

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND RALPH
E. BLANKS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Ralph E. Blanks for his installation to the Superintendence of the Central District. An inspirational member of our community and roll model to all, Reverend Blanks has served as the Senior Pastor of Janes Memorial United Methodist Church since July of 2001. Prior, Reverend Blanks served for more than 15 years as the Pastor of Mother African Zoar United Methodist Church—the Mother Church for African Americans in the United Methodistism.

Beyond his church ministry, Reverend Blanks also serves in leadership positions in several prestigious faith-based organizations. He is currently Chair of the United Methodist Metro Ministries of Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and Chair of the Resource Development Committee of the African American Interdenominational Ministries, Inc.

His religious involvement in the community is not the only extent to which Reverend Blanks gives so generously to others. He is also a current Mayoral appointee to the School District of Philadelphia Board and Chair of the City of Philadelphia's Fair Housing Commission. Among other honors, he serves as the Vice Chair of the North Philadelphia Health System, Chair of the Patient Services Committee of St. Joseph's Hospital and several community boards including the Korean Community Development Service Center and Greater Philadelphia Health Action, Inc.

Among the many awards given to Reverend Blanks, the Community Spirit Award from the African American Interdenominational Ministries; the Presidents award from the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity; the Human Rights Award from the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations; the Preacher of the Year Award by the Black United Methodist Preachers; the Outstanding Service to Community and Church Award from the City Council of Philadelphia; and the Liberty Bell Award from the City of Philadelphia.

I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Reverend Ralph E. Blanks, for his lifetime of service and dedicated commitment to the community, on his installation to the Superintendence of the Central District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I accompanied constituents of mine from West Plains, Missouri, as they delivered supplies to the people that have been affected by Hurricane Katrina. As a result I missed rollcall votes Nos. 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, and 459 on September 6, 7, and 8, 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all of the aforementioned rollcall votes.

TAIWAN PRESIDENT CHEN
SHUI-BIAN

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian. In late September he will be making a brief stop in Miami en route to Central America and later staying overnight in San Francisco on his way back to Taiwan. During his stopovers in Miami and San Francisco, I am hopeful that a few of my colleagues will have a chance to visit with him, and—more importantly—exchange views on Taiwan's future, Taiwan's relations with China and the United States, and Taiwan's bid to re-enter the United Nations.

In the last five years, President Chen has shown strong leadership in guiding his people through turbulent times. Despite worldwide financial challenges, Taiwan's economy has continued to grow and despite pressures from Taiwan's opposition leaders, Taiwan has been faithful to its route of constitutional reform and full democratization. Today, Taiwan continues to be a beacon of prosperity and freedom throughout Asia. Taiwan's 23 million people enjoy high standards of living and full rights of freedom and liberty.

President Chen has been deft in handling cross-strait relations. Despite China's passage of the anti-secession law last spring, China's positioning of 700 missiles along Taiwan's coast and China's many other unfriendly acts toward Taiwan, President Chen has insisted on a peaceful solution to the Taiwan issue and an early resumption of talks between himself and other Chinese leaders. President Chen fully understands that peace and stability within the Taiwan Strait are in global community's best interest.

As for Taiwan's relations with the United States, we have strong trade and cultural relations with Taiwan. Taiwan is one of our largest trading partners and cultural exchanges between our two countries are vibrant. Moreover, we are committed to defending Taiwan under the framework of the Taiwan Relations Act, and we are fully committed to a peaceful solution of the Taiwan issue—no military conflict should ever occur in the Taiwan Strait. Moreover, we appreciate Taiwan's full cooperation with us in combating terrorism, its monetary contributions to the Twin Towers Fund, Pentagon Memorial Fund and its offer of humanitarian assistance to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

It is regrettable that Taiwan has been excluded from many world organizations such as the World Health Organization and the United Nations. It has been a gross injustice to deny Taiwan's 23 million people their proper voice in the world. The United States should take more active steps in helping Taiwan re-enter the World Health Organization and the United Nations.

It is my hope that President Chen and the people of Taiwan will receive both proper and greater international attention as President Chen travels to Central America and hopefully to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Busan, Korea, this November. The story of Taiwan, in the person of President Chen, needs to be told and heard around the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TASK
FORCE ON MENTORING OF MONT-
GOMERY COUNTY ON THE OCCA-
SION OF ITS FOURTEENTH AN-
NUAL CONFERENCE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Task Force on Mentoring (TFM) of Montgomery County on the occasion of its fourteenth annual conference entitled "Saving Our Children—Compassionate Mentoring", which will be held on the Rockville campus of Johns Hopkins University on Thursday, October 6, 2005.

For more than fifteen years, the TFM has been a mainstay of support for at-risk youth in Montgomery County. It has been repeatedly recognized for the high quality mentoring programs it has implemented in partnership with many of our community's schools, civic organizations and, more recently, correctional facilities. Moreover, as if to underscore the spirit guiding its work, the TFM offers all of its recruitment assistance, training expertise and technical support free of charge.

Because of the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County—and its legions of trained and dedicated volunteers—more and more of our youth are growing up to become active, positive participants in our community. They are making great plans to lead great lives.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of its fourteenth annual conference, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County and in thanking the TFM for its consistent commitment to the children and youth of Montgomery County, Maryland.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES EDWIN
KUHN

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life and memory of a good friend and a great American, Mr. James Edwin Kuhn of El Centro, California. Jim died shortly after midnight on Monday, August 29, 2005, when his sports utility vehicle overturned on Evan Hewes Highway.

Those of us who knew Jim best remember a family man and an agricultural innovator who shared his passion for the outdoors. He is from a family of farmers that settled in Imperial Valley in the early years of the 20th century and helped build one of the strongest agricultural sectors in the country.

Jim was born April 21, 1964, spending much of his early childhood working on the family farm. In high school, he shined as a wrestler and a football player, demonstrating himself as a leader and making obvious his desire for success. Jim's father reinforced the importance of receiving a well-rounded college education, but also advised him to learn as much as he could about Imperial Valley, business, and agriculture. When he graduated