

If present, I would have voted "yes" on each of these rollcall votes.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RAY GIUNTA

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Ray Giunta for his compassionate support for families and victims in times of crisis.

Ray is an ordained minister of the Evangelical Church Association, has a Bachelor's Degree in social work from the California State University in Sacramento and a Bachelor's in Pastoral Studies from Borean University. Not too long after graduating, Ray co-founded We Care Ministries with fellow minister Jeff Jones. We Care Ministries is a nonprofit Christian social service organization that dedicates its time to helping individuals and communities cope with the trauma of crises, from slayings and accidental deaths to high-profile tragedies like hurricanes, school shootings, and terrorist attacks. Since its existence, approximately 15,000 people have been touched by the Crisis Intervention team with physical, emotional, and prayer support.

Most recently, Ray aided several displaced families of Hurricane Katrina by providing \$11,000 in rental fares for the bus that brought the evacuees from Gonzales, LA to Henderson, NV. His congregation also supplied the families with toiletries, cell phones, gift cards to department stores, and shelter in homes of church volunteers.

Ray has worked with a number of agencies, including FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Association), the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. He has worked to provide relief at a number of different disaster sites, including: earthquakes in San Francisco; the Oklahoma City bombing; New York after 9/11; and several hurricane disaster areas in Florida and Louisiana. Ray also has counseled families and friends at school shootings in Texas and California as well as corporate mass shootings throughout the Nation.

When he isn't aiding distressed families and friends, he serves as the Encouragement Pastor at Central Christian Church in Las Vegas, NV, where he oversees a congregation of 8,000 members as well as the community outreach programs to the city. As pastor, he trains sympathetic, willing volunteers with the tools necessary to provide exceptional spiritual support for those in need.

Ray has received numerous awards for his compassionate care, including "Investigator of the Year" during his time as a criminal investigator. He also accepted the California Governor's "Heroes in Health Care" Award and the "Good Samaritan" Award from the American Red Cross. The California State Legislature also recognized him for his outstanding service in Oklahoma City and New York.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor Reverend Ray Giunta for his generosity and selflessness to numerous people during some of the most tragic events in today's world. On behalf of the Las Vegas community, I thank him for his caring attitude and wish him luck in all of his future deeds.

HONORING DONNA PAOLETTI
PHILLIPS

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Donna Paoletti Phillips, my constituent, and one of three recipients of the first annual American Civic Education Teacher Award. This award honors teachers who have demonstrated a special expertise in teaching about the U.S. Constitution, the U.S. Congress, and public policy at the state and local levels. It is one of the activities of the Alliance for Representative Democracy, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by an act of Congress.

Now in her eleventh year as an educator, Donna, a resident of Columbia, Maryland, teaches eighth grade at Robert Frost Middle Schools in Rockville. She has worked to make her classroom an incubator of democracy, believing that "the essence of civic education lies in the people the students become while in the care of our classrooms." She describes her teaching style as experiential, noting that civic education cannot be a "from the neck up" activity.

For 6 years, Donna has coordinated We the People, the Citizen and the Constitution, a simulated congressional hearing held annually at the Robert Frost Middle School. In that time, she has witnessed a profound change in the participating teachers as they moved from direct instruction to a more facilitative role in the students' education process. She has also observed the students' progress to more self-directed research and collaboration with their peers. For these reasons, Donna sees this program as a life-changing activity for those involved.

Throughout the school year, Donna's students are able to witness her collaboration with fellow faculty and her volunteer efforts in the community. She initiates discussions on global, national, local, and school-based events, and frequently questions the causes of injustices, inspiring her students to do the same.

Donna says that she is proud to have "the best kids in the country" in her class, and she considers it a wonderful opportunity to teach in the Washington Metropolitan Area, where Capitol Hill can be so easily accessed. I am very pleased that she is visiting my office today, and I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring Donna Paoletti Phillips' accomplishments and congratulating her on receiving this award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on May 22, 2006, I was unable to cast a vote on H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act, rollcall vote No. 178. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was not present in the Chamber on September 25th to cast my vote on rollcalls 471, 472, and 473.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcalls 471 and 472, and "aye" on rollcall 473.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ESTHER
FRIED

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Esther Fried, who passed away on Wednesday, September 6, 2006.

Esther was born October 16, 1919 in Denver, Colorado and was raised in Denver and Salt Lake City. Moving to Las Vegas with her husband in 1959, they opened what would become a Las Vegas institution, Freeds Bakery. Launched in 1959, this bakery grew from a mom-and-pop operation into a world-renowned business. Having seven locations in the 1970s when Las Vegas' population was one-fifth what it is today, Freeds Bakery eventually was consolidated into one location. Under her leadership the bakery grew exponentially and gained widespread recognition. In 1996, Bon Appetit named Freeds Bakery one of the top 10 places to eat in Las Vegas. The bakery was also featured in the April 2002 edition of Martha Stewart Weddings magazine.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Esther Fried. She will be dearly missed by the Las Vegas Community.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
CASEY COLEMAN DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Cleveland's Casey Coleman Day. Mr. Casey Coleman is a landmark in Cleveland radio broadcasting and sports-casting who has recently been diagnosed with inoperable pancreatic cancer with only months to live. Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson has proclaimed September 26 as "Casey Coleman Day" to honor the distinguished Cleveland resident.

Mr. Coleman has been an acclaimed sports broadcaster for over 25 years and has been recognized by the Associated Press for "Best Regularly Scheduled Sports" and "Best Sports-caster" in the State of Ohio. While performing television broadcasting, Mr. Coleman received four Emmy Awards. Mr. Coleman also has the honor of being the field and locker room reporter for the Cleveland Browns for the past five consecutive years.

Casey Coleman Day will be more than just a title, as a ceremony will be held at Tower