

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING DOCTOR RICHARD STRANGE AND HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MUSICAL COMMUNITY

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard E. Strange, who is completing his 34th year with the Tempe Symphony Orchestra.

Before beginning his professional career, he earned his Doctorate of Musical Arts in Performance from Boston University, and also holds degrees from Wichita University, and the University of Colorado. He then went on to teach music classes to elementary and high school students before being drafted to serve in the Korean War. As a former teacher myself, I commend Dr. Strange's commitment to emphasizing music education as an essential component of the learning process. And as a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I honor Dr. Strange's service to our country and his continued commitment to our nation's service members both past and present.

Richard is also well known in the band and orchestra community. For many years, he served as the guest conductor for multiple popular symphonies, such as the Texas Wind Symphony and the Carnegie Civic Symphony. Dr. Strange also devoted much time to directing prominent bands for the U.S. Marine Corps., U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, and U.S. Coast Guard.

In addition to holding music clinics all over the world, Dr. Strange has received a myriad of awards honoring his significant contributions to the musical community. His efforts have certainly had a profound impact on me as well as musicians and audiences around the world.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Dr. Richard Strange for not only his 34 years with the Tempe Symphony Orchestra, but also for his commitment to our veterans and for the tremendous success of his entire musical career.

HONORING MR. ELMER DUCKINFELD

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Exton resident Elmer Duckinfield, whose tremendous volunteer spirit and constant compassion have earned him the 2009 Safe Harbor Andrew Dinniman Humanitarian Award.

Elmer first served his country in the Army and Navy and has not stopped looking out for others since that time. He is a founding volunteer and a former Board Member at Safe Harbor, which is a nonprofit shelter serving single homeless men and women in the West Chester area.

Safe Harbor is not the only nonprofit agency benefitting from Elmer's genuine charity, humility and drive to make the world a kinder place for everyone. He has eagerly helped more than 70 nonprofit agencies in southeastern Pennsylvania during the last year, logging more than 15,000 miles in his car and contributing countless hours.

Whether it is collecting bread and pastries for St. Agnes Parish, safely driving pregnant homeless women to emergency shelters or tracking down donations to replace an industrial dishwasher at Safe Harbor, Elmer always stands ready to help anyone in need.

Elmer will receive his much-deserved humanitarian award during the Safe Harbor Gala on Saturday, April 18 in the Atrium of QVC.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Elmer Duckinfield for his exemplary service and never-ending desire to improve the lives of others and the quality of life in his community through outstanding acts of kindness.

HONORING TENNESSEE'S NURSES DURING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK, MAY 6-12, 2009

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor all nurses nationwide and to celebrate National Nurses Week, which begins on May 6, 2009. The week long commemoration honors all nurses, and ends on May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday.

This year's theme, "Nurses: Building a Healthy America," addresses the important role nurses have in our society. Research has shown that when there are more registered nurses working in health care facilities, there are lower mortality rates, shorter lengths of stay, fewer complications, and lower costs.

As a member of the Congressional Nursing Caucus, I have consistently supported legislation protecting nurses' rights and funding increases for nursing education. There is much work, however, that still needs to be done.

Currently, there is a national nurse shortage. By the year 2020, it is predicted Tennessee alone will have a shortage of 9,495 registered nurses. I hope that National Nurses Week will mark the beginning of a trend in the recruitment and retention of nurses throughout our country.

Undoubtedly, we have all been positively affected by nurses at some point in our lives. Whether they have cared for a family member, a friend, or a loved one, we can all be grateful for their hard work and service to our communities.

I want to use this opportunity to thank nurses in Tennessee and across the country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, during the consideration of H.R. 1664, Pay for Per-

formance Act, I inadvertently voted "aye" on the Bean Amendment (rollcall vote 180). I had intended to vote "nay," and want the record to reflect that I share Chairman FRANK's concerns that this amendment, which would exempt recipients of TARP capital investments from the bill's requirements while taxpayer funds were still outstanding, is contrary to the intent of the bill.

