

was born on November 3, 1924, in the Hope-well Community near Geraldine, Alabama. Mr. Galloway was a Navy veteran who served stateside in Chincoteague, Virginia as an air mechanic, near the end of World War II. He later married the former Miss Pauline Mayes on October 17, 1970. Until retirement, the two of them taught school at Geraldine High School. Mrs. Galloway taught remediation for 30 years, and Mr. Galloway taught history and also coached basketball.

As a devoted teacher, Mr. Galloway also had a passion for the contributions of veterans to our society, and a desire to honor those contributions. Mr. Galloway started the Geraldine Veterans Day Program. Spanning three decades, 2005 marks its 31st year. This program has become a Geraldine staple, and its special nature is attested to by the fact that it prompts surrounding communities to make plans to attend each year.

In recent years, the Geraldine School administration, in conjunction with the Student Government Association, has sponsored the Veterans Day Program and has taken it to new heights. The well-organized program, with the participation of the SGA, sponsors, faculty, and of course the veterans themselves includes being escorted to special seating, commemorative speeches, drama productions, and martial music in front of the student body, which numbers over 1,100. Each veteran is recognized by name, service branch, years of service and theater of operations. There is a special memorial component of the program, to honor those veterans who have passed away during the year. Upon conclusion of the formal program, the veterans and their families share a meal together and have the opportunity to visit the school, where the halls and doorways have been decorated with a patriotic theme.

It is with sadness I note that Mr. James Galloway passed away on July 13, 2005. I want to publicly express how deeply he will be missed. His efforts will not be forgotten or unnoticed, and although we mourn his absence, we celebrate his many years of unselfish service to the community. His sincerity and devotion to country and service shine to this day. The Veterans Day Program at Geraldine School is one that has enriched countless lives for 31 years. Through Mr. James Bertral Galloway's efforts, and those who followed him, the Geraldine School community has a greater appreciation of the sacrifices made by our veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Monday November 7, 2005 and Tuesday November 8, 2005 due to unavoidable circumstances in my Congressional District. Had I been present on November 7, I would have voted: "yea" to H. Con Res. 260—Recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, *Nostra Aetate*, and the continuing need for mutual inter-religious respect and dialogue; "yea" to H.R. 1973—the Water for the Poor Act of

2005 and "yea" to H. Res. 444—the Gynecological Resolution for Advancement of Ovarian Cancer Education.

Had I been present on November 8, I would have voted: "no" on the motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair; "yea" to H. Res. 38—Expressing support for the accession of Israel to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development; "yea" to H. Res. 302—Recognizing and commending the continuing dedication and commitment of employers of the members of the National Guard and the other reserve components who have been mobilized during the Global War on Terrorism and in defense of the United States; and "yea" to H.R. 3770—Grant W. Green Post Office Building Designation Act.

FAIR ACCESS FOSTER CARE ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Fair Access Foster Care Act of 2005. This bill will provide for fair access to foster care maintenance payments by adding private for-profit agencies to the list of eligible recipients. Currently, State and non-profit agencies are the only therapeutic foster care providers eligible for this funding. Children with special medical, psychological, emotional, and social needs are the most vulnerable in the foster care system. Congress should provide strong support for all agencies willing to be involved in these fragile lives.

For children who enter foster care, separation from birth parents is traumatic, and separation from siblings who share a common history is a devastating, ultimately isolating loss. Since the 1980s, researchers have focused increasing attention on the importance of sibling ties. Siblings who are placed together have been known to transition more smoothly into new homes, and most researchers agree that attachments between siblings are critically important. In recent years, many states have taken action to help siblings stay together.

I am pleased to share with you an encouraging story of hope from my district. The Salvation Army chapter in Wichita, Kansas, conducts an annual birth family Christmas party and a summer picnic at Camp Hiawatha that provides an opportunity to reunite foster care children and their birth families. In addition to these annual events, the staff works with United Methodist Youthville to provide sibling visits a couple times a month. The foster care parents are required to make the connection for these visits with the foster child's siblings and/or parents.

