

World Famous Apollo Theatre, over the years has been the home club of choice and hang-out for many of Harlem's renowned entrepreneurs and personalities. Since 1942, Showman's Jazz Cafe has showcased top musicians for Harlem and International audiences, as Mona, Co-Owner and retired Son of Sam New York City Police Detective Al Howard, and former barmaid "Lil" Pierce refer to as "family."

Madam Speaker, The Friends of Showman's roster include luminaries and entertainers like Count Basie, Billy Eckstine, Sammy Davis, Jr., Charles Honi Coles, Leroy Myers, Gregory Hines, Pop Brown, Nat Davis and Savion Glover. Personalities like Jesse Walker, Joe Yancy and Jimmy Booker. Performers like Bill Doggett, George Benson, Seleno Clarke, Irene Reid, Jimmy "Preacher" Robins, Gloria Lynne, Joey Morant, Akiko Tsuruga, Grady Tate, Frank Dell and the Prince of Harlem Lonnie Youngblood.

Mona has always been, and still is a "Hands-On" person and as Operations Manager she along with her dedicated and energized staff, is responsible for the reputation that Showman's has maintained for being "The Jazz Club in Harlem" since it was founded back in 1942. For her service to the community, Mona has been honored to receive a "Woman of the Year" award from the Tioga Democratic Club, the Women's Ministry Achievement Award, and a special award from the Greater Harlem Uptown Chamber of Commerce Association. In 2009 Ms. Lopez became a partner in Showman's Jazz Club.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 29, 2009, on rollcall number 216 I am not recorded. This rollcall vote on S. Con. Res. 13, the Conference Report to a Concurrent Resolution setting forth the Congressional Budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010 and budgetary levels for fiscal years 2009 and 2011 through 2014, occurred while I was absent from the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

I would have voted "nay" on S. Con. Res. 13 because the budget significantly increases the Federal deficit and passes the burden of payment on to future generations of Americans. The reserve funds singled out for healthcare reform, climate change, affordable housing, and Medicare alone represent a dramatic expansion of the powers of the Federal government. I am committed to voting to improve fiscal responsibility and to reduce the size and power of the federal government. As a result of that commitment, I would not support this resolution. On April 2, 2009 the House of Representatives voted in favor of the House Budget Resolution (233-196), on that vote, I am recorded as voting "nay."

TRIBUTE TO JAMES GRABAU

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize James Grabau, a resident of Boone, Iowa, and president of R. H. Grabau Construction Inc.

James, who has been the president of R.H. Grabau Construction Inc. since 1984, was recently honored with The Master Builders of Iowa "Build Iowa Award." The award is given to one Master Builder member each year who best exemplifies skill, integrity, and responsibility in the construction industry and in the member's community.

James has offered his time and talents to many community organizations. Among many other contributions, he has served as President of Boone's Future, the Boone Chamber of Commerce, Boone's Industrial Development Corporation, and the Master Builder's of Iowa. He has served on the boards of Boone County YMCA and Hawkeye Federal Savings Bank. Additionally, he has served as Global Ambassador for the Rotary Group Study Exchange to Australia, Church Elder, and Chairman of the Congregation of the Trinity Lutheran Church. Through his work, he has been honored with such awards as the Al Kinney Award, DMACC Alumni Award, National Leadership Award, and the Associated General Contractors of America Chapter President of the Year Award while President of the Master Builders of Iowa.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending James Grabau for his professional contributions to the construction industry, his leadership and dedication to representing Iowa in his career, and committing time to his community. I consider it an honor to represent James and his family in Congress, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING STACEY DONALDSON 2009 MISSISSIPPI TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the 2009 Mississippi Teacher of the Year, Stacey Donaldson.

The Teacher of the Year program, sponsored by the state Department of Education and the Mississippi Teacher Center, awards certified public school teachers for their outstanding performance. Donaldson, a 37-year-old Murrah High School English teacher, was selected for exhibiting leadership, excelling in the classroom and being active in her community.

