

Indisputably, Bonnie Reese has been extremely successful throughout her career in public office. However, her efforts to support and contribute to her community have extended beyond her political service. Aside from her public service, Bonnie is also known for her skills as an organist. Many people in the community know her from her service to her church, the Tefft United Methodist Church, where she serves not only as the church's organist, but also as its choir director.

When not engaged within the community, Bonnie spends her spare time with those closest to her, her family. A loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Bonnie's commitment to her community is surpassed only by her love for her family. Bonnie has been married to her husband, Roy, for 48 years. She and Roy, a retiree of U.S. Steel after 40 years of service, have four sons: Daniel, Michael, Richard, and Douglas. Roy and Bonnie are proud grandparents of 14, and they also have one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, Bonnie Reese has given her time and efforts selflessly to the people of Jasper County throughout her years of service. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending her for her lifetime of service and dedication.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF MR. FRED A. CURLS

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 6, 2006*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the achievements of Mr. Fred Curls, a pioneer for civil and political rights, and a resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I am honored to represent. This week, Mr. Curls is to be inducted into the Missouri Walk of Fame during a reception as part of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, an event held to honor the achievements of African-Americans who have made significant contributions to Missouri. He is one of the original Founders of Freedom Incorporated, an African-American political organization which at one time could generate nearly 70,000 votes. Freedom Inc. was and has been very influential in delivering votes for a candidate or a cause.

The organization has been at the forefront in serving as a catalyst for change in civil rights, public accommodations, and the election of candidates at all levels of government. Its office has been visited by City Councilpersons, Mayors, Governors, Congresspersons, Senators, and persons with Presidential aspirations. For nearly forty-five years, Mr. Curls has dedicated his life to the Greater Kansas City community, promoting and improving political empowerment and civil rights of people of color. His son, State Senator Phil B. Curls, Sr. was the President of Freedom Inc. when I was Chairman. It was a period when Freedom Inc. was recognized as one of the most potent political organizations in the United States and brought about the election of the first African-American Congressman from the Fifth District of Missouri, U.S. Representative Alan Wheat.

Since the mid-1950's, Mr. Curls has been involved in real estate sales and appraisals,

most notably in the African American community of Kansas City. He fought against "restrictive covenants" whereby residential homes could not be sold in certain areas to minorities. He was part of a class action lawsuit which resulted in the United States Supreme Court outlawing such covenants.

In all of his activities, he demonstrates his dedication and commitment to the greater good of others. He is actively involved with his high school graduating class, the "Class of 1937," which has been very close to this day. They have started the Lincoln High Alumni Association which gives scholarships to deserving young adults to go to college. He was recently honored by Jackson County, Missouri as one of its "Legacy Awardees" for its 175th anniversary as a political subdivision.

Throughout his life, he has believed in the saying "make it happen." He has put his principles to practice, and the effects of his efforts have "made it happen" throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area.

For those reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and privilege to recognize Mr. Fred Curls at the Missouri Walk of Fame reception, hosted by myself and fellow Missourian, U.S. Representative William Lacy Clay of St. Louis.

Mr. Speaker, just as this body has honored Dr. Martin Luther King as an outspoken pioneer and one of the historians of the civil rights struggle, and has honored Buck O'Neill as one of the historians for those who toiled in the Negro Leagues rather than the Major Leagues, we should now give honor to Fred Curls as one of the historians of Kansas City's African-American political struggle. He was active in promoting equality, elevating African-Americans from a second class citizenship to a first class citizenship to be recognized by all. Whatever we, as African-Americans, may attain in the political arena, Fred Curls, and those who labored to act on our behalf as political pioneers, have helped to change the course of history. In the year that this 109th Congress has approved the extension of the Voting Rights Act, it is with great pride that we honor one of our active, long-time heroes with this Missouri Walk of Fame. Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Fred Curls and his endless commitment to serving the residents of the State of Missouri. He is a true role model not just to the African-American community in Missouri, but to the entire community at large.

IN HONOR OF THE CAREER OF  
COACH EDDIE JACKSON

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 6, 2006*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Coach Eddie Jackson. Coach Jackson has been a guiding light to the youth of Arkansas and Texas for more than 35 years. On July 21st he was honored with an induction into the Arkansas High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

After graduating from Fairview High School in 1963, Coach Jackson went on to receive a BSE from Southern Arkansas University and an MSE from Henderson State University. Within months of graduating college he joined the Prescott High School football and track

staffs, winning district championships in his first year. In 1973, his first year as a head football coach, Coach Jackson won the first of three state championships at Prescott. His last state championship came in 1995, his final year as head coach.

