

eight years serving the community. Mr. Johnson is now dedicated to the general practice of law and holds an office at 26 Court Street. He remains particularly active in several organizations, including the Bedford Stuyvesant Lions Club, Brooklyn Bar Association, Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity, 100 Black Men of New York, and Comus Social Club.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the achievements and selfless service of Mr. Johnson as he continues to offer his talents and philanthropic services for the betterment of the community.

Mr. Speaker, may our country continue to benefit from the civic actions of altruistic community leaders such as Mr. Vincent Johnson.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 20, 2005*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I missed nine votes on June 17th, 2005 because I was attending my daughter's graduation from elementary school. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Nos. 274, 275, 276, 277, 278 and 281. I would have voted "no" on rollcall Nos. 279, 280 and 282.

#### RECOGNIZING ADMIRAL VERN CLARK, CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, FOR HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION

### HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 20, 2005*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Admiral Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations, for his loyal service to the United States of America.

Admiral Clark's dedication and loyalty to the advancement of our naval service and the Nation as a whole is to be highly commended.

Admiral Clark's devotion to duty has reflected the highest standards of the military profession through a number of command and staff positions. He served aboard the destroyers USS *John W. Weeks* and the USS *Gearing*. As a Lieutenant, he commanded the USS *Grand Rapids*. He also commanded the USS *McCloy*, USS *Spruance*, the Atlantic Fleet's Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center, Destroyer Squadron Seventeen, and Destroyer Squadron Five. After being selected for flag rank, he commanded the Carl Vinson Battle Group/Cruiser Destroyer Group Three, the Second Fleet, and the United States Atlantic Fleet. Ashore, he served as Special Assistant to the Director of the Systems Analysis Division in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. He later served as the Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations and as the Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Chief on Naval Operations. He then served as the Administrative Aide to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations. He also served as Head of the Cruiser-Destroyer Combat Systems Requirements Section and Force Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer for the Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic

Fleet, and he directed the Joint Staff's Crisis Action Team for Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Admiral Clark's first flag assignment was at the U.S. Transportation Command where he was director of both Plans and Policy and Financial Management and Analysis. While he was commanding the Carl Vinson Battle Group, he deployed to the Arabian Gulf and served as Deputy Commander, Joint Task Force Southwest Asia. He also served as the Deputy Chief of Staff, United States Atlantic Fleet; the Director of Operations and subsequently Director of the Joint Staff. He became the 27th Chief of Naval Operations on July 21, 2000.

Admiral Clark's awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (three awards), the Distinguished Service Medal (two awards), the Legion of Merit (three awards), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), the Navy Commendation Medal, and various service and campaign awards.

Admiral Vern Clark has shown the highest level of commitment and devotion to his country. Today we recognize him for his unwavering patriotism and dedication to both his profession and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Admiral Vern Clark, the 27th Chief of Naval Operations, on his retirement from the United States Navy.

#### HENRY J. HYDE UNITED NATIONS REFORM ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

### HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 17, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2745) to reform the United Nations, and for other purposes:

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I stand in wholehearted opposition to this outrageous Republican bill, which requires the Secretary of State to press for numerous reforms at the United Nations (UN) including budgeting, oversight and accountability, peacekeeping, and human rights. H.R. 2745, which requires the Secretary of State to withhold 50 percent of U.S. assessed contributions to the regular budget of the U.N., if the Secretary is unable to certify that the reforms called for by this bill have been met, is simply unacceptable.

The United Nations, which is based in our country, in New York City, was created in 1947 by the United Nations Participation Act, with a mission of assisting the President and the Department of State in conducting United States policy at the United Nations.

Along with my Democratic colleagues, I wholeheartedly believe in the goals of the United Nations, yet I do believe there is some need for reforming the organization. The idea that our country can just unilaterally withhold 50 percent of what we owe to the U.N. and then veto any new or expanded peacekeeping operations is not good politics, and does not serve our national interest by any means. I do however, strongly believe that the Lantos-Shays substitute, which, if passed, would empower the Secretary of State to withhold funds

if the suggested reforms are not met, would allow the United States to work with other nations to achieve true reform.

There are numerous problems with this bill. Perhaps the most ridiculous is the mandating of the withholding of 50 percent of our dues to the U.N. by giving inadequate flexibility to the Secretary of State. The bill, in effect, mandates a withholding of U.S. dues by imposing an unrealistically long list of 38 reforms, a number of which are virtually impossible to achieve in such a short period of time.

In my estimation, given that our country has been, and remains to be, the single largest contributor to the U.N., that we should not attempt to simply strong arm the organization with threats or sanctions merely to achieve the types of reforms we deem necessary. In fact, in 2002, our contributions to the U.N. totaled more than \$3.0 billion, a total which included over \$5 million in assessed contributions to their regular budget and U.N. affiliated agencies; about \$750 million in assessed contributions to U.N. peacekeeping activities; about \$50 million for war crimes tribunals; and about \$1.7 billion in voluntary contributions to U.N.-affiliated organizations and programs. To reiterate, I simply do not think that unilaterally withholding funds from the United Nations is a good way to achieve real reform of the organization, and if I had been able to be here today, I would have voted "yes" on the Lantos-Shays Substitute, and "no" on overall passage of the Hyde bill.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF RON ACE FOR HIS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 20, 2005*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mrs. TAUSCHER and I, rise to pay tribute to Chief Ron Ace who is retiring from the City of Concord Police Department after 30 years of serving the residents of Concord and the entire region.

Ron Ace began his career in public service even before his work with the Concord Police Department when he served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1967 to 1971. As a Marine, he served a tour of duty in Viet Nam in 1969, attached to a Huey Gunship helicopter squadron as a door-gunner.

Chief Ace began his distinguished career with the City of Concord Police Department in 1975, having previously served as a Deputy Sheriff with Alameda County. In 1985, Ron Ace was promoted to Police Sergeant. Ten years later he became a Lieutenant, and in 1998, he was promoted to Captain.

In 1999, Ron Ace was promoted to Police Chief for the City of Concord. As Chief, he has been instrumental in helping the Police Department become recognized throughout the country as a model law enforcement agency.

During his tenure, Chief Ace helped to develop and advance the Department's generalist model of community policing. This approach has worked to support collaboration among police officers, residents, and civic leaders to ensure the safety of residents and the individuals who work to protect the City.