Stacey, a graduate of University of Southern Mississippi, obtained a bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism and a minor in speech communications. She worked as a broadcast journalist before changing careers and becoming a teacher. Stacey earned a master of teaching degree from William Carey College and became a national board certified teacher

and completed the Advanced Placement Institute at Millsaps College.

Prior to teaching at Murrah H.S., Ms. Donaldson taught at Bassfield High School in the Jefferson Davis School District and at Sumner Hill Junior High in Clinton, MS. "The art of teaching is bigger than the subject one teaches," Donaldson said. It is no surprise to those who know Stacey best that she would be recognized for her achievements. Donaldson's father, Allen Hall, "noticed his daughter's potential and encouraged her to be the best she could be". With this in mind, Stacey serves as a member of the Murrah site council and sponsor of the school's Not Here Club, which discourages students from substance abuse, as well as coordinates Murrah's Seatbelt Safety Project.

Stacey's husband, Johnny Donaldson, describes her as passionate, hardworking and devoted. She is the mother of two daughters, 10-year old Camaryn and 5-year old Cailyn. In addition to her role as wife, mother and teacher, Stacey finds time to give back to her church and community. She is a member of Greater New Jerusalem's scholarship committee and is a young women's ministry volunteer for the Sims House Stewpot Ministries.

I am very proud of Ms. Donaldson and all of her accomplishments. She is truly a remarkable example of the talented, dedicated and hardworking teachers that help to educate Mississippi's best and brightest children.

Please join me today in congratulating Ms. Stacey Donaldson, the 2009 Mississippi Teacher of the Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 29, 2009, on rollcall number 223 I am not recorded. This rollcall vote on H.R. 1913, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009, to provide Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes, and for other purposes, occurred while I was absent from the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Violence, whether it's based on a perceived or actual threat, is of enormous concern when it is combined with constitutionally protected rights. Race. Color. National Origin. Religion. Gender. Disability. All of these fundamental rights are protected by our Constitution and hate crimes themselves have additional protection in Section 280003(a) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. Any hate crimes perpetrated in violation of either law should be fully prosecuted by the U.S. Department of Justice and we, as the DOJ's appropriators, should give them all the resources they need to prevent any hate crimes from occurring.

I believe existing federal law is more than adequate to prosecute hate crimes and, as such, should I have been present I would have voted "nay."

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 627) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act. Last week, I hosted my first telephone town hall meeting and my constituents called in with questions and concerns about what can be done to stop the deceptive practices by credit card companies. I was pleased to tell them that I was a cosponsor of this bill, which provides a sensible approach to reforming major credit card abuses and improving consumer protections for cardholders.

Credit cards have become an integral part of the American economy, offering consumers instant access to a convenient, flexible source of financing. Unfortunately, more and more Americans are turning to their credit cards to help pay medical and utility bills, buy groceries, and make ends meet in this troubled economy. Credit card debt now consumes a sizeable portion of the average family's income. To make matters worse, the playing field between card companies and consumers has become increasingly uneven in recent years. A credit card agreement is a contract between a card company and a cardholder, but these companies have taken advantage of their customers with deceptive billing practices and hidden fees. Meanwhile, money that families are forced to divert to these unfair rates and charges could be better spent on goods and services that could help bolster our struggling economy.

Cardholders deserve more bargaining power, and the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act helps level the playing field. Cardholders are entitled to accurate information and the right to make decisions about their own credit. This bill will ban interest rate increases on an existing balance unless the borrower is 30 days overdue and requires card companies to give cardholders notification 45 days before any interest rate increase. This legislation also protects vulnerable consumers from fee-heavy subprime cards and prohibits issuing cards to minors. H.R. 627 would also ban "universal default," where a card company raises the interest rate on one card if the cardholder misses a payment on a separate credit card or their credit score lowers. All of the provisions in this bill are the result of careful study and analysis, and I believe this deliberative approach has produced a very balanced and moderate bill.

