

HONORING THE 13 RECIPIENTS OF
THE CAMDEN COUNTY, NJ, FREEDOM
MEDALS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 13 recipients of the Camden County Freedom Medal. In 2001, this high honor was created to pay tribute to those who reflect the ideals and beliefs held by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The honorees of this esteemed award are exemplary citizens who have made momentous contributions to their community in a variety of ways. These individuals have not only dedicated themselves to bettering their community, but have also worked selflessly to bring together people of different backgrounds, cultures, and creeds.

This award is unique in that it does not honor people only in one area of service, but rather highlights individuals who have made significant contributions to society, each in their own way. Recipients of this year's award have done everything from establishing a college preparatory program for minority students, to founding an environmental program, to creating a 5K race in honor of a fellow Marine killed in action, to providing free health and education classes, among many other accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate all of the recipients of this year's Freedom Medal: Atnre Alleyne, Nasim Badat, Roger W. Barker, Lori Braunstein, Sister Helen Cole, Hardon H. Durrani, James E. Hannold, Linda Holscher, Melinda Kane, Mary Lamielle, Thelma Lenore Long, Robert Morrell, and Larry and Trudy Painter. I join the county in paying tribute to these 13 individuals and I thank them for helping carry out Dr. King's legacy with tireless dedication.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAINE ORGANIC FARMERS AND GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association MOFGA on their 40 year anniversary.

Committed to the Maine tradition of local, family owned agricultural businesses which produce some of the healthiest agricultural goods available, Abby McMillen began organizing membership for what would become MOFGA in 1971. The organization initially served as a forum where organic growers could learn from each other and perfect their trade. By 1972, MOFGA was certifying organic farms using standards laid out by Rodale Organic Garden. Today, the association has grown to include 6,000 members and nearly 350 certified farms.

MOFGA is also one of the most active groups in the state. The association runs nu-

merous educational, apprenticeship, and charitable programs that connect Maine's organic growers with each other and communities around the world. Their quarterly published news paper, The Maine Organic Farmer & Gardener, is one of the nation's leading information sources on organic agriculture and sustainable living practices. What's more, the annual Common Ground County Fair hosted by MOFGA has become one of the state's most anticipated events each year. Thousands of people are drawn to the town of Unity from all over the country to enjoy live entertainment and meet with local farmers, vendors and artisans.

MOFGA has demonstrated itself to be an invaluable resource for Maine growers and consumers who are interested in learning about healthy food and environmentally friendly farming methods. These agricultural practices are beneficial to public health, the environment and Maine's economy. Additionally, the association annually reviews farms and food processors to ensure that food labeled as organic truly lives up to that standard.

I wish MOFGA continued success in working with farmers, gardeners and families all across Maine to promote healthier and more nutritious eating options.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association on the 40th anniversary of its founding.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
RICHMOND TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR
GORDON FUERSTENAU

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Michigan's 10th Congressional District. On February 17, 2012, family, friends and neighbors of Mr. Gordon Fuerstenau will gather at the Richmond Township Hall to celebrate his dedicated and honorable record of public service. In total, Gordon has served the Township of Richmond located in northern Macomb County for an impressive 27 years, having first been elected as the Clerk in 1984 and then appointed to the position of Supervisor in 2003 which he held until 2011.

As a former township supervisor myself, I can personally attest to the hard work, long hours and steadfast commitment it takes to efficiently operate and manage the day-to-day business of a township. The job can be difficult at times, but the rewards far outweigh any roadblocks faced along the way. There is nothing quite like the satisfaction of seeing the work you have accomplished to improve the community in which you live. Ultimately, you know you are making a positive difference and enhancing the quality of life for the generations to follow.

Gordon's resume includes a long list of accomplishments demonstrating his leadership skills and impeccable integrity. He has served on the City of Richmond's Wellhead Protection

Team which helped protect drinking water utilized by area residents. He also was a key player in fostering the amicable relationship with the City of Richmond through his work with the Richmond Volunteer Fire Department, and triumphing key environmental issues to help maintain the rural setting that is especially unique to Richmond Township.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for this opportunity to properly acknowledge Gordon Fuerstenau's strong record of outstanding and invaluable public service to Richmond Township. I commend him on this very special occasion and offer my best wishes on many more successes in the future.

