

RECOGNIZING PAUL JENSON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Paul Jenson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Paul has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Paul has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Paul Jenson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF THE 112TH ANNUAL BALL OF THE MONDAY CLUB

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Monday Club as it celebrates its 112th anniversary of serving the Delaware community. The Club was incorporated in 1893 for the promotion of the moral and intellectual welfare of its members.

The Monday Club is a male leisure organization, and the oldest chartered African American organization in the State. Early members of the Club consisted of butlers, waiters, coachmen, cooks, and janitors who encompassed the economic, social and religious life in the community. Later, the Club expanded to include businessmen, politicians, men working in industry, as well as workers and laborers of all skills in every area of Delaware's economy.

Through the years, the Monday Club has developed into more than just a social club. In fact, due to its members' strong community ties, the Monday Club has contributed to many local churches, individuals and charities. In doing so, the Monday Club provides support for numerous charitable organizations in Delaware and has established scholarship funds for students, such as the Dr. Woodrow Wilson/Senator Herman H. Holloway Scholarship Fund, which awards four \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors planning to attend college each year.

I congratulate the Monday Club for reaching this extraordinary milestone. The dedication of its members to the community enhances the quality of life for many Delawareans and provides opportunities for children across the State. I would like to thank the Monday Club for their valuable impact on Delaware.

IN MEMORY OF PFC STEPHEN M. LASHINSKY (UNITED STATES ARMY) AND SGT JAMES F. FORDYCE (UNITED STATES MARINES)

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, without exception, each of us who has the honor of serving in Congress does not have to look far from home for our American heroes. In my 7th Congressional District, the Newtown Township Supervisors recently hosted a ceremony at their June 12 meeting to recognize the sacrifice of two mothers whose sons were killed in action. The fallen soldiers come from different generations but are forever united in spirit as they join all who have given their lives serving in our Armed Forces to preserve our rights and freedoms. Every person who dies in the line of duty commands the eternal gratitude of the American people.

PFC Stephen M. Lashinsky was killed while serving in Vietnam and SGT Jimmy Fordyce died along with ten other marines in a helicopter crash off the east coast of Africa in February 2006. Both PFC Stephen Lashinsky and SGT Fordyce joined the military with a strong desire to serve and protect our country. In doing so, they made that incredible commitment, putting their lives on the line to accomplish their mission. It is because of soldiers like PFC Stephen M. Lashinsky and SGT Jimmy Fordyce that our country remains free today. We must commit to remembering forever their lives and valiant sacrifices.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our fallen service men and women and their families. May God bless them and all Americans serving with honor today.

IT'S TIME FOR CONGRESS TO OPEN ITS DOORS TO MORE DIVERSITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a column in the Stirring the Pot segment of the June 20, 2006 edition of the Rollcall periodical newspaper and an article from the June 2006 edition of DiversityInc.

The column, entitled "It's Time for Congress To Open Its Doors to More Diversity" is authored by Donna Brazile, political strategist, former congressional chief-of-staff, and Chair of the Democratic National Committee's Voting Rights Institute (VRI). The article, entitled, "Who Is Worst for Diversity? The United States Senate", is authored by C. Stone Brown and Mark Lowery.

Donna Brazile captures your attention by stating that "one of the hottest and most illuminating stories to hit the newsstands last week discussed the lack of diversity in the Senate." She goes on to address the content of that news story written by C. Stone Brown and Mark Lowery of DiversityInc. Brown and Lowery reported that equal opportunity is sorely missing in action in the Senate.

The articles point out that there is one black, three Hispanic, two Asian Americans and fourteen women Senators. This membership does not represent a good cross-section of the Country.

While Ms. Brazile's article encourages the Senate to establish a process to open doors to qualified candidates of colors and women it does not exclude the House of Representatives. Take a look at the number of minority chiefs-of-staff and legislative directors for members outside of the Congressional Black Caucus or the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Brown, Lowery and Brazile reveal thought provoking data and information that relates to the issue of diversity in staffing in the Senate and the House. They cleverly summarize the issue by quoting a leading diversity consultant who states if change is to come to diversity in placement of key Congressional positions . . . "It has to start at the top, with the CEO (Senator), and be made a priority with some accountability."

Mr. Speaker, I enter this article with the hope that it will impress upon the legislative body the need for sensitivity in including people of color and women in the "pool" from which future personnel is chosen.

[From the Rollcall, June 20, 2006]

IT'S TIME FOR CONGRESS TO OPEN ITS DOORS TO MORE DIVERSITY

(By Donna Brazile)

One of the hottest and most illuminating stories to hit the newsstands last week discussed the lack of diversity in the Senate. In their cover story, DiversityInc writers C. Stone Brown and Mark Lowery discovered that when it comes to "equal opportunity," the Senate is sorely missing in action.

With only one black, three Hispanic, two Asian Americans and 14 women Senators, the chamber's membership isn't exactly a good cross-section of the Nation. And furthering that problem, the reporters write, their review of "people of color" serving in Senate offices and committees found that senior positions such as chief of staff, legislative director, counsel and even communications director are "practically reserves for white men and women."

As a former chief of staff and press secretary for Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), I believe it's time the Senate makes diversity in its ranks a major priority.

This investigative report is worth reading because it takes on both major political parties for their lack of significant progress in bringing more diversity to one of the most powerful institutions in America. According to DiversityInc's investigation, of the 1,000 senior-level staffers, about "7.6 percent are people of color." The report then breaks that down even further: "2.9 percent are Black, 2.8 percent are Asian American and 1.9 percent are Latino." Given the multitude of issues and concerns the Senate addresses each year, it's time every Member take a look inside his or her own office to see if any changes should be made and to figure out a process to open the doors to qualified candidates.

(And the House of Representatives should do so, as well. How many minorities are chiefs of staff or legislative directors for Members outside of the Congressional Black Caucus or the Congressional Hispanic Caucus?)

When the reporters tried to obtain this important data from some Senate offices, they were greeted with no responses. (The report indicated that repeated calls were made to the Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) and even Sen.