In May of this year, there were 4,789 foster care children in the State of Kansas, and 542,000 in the country. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the average stay for a child in the foster care system is 33 months. About 44 percent of these children reunite with their birth parents. Over 50 percent of foster children become juvenile delinquents, and the same percentage does not complete high school. These statistics speak of the desperate need for a good and solid foster care system, and of the com-

mendable work so many agencies and families are willing to do for these children. Children in the foster care system become the responsibility of us all and their lives are changed forever when Americans begin to take that responsibility personally. My colleague Congressman TOM DELAY has both fostered children and been involved with foster care programs for years and I commend his work on this issue.

I am proud to support this legislation that will increase the access and opportunity for therapeutic foster care for our Nation's children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation. Earlier today, I was unavoidably detained on rollcall votes 573, 574, 575 and 576 due to a prior obligation in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 573 (to Table Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair on the Obey Motion to Instruct the Conferees on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2006), "yea" on rollcall vote 574 (H. Res. 38, Expressing support for the accession of Israel to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development H.R. 1973, The Water for the Poor Act of 2005) and "yea" on rollcall vote 575 (H. Res. 302, Recognizing and commending the continuing dedication and commitment of employers of the members of the National Guard and the other reserve components who have been mobilized during the Global War on Terrorism and in defense of the United States and "yea" on rollcall Vote 576 (H.R. 3770, Grant W. Green Post Office Building Designation Act).

RECOGNITION OF HONORABLE THOMAS R. SUOZZI

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, this year, *Governing.com*, a leading online publication for and about State and local governments and a subsidiary of *Congressional Quarterly*, announced their list of the 2005 Public Officials of the Year. Only eight State, county and local leaders from throughout our Nation received this most noteworthy award. It is an honor for me to bring to the attention of my colleagues and this House one of those eight outstanding public officials, the Honorable Thomas R. Suozzi, County Executive of Nassau County, New York.

Tom Suozzi is a true leader. He has led Nassau County for the past four years with common, practical sense; with an approach toward running government as a business; with a vision to the future while not forgetting our past; all the while making paramount the needs of the people of Nassau County. He has established a record as County Executive,

and before that as mayor of his home town of Glen Cove, New York, that can serve as a blueprint for governments at all levels, and yes, even the Federal Government, to follow.

Upon his election as County Executive, Mr. Suozzi inherited a county that had amassed a debt of \$3 billion, had a junk bond rating and was ready to be taken over by State intervention. County facilities such as parks and public buildings were insufficient to meet the needs of the people. It has been said that 'Nassau County was not just on the brink of disaster, but rather had toppled over and was nearing terminal velocity.'

Today, Nassau County has not only turned the corner on its financial woes, it is a national leader with its innovative ideas to governing. Since 2001, under the guidance of Mr. Suozzi, the County has had a balanced budget every year; it has a \$200 million surplus; it has had ten upgrades in its bond rating to an A+ level currently, and most significantly, this has all been achieved without a tax increase in the last three years. It is important to point out, too, that during his tenure as mayor, Mr. Suozzi had very similar problems and very similar results.

Tom Suozzi is a visionary, looking to the future for ways to grow an economy and to make Nassau County and suburbs in general more affordable and livable for everyone, including seniors and our young people. But at the same time, he understands the benefits of suburbia and combines his vision for the future with the heritage of our past.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Suozzi has demonstrated to all of us that governmental problems of our past do not need to be transferred to future generations. They can be resolved with logical and brave initiatives. On behalf of this Congress, and Nassau County, New York that I proudly represent, I congratulate Tom Suozzi on being named Public Official of the Year 2005.

IT'S TIME TO PULL THE PLUG ON ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, the international community knows that the May 15 election in Ethiopia was rigged, and yet our government and other nations along with international banks and aid agencies, continue to prop up the corrupt regime of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. Last week Meles security forces killed 76 members of the opposition party that refused to join the parliament and yet U.S. taxpayer money continues to flow.

Mr. Speaker, what will it take to turn off the spigot? The United States Agency for International Development in FY 2004 spent \$75 million propping up the Ethiopian dictators, in FY 2005 it was \$55 million and in FY 2006 it will be \$51 million. What have we received in return? We have aligned ourselves with a ruler who is complice in the murder of voters who only wanted an honest election. Thousands of good people were arrested last week when they peacefully took to the streets after the Ethiopian political opposition refused to join parliament because of the rigged election. Many were greeted with live ammunition and gunned down dead like animals.

