and students, and a newspaper called “Freedman’s Torchlight”. In the 1860s, the national headquarter of the African Society Civilization was located in Weeksville and the neighborhood also housed an orphanage called the Howard Colored Orphan Asylum.

Today, all that remains of Weeksville are four small cottages known as the Hunter Road houses. Fortunately, the Weeks Heritage Center formed in 1972 has managed to raise funds to preserve the houses as National Historic places. Preserving such landscapes is important to educate our children and to embrace the beauty of their heritage.

If you want to learn more about Weeksville, I invite you to read the book “Brooklyn’s Promised Land: The Free Black Community of Weeksville, New York” by Judith Wellman. In this book, Professor Wellman provides details about the everyday lives of the inhabitants of Weeksville and also narrates the rise and fall of this promising community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, on February 26, 2015 my vote on roll call no. 98 was not recorded electronically. I would like to state that I intended to vote “no”.

TRIBUTE TO THE TRINITY COLLEGE BANTAMS MENS SQUASH TEAM—2015 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 2015 National Team Championship (NTC) Men’s champions, the Trinity College Bantams. On Sunday, February 22, the men secured their 15th national title and Potter Cup.

Their accomplishments continue to raise the standard for athleticism and achievement. I would like to congratulate each member of the team, Coach Paul Assaiante, and all the fans and supporters who made this great victory possible. Also, the Trinity’s women’s squash team deserves special recognition for their strong season under Coach Wendy Bartlett.

I cannot communicate these achievements more articulately than the Hartford Courant did in its editorial published on February 23rd: Trinity College Bantams Rule Men’s Squash Roost.

I submit the text of that article.

[From The Hartford Courant, Feb. 23, 2015]

TRINITY COLLEGE BANTAMS RULE MEN’S SQUASH ROOST

Congratulations to Trinity College’s men’s squash team, which defended its home court Sunday and brought home its 15th national championship since 1998. The Bantams reclaimed the crown they have lost only lost four times in 19 consecutive finals appearances. Once the mouse that roared among the indoor racket game’s longtime Ivy League establishment, Trinity has gone from upstart to pacesetter.

Under the steady tutelage of coach Paul Assaiante, who has guided the team’s remarkable rise to the squash elite, the Bantams won a handy 7-2 victory over St. Lawrence University, which was making its initial appearance in the national finals. It was the first time that no Ivy League team was in the Potter Cup finals since the championship began in 1989. Among college champions crowned since 1942, only the U.S. Naval Academy and Trinity have supplanted Ivy League schools as national champions. In a sign of the sport’s broadening reach, the University of Rochester and Franklin and Marshall College were other non-Ivy contenders this year.

Trinity’s women’s squash team, the 2014 national champions, deserves its own congratulations for a strong season that fell one win short of defending its title. The women, under coach Wendy Bartlett, lost in the national finals to the Harvard University women on Feb. 15.

RECOGNIZING DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT’S (DIA) 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Denver International Airport’s (DIA) 20 years of service to the people of Colorado. The airport started serving flyers on February

28, 1995 and has brought travelers to and from Denver safely and swiftly ever since.

Today, Denver International's CEO, Kim Day, and the airport staff operate the fifth-busiest airport in the country. DIA has become an economic engine for the state of Colorado, stimulating more than \$26 billion in annual revenue for the region.

Additionally, DIA now supports more than 183,000 jobs, with an estimated annual payroll of nearly \$8.5 billion. The airport has grown to serve more than 170 nonstop destinations around the world in nine countries, representing new gateways to cultural and economic opportunities in Asia, Central America, Europe, and beyond.

In addition to serving the people of Colorado, DIA set the standard for environmentally responsible airports. Denver International's translucent fabric canopy takes advantage of our 300 days of sunshine per year to create a passively lit interior. Additionally, the airport hosts a 9,000 panel solar array that produces 3.5 million kilowatts of power.

For me, DIA's distinctive profile that mimics both the snow-peaked Rockies and the Native American teepees of Colorado's history means that I have arrived home.

I congratulate everyone involved with the airport in reaching this milestone anniversary and extend my sincere gratitude for their continued success and service to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF RON FRANKEL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ron Frankel who was chosen to receive the 2015 Community Care Award by the Hillsborough Schools' Associated Parents Groups. This award is reserved for an individual who has made sustained and significant contributions that have broadly touched the lives of our children. Not only is he a terrific science teacher, but you will not find anyone in Hillsborough or the entire school district who doesn't sing the praises of Mr. Frankel as the best administrator of the 6th grade Outdoor Ed program.