Track and field has always held a special place in Coach Jackson's heart. During his distinguished career, he has amassed numerous titles and honors. While at Prescott, Coach Jackson won 15 district titles, was state runner-up twice and won an impressive three state championships. He has also served as the state track meet director twice and was an official at the Southeastern Conference Outdoor Championships.

After leaving Prescott, Coach Jackson went on to coach one season at Hampton before moving to Texarkana and coaching one year at Texas High and two at Liberty-Eylau. In 2002, Coach Jackson became middle school athletic coordinator in Hooks, Texas while also coaching middle school football and track.

Since Prescott is my hometown, I had the privilege to see first-hand the lives this man touched not, only in sports but in the community as well. On July 21st Coach Jackson joined 10 other outstanding coaches to be inducted into the Arkansas High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

I am so pleased to have the opportunity to properly recognize Coach Eddie Jackson before the United States Congress for his outstanding contributions to the communities and youth he has touched in Arkansas and Texas. Please join me in congratulating Coach Jackson on his induction into the Arkansas High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE BESLAN MASSACRE

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 6, 2006*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sympathy over the terrible tragedy that took place just over two years ago in the southern Russian city of Beslan. This nightmare began on September 1, 2004, the first day of school when over 1000 students, parents, and teachers were forced by terrorists at gunpoint into a gymnasium rigged with explosives. These young students and others were held hostage for three days without access to food or water while the sick and wounded were denied access to medical treatment. In the end, nearly 400 people lost their lives, including 186 children, and over 700 people were wounded in the savage and senseless acts of violence that occurred in Beslan.

Words alone cannot adequately convey the heartache and sorrow over this barbaric act of terrorism. Having an entire Russian school taken hostage by terrorists was shocking. As the world watched, hoping against hope that this would somehow be resolved peacefully, it was horrible to learn on September 3rd that there had been massive loss of innocent lives in the early afternoon of that day.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to grieve for those children and their families and join with other Americans in solidarity with the Russian people on this somber second anniversary of the Beslan massacre.

As Americans we know what it is like to watch—helplessly and in horror—as merciless acts of terrorism are committed against innocent people. We will never forget the tremendous outpouring of sympathy from the people of Russia following the tragic events of September 11, 2001. This support was much appreciated by our wounded nation and helped us through the dark days in the immediate aftermath of the senseless violence of that fateful day.

As both our nations mourn the losses of September 3rd and September 11th, let us find hope in the countless stories of humanitarian acts that surrounded those horrible events. Colleagues, let us remember the heroism of our first responders, the valor of our troops, and the generosity of our communities in their collective response to these tragedies. May the God of mercy grant His peace to all those who continue to suffer from the violence of those tragic days.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast rollcall vote 418 through rollcall vote 426 on July 27, 2006, and July 28, 2006, because I was unavoidably detained on official business.

Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes: On rollcall vote No. 418, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 419, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 420, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 421, I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall vote No. 422, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 423, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 424, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 425, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 426, I would have voted "aye."

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANDRE AGASSI

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Andre Agassi as he retires from a 20-year professional tennis career.

Andre Agassi was born on April 29, 1970, in Las Vegas, NV, to Elizabeth and Emmanuel "Mike" Agassi. When he was an infant, Andre's father hung tennis balls above his crib in the hopes that he would some day become a tennis champion. From the time he could walk and hold a racquet effectively, Andre practiced his game, hitting up to 5,000 balls a day. By age 5, he was practicing with pros such as Jimmy Connors and Roscoe Tanner. At the age of 14, Andre's father sent him to train at Nick Bollettieri's Tennis Academy in Florida. Two years later, in 1986, he turned professional, winning his first top-level singles title in 1987 at the Sul America Open in Itaparica, Brazil.

Andre has won eight Grand Slam singles titles and has achieved a total of 60 career sin-

gles titles with one career doubles title. Andre is one of only five players to win all four Grand Slam events in his career: four Australian Open titles, one French Open, one Wimbledon, and two U.S. Opens. Furthermore, Andre won the men's singles gold medal at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, and in 1999 was ranked the No. 1 player in the world.

