

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIS "SNAKE"  
MURRAY

**HON. CARRIE P. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 2002*

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a great privilege to pay tribute to my friend and confidant, Willis "Snake" Murray, one of the most unsung leaders of our Miami-Dade County community and Florida. On Thursday, September 26, 2002, in Tampa, Florida, he will be conferred the prestigious 2002 C. Colburn Hardy Older Advocate Award. This honor symbolizes the state's highest recognition for volunteer leadership exemplified by Mr. Murray in his role as advocate par excellence for older persons.

I commend this decision by the officers and members of the Florida Foundation on Active Aging, which established this award in June 1998 to honor C. Colburn Hardy of West Palm Beach. It memorializes Mr. Hardy's work as a former New Jersey State Legislator, community leader and author of numerous publications and financial books, including "Social Security: The Crisis in America's Social Security System." It also dignifies his spirit of consecration to the well-being of senior citizens throughout this nation via his crucial role in the Pepper Commission for Older Americans and the White House Conferences on Aging.

Mr. Willis Murray succinctly epitomizes the disarming personality of a gentleman and the resilience of a trailblazer. One of the distinguished members of Booker T. Washington's Class of 1943 in Miami, he went on to obtain his bachelor's and master's degrees from Florida A&M University, and attended post-graduate studies at Barry University and University of Miami.

He has always had the knack of being at the forefront of the struggles of African-Americans and other minority groups in their quest for simple justice and fairness. Nowhere has this struggle been aptly defined than in his unequivocal stance of equality of opportunity for everyone in our community, be it in the arena of academic excellence for all children or in the ongoing struggle for economic and political empowerment for disenfranchised Americans.

Willis Murray is the consummate activist who abides by the dictum that those who have less in life, through no fault of their own, should be helped by the government, regardless of their race, creed, age or gender. While many have been inspired by his brand of unabashed sincerity, countless others have been motivated to follow his example for his unrelenting penchant for taking up any cause that would buttress the dignity of his fellow human beings, particularly our elder citizens.

Countless admirers and friends will honor Mr. Murray at a gathering of people from all political and philosophical persuasions throughout Florida. This celebration comes at a time when our state and this nation sorely need the exemplary services of senior advocates who, despite their busy schedules during their retirement, still find time to reach out to the less fortunate and create opportunities and programs that enhance the lives of our senior citizens.

This honoree may be just an ordinary guy trying to face his responsibilities each day to his own immediate family, and yet he has

been extraordinary in giving of himself to his fellow human beings. If there was ever a more dynamic personality who genuinely exalts the good name and stellar reputation of good, public servants, then this honoree would admirably fit that billing.

Mr. Willis Murray is a veritable dynamo as a community activist. A leader imbued with a genuine ecumenical spirit, he is also an indefatigable organizer for causes that may well indict the status quo on one hand, but yet inspire the confidence of our disenfranchised senior citizenry on the other. His manifold charitable actions toward others genuinely matches the depth of his Judeo-Christian faith. Time and time again he has willingly volunteered his expertise and resources to many organizations that often look up to his unique brand of no-nonsense leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this deserving honoree proudly symbolizes the remarkable, unusual strength of my community and my state of Florida. Urged on by his genuine Faith in Almighty God, he so chose to abide by the injunction of his stewardship that Faith without good works is dead... And he so chose to give credence to the fact that God is indeed alive and well and present among us through his works of volunteerism and good will.

Mr. Speaker, Willis Murray is a unique manifestation of compassion whose courageous vision and pragmatic approach to leadership evokes our hope and optimism inherent in the idealism of the American spirit. It is my humble prayer that, as my years of service in this august body draw to a close, I would become less unworthy of the trust and confidence he has so generously entrusted to me for so many years.

IN HONOR OF FRANKIE M. MENO

**HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 2002*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I share with you an open letter written to the American public by my constituent, Frankie Michael Meno. This letter was composed to recognize the losses of September 11, 2001, on the one-year anniversary of the terror attacks against America. Mr. Meno's letter was accompanied by a CD containing a song, "America", which he wrote, and performed in the company of his step-children, nieces, and nephews: Jessica, Sarah, and Mason Inder, and Shay, Daverin, and Davin Diaz.

Mr. Meno, a resident of Inarajan, Guam, began writing songs in 2000. He finds the process simple as the melody and words coming to him almost automatically. His song "America" was inspired by the pride he felt watching the closing ceremonies of the Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, where people of all nationalities, languages, and colors came together as one. Mr. Meno hopes "America's message of peace and freedom can be extended to all corners of the world".

In speaking of Mr. Meno, I wish to convey to you his pride in America and his 16 years service with the U.S. Marines, his love of his family and children Christelle, Joseph, Antonia, and Jessica, and his grandchildren Isaiah and Jaythan, and his desire to use his song making abilities to help the victims of the ter-

rorist attacks and to assist rebuilding Guam's educational system. Mr. Meno's song is one patriotic American's expression of our nation's feelings of loss, recognition of our citizens' heroism, and the ultimate hope that America's freedom can be shared with the world. These sentiments are held by all of us, and I am glad to be able to share this letter with you today.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2002

DEAR FELLOW AMERICANS, on this day, we join you in remembering your loved ones who left us on September 11, 2001. We would like to join with you in recognizing and remembering the brave men and women of the New York Fire Department, the New York Police Department, and the other heroes who sacrificed their lives to save another's. It is these extraordinary deeds from ordinary people that make us all proud to call ourselves Americans; your voices and deeds will never be forgotten.

My family and the people of Guam salute and embrace the American people and the noble ideas they stand for. I dedicate this song to the mothers and fathers, the sons and daughters, and the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to bring freedom and democracy to the island of Guam during World War II. I would also like to dedicate it to the American servicemen and to the people all over the world who long for freedom and democracy. I dream of the day when all the children of the world will be able to enjoy liberty's blessings. God bless Guam, God bless America, and God bless the world.

Semper Fidelis,

FRANKIE MICHAEL MENO.

TRIBUTE TO JACK AND PATTI  
SALTER

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 2002*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the dedication of the City of Royal Oak's community center in the name of Jack and Patti Salter. This is a most fitting tribute to a couple so vital to the fabric of the Royal Oak community.

The new community stands on the site, and will continue to house, the Boys & Girls Club of South Oakland County. To many of us, the name of this Club and Jack Salter are synonymous as he was the executive director of this organization for over thirty years from August 1958 until February 1991.

During Jack Salter's tenure as executive director, the Club received 21 National Honor Awards for Program Excellence and 13 honorable mentions from Boys & Girls Clubs of America. That is more than any single Boys & Girls Club in the country. In addition, seven Club members were selected as Michigan Youth of the Year, and four Club members were Midwest Youth of the Year and traveled to our nation's Capitol to meet the President.

Jack and Patti Salter are examples of what makes the Royal Oak community so strong. They share a tireless commitment to our youth, a passion for grassroots activism and a warmth of character that draws people to them and their causes. I have been privileged to call them friends.

The mission statement for the Boys & Girls Club is: To inspire and enable all young people to help them realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.