Prime Minister Meles must now step aside and the international community must step forward to decide what to do about the stolen elections. This week thousands came out to protest in front of the White House. Today many Americans of Ethiopian origin are demonstrating at the State Department. Our Nation must support them and democracy in Africa. Continuing business as usual with Ethiopia is not the way to do so. It's not the American way.

Let it be understood, America is on the side of the people struggling for an honest democratic government in Ethiopia. The popular opposition to Ethiopia's current corrupt regime is comparable to the Orange Revolution in Ukraine and the brave Lebanese demonstrators who removed the Syrian puppet regime in their country. Our State Department is often wrong and timid. In the case of Ethiopia, Americans clearly back democratic reform movement and that should be our government's policy.

A TRIBUTE TO BEBASHI

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor BEBASHI, as it commemorates its 20th Anniversary as the first minority-based AIDS Service Organization in the United States. It was created in 1985 in reaction to the growing rates of HIV/AIDS in the African-American community of Philadelphia. Initially established as a volunteer program focused on street outreach, BEBASHI has developed into a full-service agency offering counseling, testing, case management, support groups, a food bank, and housing counseling.

BEBASHI has improved the lives of people in our region and beyond through its research, advocacy and community service programs. I applaud this remarkable organization as it leads the way to better lives in the 21st century.

I also extend my best wishes and deep appreciation to the two exemplary individuals who will receive BEBASHI's John Allen Blue Award at the BEBASHI Gala on November 22, 2004. Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie and State Senator Vincent Hughes will be recognized for their long-term outstanding leadership and support to the HIV/AIDS community. They and BEBASHI are to be congratulated for their achievements and for leading the Nation by example to work towards further improvement in HIV/AIDS care and education.

HONORING JOHN LONG

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of John Long, former Pasco County School Superintendent and former Florida House member whose sudden death last week is a terrible loss for our community and State.

A Florida native, John earned his master's degree and doctorate in education at the University of South Florida. His impressive career with Pasco County Schools began in 1976, when he was hired to oversee employee relations, and culminated just one year ago when he retired after eight years of service as the Pasco County School Superintendent.

During that time, John became known far and wide as an asset to Pasco's families and school children—a dedicated servant to the schools, a highly effective problem solver and a fair and principled leader with an open ear to all of the school system's employees. Whether he was listening and responding to the concerns of teachers, parents and students or lobbying for Penny for Pasco, a penny increase in the sales tax which voters approved in 2004 to benefit school construction and renovation efforts, John earned great respect for his tireless efforts. In 2000, the Florida Association of District School Superintendents acknowledged his work by naming him Florida's Superintendent of the Year.

John also served Pasco County in the Florida House of Representatives from 1986 until 1994. During his tenure, John secured millions in State funds for his community and fought for fair funding for the State's public school system. John quickly became known for his integrity and his ability to bring his colleagues from both sides of the aisle together.

In fact, John was on the verge of becoming Speaker of the House when he walked away from his successful legislative career in order to spend more time with his family. John's departure from the Florida Legislature was a major loss to the State. John was truly a representative for the entire State, especially in improving public education for all of Florida's schoolchildren.

In addition to his enormous contributions to Florida and Pasco County's schools, John will probably be best remembered for his character. Always honest, always kind, John was beloved for his quick wit and his humble nature. I feel honored to have been among John's many friends. The vast community of those who loved John was deeply saddened by his loss.

When John retired just last year, we were all happy to know that he would be able to spend his retirement with his greatest love—his wife and children. Their time together was rich and full, but all too short. Today, I extend my deepest sympathies to Marsha, Jennifer and Jessica. John Long's remarkable character and contributions will not be forgotten.

HONORING GEDALE HOROWITZ

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gedale Horowitz on 50 years working with Salomon Brothers, Salomon Smith Barney and Citigroup.

A graduate of Columbia College and Columbia Law School, Gedale Horowitz has had a distinguished career dating back to November 1955 when he first joined Salomon Brothers.

His career with Salomon Brothers took off in 1967 when he became a General Partner. From there, Gedale would go on to serve on