RECOGNIZING MR. JACK SCAROLA
ON HIS DEDICATION TO HELPING
END HOMELESSNESS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it heartened me to learn that Jack Scarola was recognized by the Lord's Place for his work in the fight against homelessness in the West Palm Beach area of Florida. Jack is a partner in a prestigious West Palm Beach law firm who has supported homeless persons in the community since he moved to the area over 30 years ago. He was a founding member of the Lord's Place, an organization I am proud to represent in my Congressional district that is dedicated to breaking the cycle of homelessness through engagement, housing, education, and employment programs. He still is active with the Lord's Place, just having finished serving as chairman of their Board of Directors and having served on the Board for more than 20 consecutive years. I appreciate the work that he has done, and I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for his commitment to serving the community.

The Lord's Place recently honored Jack with the Ending Homelessness Award. During the award ceremony, a 1983 radio broadcast featuring the organization's efforts was played. Although the clip was a distant memory, Jack instantly remembered giving the interview. It was early in the movement to help the homeless, and he and some other volunteers were collecting donations on the steps of a local church. Jack was surprised at the community's support for their cause. Since that time, he has worked to turn this support into a community-wide effort to help other people.

For over 30 years, he has helped to make the Lord's Place fight against homelessness in Palm Beach County. In 2010, the Lord's Place supported over 500 homeless men, women, and children. Jack played a critical role in building this organization.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Jack Scarola for receiving the Ending Homelessness Award from the Lord's Place. He is truly a selfless individual that has dedicated his life to helping those in their greatest time of need.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I rise in recognition of the historic International Day of Human Rights and the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that passed on December 10, 2011. It was a day that recognized the momentous efforts made in 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly which declared that the citizens of the world have basic and essential human rights. This effort was in reaction to the immediate aftermath of the crimes against humanity in World War II. This noble accomplishment made by the international community established the fundamental freedoms of humankind and worked not only to cultivate, but also continuously protect international peace.

The adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights signified an international commitment to preserving and building the foundation of human rights, which serves as an enduring resolve for advocates around the world. 2011 was a historic year that recognized the momentous actions of global protestors trying to rid themselves of tyranny and move towards democracy. Met with forceful and dangerous opposition, these protestors stayed the course and fought for what they believed in.

In June of 2011, I met with Iran180, a multi-cultural and multi-faith organization established with the goal of addressing the human rights violations and aggressive pursuit of nuclear weapon development. I, alongside several members of the New York delegation presented an award to Mr. Ahmad Batebi, a student who was involved in the July 1999 protests against the Iranian government at Tehran University. He was arrested, tried in closed-door proceedings, was sentenced to death and spent eight years being tortured in prison until his escape in 2008. Since then, Batebi serves as the chairman of Cyber Dissidents where he continues to advocate for human rights and democracy.

Mr. Batebi is an inspiration to all people, especially to those living under oppressive circumstances. We have to stand up and fight for what we believe in order to achieve freedom and liberty without living in repressive conditions.

The uphill struggles to promote and protect human rights have been expanding in my beloved district, from the efforts of the NAACP, Amnesty International, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Human Rights Campaign, Alianza Dominicana, and several other outstanding organizations that continue to be a cornerstone in my Harlem community for people who would otherwise not have the essential civil liberties of participating in the political process.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in expressing the utmost gratitude towards the work of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the numerous organizations that fight diligently for to pre-

serve our fundamental principles of humanity. We must work tirelessly to ensure that all Americans and around the world exercise the same basic human rights.

HONORING NOVELEAN "MOTHER" HARRIS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Novelean "Mother" Harris of Richmond, California, who passed on January 11, 2012 at the age of 95. Mother Harris was a deeply religious and caring woman who fed and clothed the unfortunate and those in need, and a pioneering business owner in her community.

Mother was the second child born to the late Charlie and Lillie Turner on Thursday, June 15, 1916 in Bernice, Louisiana. She came to know Christ at an early age when her family moved to El Dorado, Arkansas, and joined the New Bethel Baptist Church. Later, Novelean married the love of her life, the late George H. Harris, and had two sons, James and George, and a daughter, Carolyn.