The 6th grade Outdoor Ed program is a one-week field trip to Jones Gulch for all 6th graders in the school district—that is approximately 200 students each year. This is no ordinary field trip, it's a life-changing experience for our children. It also is no ordinary field trip to coordinate; it is a complex, time-consuming and detail oriented process that most teachers would not want to lead. But then there is Ron Frankel, the outstanding science and music teacher who has singlehandedly coordinated the Outdoor Ed program for over 15 years. He spends countless hours before, during and after the trip arranging for teachers to attend, booking high school aged counselors, figuring out cabin assignments, holding parent information meetings, fielding all questions, and most importantly, putting the children at ease while they prepare for their big adventure away from home. Outdoor Ed is undoubtedly one of the most memorable experiences for all Hillsborough City School District students.

Ron's enthusiasm for this program is unmatched and he deserves credit for making it

so successful. As a former student of Crocker Middle School and a teacher there for almost two decades, he has a unique connection to the students and the school. He lightens up the campus environment with music and laughter. Among his wonderful creations are the Ro-Sham-Bo World Championship, Pickle Day, Open Mike during recess and the 6th grade music appreciation class. Ron's quiet, gentle and understated way of teaching instills an honest and deep passion for learning in all of his students. He sets them on a path to become caring and engaged citizens.

I had the good fortune to have both my children taught by Mr. Frankel who said his passion for science made even the mundane interesting to 12 and 13-year-olds. Awesome! Words from children say it all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to recognize a model teacher in Hillsborough, California whose embrace of his students, science and life are an inspiration to parents and his colleagues. Ron Frankel truly deserves to be honored with the 2015 Hillsborough Schools' Community Care Award.

RECOGNIZING DR. KNEELAND YOUNGBLOOD

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Kneeland Youngblood, a physician, businessman, and former presidential appointee, who will be recognized by the Texas Legislative Black Caucus on March 1 for his marked achievements and distinguished success as a prominent African-American business leader and compassionate and dedicated civil and public servant.

Born from the town of Galena Park, Texas on December 13, 1955, Dr. Youngblood has led a remarkably storied life. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts in political science at Princeton University in 1978. During his studies at Princeton, Dr. Youngblood attended courses at Wamborough College in Oxford and the University of Stockholm in Sweden. He went on to earn his Medical Degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center in 1982. While at the University of Texas, he broadened his studies at the Cairo University Medical School.

Dr. Youngblood completed his medical residency in emergency medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine and subsequently returned to Texas and began medical practice at the Medical Center of Plano. In 1997, Dr. Youngblood left the medical profession and co-founded the Pharos Capital Group, LLC, which manages over \$200 million in technology, business services, and healthcare company investments.

During the Clinton Administration, Dr. Youngblood was appointed to the Board of Directors for the United States Enrichment Corporation charged with providing nuclear fuel to countries hoping to utilize nuclear power as a sustainable energy source. He took his work to South Africa in 1998 where he met Nelson Mandela and was inspired to pen From Sit-In to Soweto, the famous essay that details his

reflection on time he spent as a student activist protesting South African businesses at Princeton to his work in South Africa. Furthermore, Dr. Youngblood was a part of First Lady Hillary Clinton's Health Care Task Force.

Since then, Dr. Youngblood has served in various senior management roles for a plethora of corporations and organizations. Some of these notable organizations include: the Teacher Retirement System of the State of Texas; AMR Investments; Starwood Hotels & Lodging; Burger King, and The Gap.

Please join me in recognizing Dr Kneeland Youngblood for his immeasurable contributions to the Dallas community, the great state of Texas, and to the legacy of African American entrepreneurship in America.

HONORING SHERMAN L. JENKINS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sherman L. Jenkins, who was named Outstanding African-American of the Year by the City of Aurora's African-American Heritage Advisory Board.

Mr. Jenkins has been a key figure in the growth and development of the city of Aurora, Illinois. From 1991 until his retirement in 2012, Mr. Jenkins worked as assistant director and then as executive director of the Aurora Economic Development Commission. Under his leadership, the Aurora Economic Development Commission fostered the creation of the city's first downtown Master Plan, formed the Seize the Future Development Foundation, and worked to bring the Chicago Premium Outlets and many other infrastructure and business projects to Aurora, Illinois.

In addition to his business career, Mr. Jenkins has been committed to serving his community. He is a member of the Ely Chapter of Lambda Alpha International, Rotary Club of Aurora, Past Chairman and Board Emeritus of the Aurora Public Library Foundation, a board member of the Northern Lights Development Corporation, and an Advisory Council member of the Board of Directors for the Quad County African American Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Jenkins is the President of SLJ Development Corporation and SLJ Communications, Inc., publisher of the monthly digital magazine Tell Me Somethin' Good, which focuses on African-American life outside the City of Chicago.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Jenkins as he receives the Outstanding African-American of the Year Award from the City of Aurora's African-American Heritage Advisory Board and thank him for his service to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 27, 2015

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, due to the tragic shooting of three young Muslim students in my district, I was unable to vote during Roll Call 79, the motion to recommit H.R. 644, the Fighting Hunger Incentive