In addition to his achievements on the court, Andre participates in many charity organizations and founded the Andre Agassi Charitable Association (ACA), whose mission statement is to provide educational and recreational institutions and activities for abandoned, abused, and at-risk kids. Every year, the ACA holds a concert benefit entitled Grand Slam for Children, featuring performances by artists such as Celine Dion, Robin Williams, and Sir Elton John. After its 11th year, the event has successfully raised over \$50 million for the at-risk children of Las Vegas. In 1995, he won the ATP Arthur Ashe Humanitarian award in recognition of his efforts for helping disadvantaged youth in Las Vegas. In 1997, Andre opened the Boys & Girls Club to assist the youth of Las Vegas, which features a junior tennis team, Team Agassi, as well as a basketball program, the Agassi Stars. In 2001, Andre opened the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy in Las Vegas, NV, a K-12 public charter school founded on the principle that nothing can impact on a child's life more than the education they receive. Additionally, through the ACA, he supports Clark County's only residential facility for abused and neglected children called Child Haven, donating funds for a six-room classroom building now named the Agassi Center for Education. His foundation also provided \$720,000 to assist in the building of the Andre Agassi Cottage for Medically Fragile Children.

In addition to his professional success and his contributions to the community, Andre is a dedicated family man; he is the loving husband of former tennis champion Steffi Graf, and the devoted father to 4-year-old son Jaden Gil and 2-year-old daughter Jaz Elle.

The consummate sportsman, Andre praised his fans following his match on Sunday, September 3, 2006 at the U.S. Open. This match brought to a close one of the most impressive professional careers in all of sports. After walking off the court, Andre said "The scoreboard said I lost today, but what the scoreboard doesn't say is what I've found. Over the last 21 years, I've found loyalty. You have pulled for me on the court and also in life. I have found inspiration. You have willed me to succeed sometimes in my lowest moments." He will always be No. 1 in the world, not only as an athlete, but also as a great humanitarian. Andre has willed our community and children to succeed at some of our lowest moments.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Andre Agassi. I would like to offer Andre my sincerest congratulations on an esteemed career, my warmest thanks for his ongoing contributions to the Las Vegas community, and wish him much luck in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE NORTHERN LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay special tribute and congratulate the 2006 Little League World Champions, the Northern Little League team of Columbus, Georgia.

The victory by our Northern Little Leaguers over the undefeated Kawaguchi City team representing Japan, makes them only the second team from Georgia to win a World Championship. While a team from Marietta won in 1983, our team is only the second team from Georgia to ever qualify for this event in its entire 60 year history.

As the Member of Congress representing Columbus and Muscogee County, Georgia, where most of the young men live, I can not tell you how proud we all are of this fine young team.

The entire city and surrounding community was thrilled by the success of its native sons. The Columbus Northern Little League players are not only world champions; they are hometown heroes and celebrities as well.

These young men represented the city of Columbus, the State of Georgia and indeed, our great nation, in the finest tradition of the Little League, and what it stands for and represents—teamwork, sportsmanship and camaraderie.

The spirit of sportsmanship was no more apparent than this year. After winning the Championship game, the entire Columbus team walked over to their opponents dugout, and invited the Japanese team to help them hoist the championship banner and to join them in taking the victory lap around the field. Then, side by side, the two teams scooped up dirt from the infield to keep as souvenirs.

I also want to pay tribute to the parents of these young men. Any parent of a little league baseball player, or for that matter, football, soccer or other sports knows and appreciates the love and commitment needed to be successful in these activities.

Let me also pay tribute to the dedicated Columbus fans, hundreds of whom took the 900-mile trip to Williamsport from Columbus to support our team, as well as the other Little League teams in the Columbus area, and the many volunteers, sponsors and supporters who have dedicated themselves to Little League sports year after year.

Throughout the World Series, it was clear that our Northern Little Leaguers were well schooled and prepared, which in large part, points to the hard work and dedication of the team's Manager—Randy Morris, and Coach—Richard Carter.

But it was the members of the team themselves who had to put it all together on the field. And I would like to pay special tribute to each one of the team members individually, including: Brady Hamilton #6, Ryan Lang #18, Josh Lester #4, Matthew Hollis #10, Patrick Stallings #25, Mason Meyers #16, Kyle Rovig #8, Matthew Kuhlberg #7, Cody Walker #21, Kyle Carter #19, and J.T. Phillips #22.

Babe Ruth once said, "Baseball was, is and always will be to me the best game in the world."