George moved his family to Richmond, California, in 1943 to seek better opportunities. Soon afterwards, George and Mother joined North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church, under the late Reverend F.W. Watkins, where they were active participants in their church and their community. George opened one of the first successful insurance businesses in Richmond. He was also one of the first African Americans to serve on the Contra Costa County Grand Jury. With the goal in mind to also own a business, Novelean enrolled at the Charm Beauty School in Oakland, obtained her state cosmetology license, and opened the first African American owned beauty salon in North Richmond. She later established Novelean's Beauty Salon on the Southside of the city where she mentored and trained other women to become licensed cosmetologists. At the time of her death, Mother Harris held one of the oldest business licenses in the City of Richmond.

Mother Harris served in many capacities at North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church, but she will be most remembered for running the church's Soup Kitchen. Mother Harris never turned away a hungry person. She and her volunteer staff provided nutritious meals to countless people and ensured that the needy received a bag of groceries and clothes. She ministered to the homeless who came to eat. Each day at noon, Mother Harris would stop whatever she was doing to lead a prayer. Her passion for feeding the hungry extended beyond her service in the church. Mother Harris often prepared large pots of soup in her own kitchen and delivered meals to the homes of seniors and the disabled.

Mother Harris was a strong pillar in her city. She encouraged others in the community to vote and supported the campaigns of many who sought elected office by giving advice, raising contributions, and feeding candidates in local, state, and national elections.

The City of Richmond declared May 5, 2007, "Mother Harris Day" in honor of her

contributions to the community. A bench was dedicated to her outside of North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church. Mother Harris was a life member of the Richmond Branch NAACP and was a founding member of the Cosmetology Organization of the Greater Bay Area.

Simply stated by Mother Harris, "God gave me a vision early in my life to reach out and help those in need." She leaves a legacy for us all to follow.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in offering sincere condolences to her children, family, and friends.

WORTH THE WAIT FOR PAGE PIRATES FANS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, the saying that good things come to those who wait can be applied to the fans of the Walter H. Page High School football team. Page fans have been waiting since 1985 for their football team to capture a state championship. The Pirates completed a 15-0 perfect season with the title win, on December 3, 2011. I would like to take this time to recognize Page High School's football team, located in the Sixth District of North Carolina, for winning the Class 4-AA state championship. The Page Pirates defeated Garner High, 35-21, in front of more than 10,000 fans at BB&T Field in Winston Salem.

The Pirates took the lead in the second quarter and never looked back. "Our kids believed they were supposed to be here, and I believe they not only deserve to be here, but to win it, and we did," Page Coach Kevin Gillespie told the (Greensboro) News & Record. The program's undefeated 15-0 record solidifies both his and the player's beliefs.

Garner High began to gain momentum and cut the lead to seven points in the third quarter, but Pirates quarterback, James Summers answered with a 54-yard touchdown on the very next play. This display of athleticism and determination earned him the game's Most Valuable Player award. All members of the Page football team contributed to the perfect season, including Jalen Gavin, Carter Stanley, Jonathan Lynch, Kysung Young, Brian Spain, Jarvis Small, Orlando Hatfield, Blake Hickman, Carter Greene, Jordan Putnam, Thomas Little, Christian Cranford, Marcus Demery, Ed Britt, Ryan Jackson, William Henry, Savon Wall, Shedrick Pate, Drew Rogers, Devonta Hooker, Kahlil Wilson, Evan Roer, A.J. Capel, Shaun Workinger, Grant Brewer, Eric Kelly, Justin Smith, Tim Wharton, Lorenzo Featherston, DeAnthony Brooks, Chance Maness, Ventura Anthony, Jacob Green, Anthony Hope, Chris Hamrick, Arrius McCain, David Jennings, Jaxon Cummings, Jonathan Smith, Kemp Young, Andrew Lamore, Dishon Stewart, Isaiah Towns, Rasheen Wall, Lewis Jones, Alex Alvarez, Matt Mayfield, Tevin Morrison, Chris Mosley, and Tommy Laughon.

Credit must be given to Head Coach Kevin Gillespie and his staff including Norman Weeks, Gordon Hagen, Todd Halkyer, Cody Page, Wilson Helms, Chris Ferguson, Kevin Harris, Earl Sams, Jesse Britt, Malcolm