Mr. Chair, instead of looking the other way while Americans fall deeper into debt, Congress must protect their financial interests and put an end to the tricks and traps used by credit card companies to undermine a competitive market. The balanced reforms in the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights will help do

just that, while also helping to foster fair competition and the values of the free market. I encourage all my colleagues to vote for H.R. 627.

TRIBUTE TO DR. TOM RENZE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Dr. Tom Renze, Principal of Woodbury Elementary School in Marshalltown, Iowa, on receiving the Dr. Carmen P. Sosa Leadership Award.

The Dr. Carmen P. Sosa Leadership Award recognizes administrators who exhibit outstanding leadership and advocacy for English language learners. Woodbury School has a dual language program and helps students learn English or Spanish as a second language.

Dr. Renze credits the award and success of the dual language program to the efforts of and support from the teaching staff and parents of the school's students. This award comes at a special time for Dr. Renze, who is retiring at the end of the 2009 school year.

I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in thanking Dr. Renze for his work with the dual language program and service to the Marshalltown Community School District. I consider it an honor to represent Dr. Renze and his family in Congress, and I wish him the best in his future retirement.

HONORING MR. THOMAS R. RAMSEY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2009 inductees to the Phoenixville Area School District Wall of Fame.

Thomas R. Ramsey Jr. and Leo J. Scoda are well-deserving recipients of this honor thanks to their outstanding service to students and constant commitment to improving the quality of life in the community.

Mr. Ramsey, a Phoenixville native, has shared his knowledge of television broadcasting with high school students since 2002, helping launch Phantom Television. In addition to informing students and staff with daily morning announcements, the station provides great coverage of concerts, sports and other scholastic events. Mr. Ramsey also gives back to the community through his service on Schuylkill River Heritage Center Board and the Donald J.L. Coppedge Scholarship Committee.

Mr. Scoda dedicated 35 years to teaching biology at Phoenixville Area High School where he also guided the boys' tennis team to amazing 196-0 record in PAC 10 play and 33 Chest-Mont and PAC 10 league champion-

ships. He also has been most active in civic life by serving as Mayor of the Borough of Phoenixville since 1998.

The school district and community members will honor the two men during an induction ceremony on May 5, 2009 at Phoenixville Area High School.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Thomas R. Ramsey Jr. and Leo J. Scoda for their tremendous community spirit and exemplary dedication to the youth of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania.

LOCAL ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, while it is an honor to be able to participate today's debate, I must say that it gives me feelings of both joy and sorrow. Sorrow, because in the year 2009, I would hope that we should not have a need for such a bill.

I find it most ironic that some of the very same voices in the community who speak out against this bill are the very same voices that question whether racism and prejudice no longer exist simply because a person of color has been elected President. Racism, prejudice, and hate did not disappear on November 4th, 2008. Nor did they disappear on January 20th, 2009.

Yet it gives me joy that we are able to do something about it. I grew up in the Deep South and faced vile hatred up close, and it gives me joy to vote "yes" on the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Today we proclaim that our country will not stand for, and will not tolerate hate crimes.

This bill is the right thing to do. It protects our citizens, our nation; our principles and our values.

We are all Americans—

Black Americans, White Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, Native American, Christian Americans, Jewish Americans, Muslim Americans, Gay Americans, Straight Americans—all Americans. We are one people and one nation, the American nation. This bill will bring us one step closer to the Beloved Community, a nation at peace with itself.

A constituent came by my office just yesterday and spoke about her son who fought in Iraq. Her son completed two tours in Iraq. Her son has said that he was indeed concerned about his safety. But her son said that he was even more concerned about the safety of his father—a transgender woman, walking the streets of the United States of America every day.

President Obama has talked repeatedly about renewing America's promise. Today, I urge my fellow Members to vote "yes," and keep America's promise.