IN HONOR OF DALE SKILLICORN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Dale Skillicorn of Watsonville, California. Dale passed away on March 14, 2009 at the age of seventy-one, leaving behind a city better for his efforts. He was an extraordinary community leader who served as the city of Watsonville's Mayor Pro Tempore and had served as a city councilmember, representing the city's 7th District, since 2002.

Dale was born on April 4, 1937 in Watsonville, California. He graduated from Watsonville High School then attended Monterey Peninsula College and San Francisco State University. Dale spent more than twenty years in public service positions. He served on the Santa Cruz County Planning Commission for fourteen years, and then spent five years as Santa Cruz County Parks Commissioner. In 2002, Dale was elected to represent Watsonville's District 7 on the city council. He was reelected in 2006 and in 2008 was selected as the Mayor Pro Tempore by his peers on the city council. Dale brought a wealth of knowledge and a unique perspective to the city council.

Dale Skillicorn's public service career will be remembered for his dedication to green job creation and advocacy for the Pajaro Valley's agriculture industry. He played a key role in bringing the Alternative Construction and Energy Expo to the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. In addition, many residents in Watsonville will remember Dale through his work as a volunteer in many organizations located in the Pajaro Valley.

Madam Speaker, Dale Skillicorn touched the hearts of everyone he came into contact with, was a pillar to the city of Watsonville. He lived his life as an active member of the community, who was driven by compassion to help others. I am certain I speak for the entire House in extending our heartfelt sympathy to Dale's wife of 29 years, Jan Skillicorn; his son, Mark Skillicorn; and his two stepdaughters, Valerie Justus-Rusconi and Christina Justus-Garcia.

HONORING ROBERT FAY ROCKWELL, JR.

HON. ERIC J.J. MASSA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Fay Rockwell Jr. Bob Rockwell was born November 8th, 1911 in Bradford, PA. He attended Whittier College in California where he became friends with fellow

student, Richard M. Nixon. He moved to Corning, NY in 1933 to run the local department store (The Rockwell Company) owned by his grandfather. Soon after, he departed to serve in the 70th Construction Battalion (the Seabees) in World War II. He was stationed in North Africa and Oakland, CA.

Upon his return to Corning, he became close friends with Frederick Carder, founder of world-famous Steuben Glass. Later he amassed the world's largest collection of Frederick Carder Steuben Glass. His liking of aesthetics wasn't limited to glass art; Bob started collecting Western Art including Remingtons and Russells in the early 1960's for display in his department store. He donated most of these two collections to what was then called The Rockwell Museum. This museum got its first home in 1976 in an old hotel in downtown Corning. During this time, he became president of both the Corning Chamber of Commerce and the Corning Rotary Club. In 1983 the Rockwell Museum of Western Art opened in Corning's refurbished old city hall building and has been popular with the great numbers of tourists who visit the area. The multimillion dollar value of Bob's donated art and glass is a testament to his generosity, but his legacy is further enhanced by his compassion and help to his fellow man.

HONORING REVEREND A.D. KING

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reverend A.D. King and to recognize his many contributions on behalf of social justice and peace around the world.

Alfred Daniel Williams King was born July 30, 1930, in Atlanta, Georgia, the youngest of the three children of Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr., and Alberta Williams King. Reverend King shared his family's passion for the ministry and social justice. He graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1959. That same year, he also became pastor of the Mount Vernon First Baptist Church in Newnan, Georgia.

The book of Proverbs says, "Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the rights of the afflicted and needy." Reverend King lived his life according to this maxim. He believed that war was never the solution and that non-violent means will always overcome.

Whether it was participating in a lunch counter sit-in, strategizing the March on Selma, or organizing the demonstrations that would ultimately lead to the passage of the Civil Rights Act, Reverend King was there, active, engaged, and defending the rights of the afflicted and needy.

Like his brother Martin, Reverend A.D. King passed from this life at the much too young age of 39. His life wasn't full of years, but his years were full of life.

As we recognize the 40th anniversary of Reverend A.D. King's passing this July 21st, I hope that we can all learn from his example of righteousness and citizenship, and shape a better future for ourselves and our posterity, as he did for us.

Reverend King was survived by his wife, Naomi Barbara King, and his five children.

Today I honor Reverend A.D. King, and the entire King family, for their contributions and service to America. Their example gives us all a lasting reminder of what can be achieved when we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

HONORING MR. WILLIE BRANDON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Willie Brandon, who will celebrate his 103rd birthday on June 12, 2009.

As a young boy, Willie and his sister Lizzie grew up in Readyville, Tennessee. His parents, Charles and Jimmie Brandon, were sharecroppers. At the age of 12, his father moved the family to Illinois where he worked as a janitor. To help his father support the family, Willie dropped out of school to work.

Willie credits his long life to the fact he's never quit working. For many years, he worked as a cook at the James K. Polk Hotel, City Café, Smyrna Air Force Base, Lamb's Grill, and Po Folks. He also picked and sold blackberries, cut and sold timber, and cut grass.

Willie is now the keeper of the Rutherford County courthouse, a historical place many people pass through, whether for business or to sightsee. He is the caretaker of the same steps on which, more than 150 years ago, his grandfather Jim Brewer was sold as a slave and sent to Virginia.

Willie has a daughter, Anne, and one of his proudest achievements is that she earned a college degree. Willie also has a stepson, three granddaughters, two great-granddaughters and one great-great granddaughter.

Willie's service to his community throughout his life is truly admirable. Willie, you're a great man and you have given us all someone to look up to.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR CHARLES LONG, BOONEVILLE, KENTUCKY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the Bluegrass State's most impressive politicians and the longest serving Mayor in the great Commonwealth of Kentucky, Mayor of Booneville, Mr. Charles Long.

Since being elected to the office of Mayor 50 years ago, Mayor Long has set a high standard for public service and politics in Booneville. As a politician, Mayor Long has accomplished a rare political success by having never been contested in an election. The people of Booneville, Kentucky have stood behind Mayor Long and threw their support behind him for 50 consecutive years.

Understanding his legacy of public service provides insight to his longstanding political success. Mayor Long serves the county seat of the third poorest county in the United States

but despite the obstacles created by poverty, Mayor Long has brought an insurmountable measure of hope to Owsley County through city water and sewer projects. One hundred percent of the city of Booneville is served by city water, as well as 98 percent of the county. Upon completion of an ongoing sewer project, half of Owsley County will also have sewer service.

Mayor Long understands the necessities of the constituents he represents. Everyday modern privileges, like water and sewer, that are so often taken for granted, are a desired commodity for people in the most rural parts of our Nation. Through hard work and determination Mayor Long has been able to meet the needs of Booneville and bring city water and sewer to an area of the country that had waited a long time for this benefit.

In addition to his success in public service, Mayor Long is also celebrating 70 years of marriage to his lovely wife, Ruth. They have raised two children and their family continues to grow with grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mayor Long is an honest and caring family man whose work ethic is unmatched—in 50 years he still hasn't missed a day in City Hall.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a dedicated public servant in my home state of Kentucky, Booneville Mayor Charles Long. We should all strive to be as dedicated to the people we serve, as Mayor Long has been for more than five decades. I congratulate Mayor Long on his tenure in office, his 70th wedding anniversary and wish him all the best in the years to come.

CHINESE DEFECTOR CONFIRMS SYSTEMATIC GOVERNMENT REPRESSION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the following article which appeared in the March 19 edition of The Washington Times. Li Fengzhi, a former intelligence officer at the Ministry of State Security, revealed that the agency is tasked with repressing religious and political dissent among the Chinese civilian population and bolstering the rule of the Chinese Communist Party in addition to gathering secrets from overseas. I urge my colleagues to carefully read Mr. Li's chilling account of the Communist Party's systematic repression of religious and political dissidents.

[From the Washington Times, Mar. 19, 2009]

CHINESE SPY WHO DEFECTED TELLS ALL

(By Bill Gertz Contact)

A veteran Chinese intelligence officer who defected to the United States says that his country's civilian spy service spends most of its time trying to steal secrets overseas but also works to bolster Beijing's Communist Party rule by repressing religious and political dissent internally.

"In some sense you can say that intelligence work between two countries is just like war but without the fire," Li Fengzhi told The Washington Times in an interview aided by an interpreter.

Mr. Li worked for years as a Ministry of State Security intelligence officer inside