

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE TO THE GARY, INDIANA, BRANCH OF THE NAACP

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take this time to recognize the members of the Gary, Indiana branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP. On Monday, October 30, 2006, the Gary NAACP held its 90th anniversary dinner, while also celebrating the 45th Annual Mary White Ovington Freedom Fund Awards at Saint Timothy Community Church's Fellowship Hall in Gary, Indiana.

The NAACP was founded on February 12, 1909, with the mission to end all racial discrimination and to secure the political, economic, and social rights of all African-Americans. As the Nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, the NAACP has worked successfully with allies of all races who believe in and continue to carry out this mission still today. The Gary NAACP, the largest branch in the State of Indiana, was organized by those who felt there was a need for an organization that would monitor and defend the rights of African-Americans in northwest Indiana. The members of the Gary NAACP, who so selflessly serve the community, share the goals of the national organization. They fight each and every day to combat injustice, discrimination, and unfair treatment in their community.

This year's fundraiser event and anniversary dinner featured Dan Parker, Indiana State Democratic Committee chairman; and Murray Clark, Indiana State Republican Committee chairman, as the evening's keynote speakers. The theme for this year's event was, "Remembering the Past. Preparing for the Future. Voting to make a Difference." The featured speakers addressed the importance of voting while promoting their respective party members.

This year, several honorees were recognized at the event with a special awards presentation. Denise Dillard, State Senator Earline Rogers, the Gary Cultural and Historical Society, Willie Watkins, New Mount Moriah Baptist Church, First African Methodist Episcopal Church, Saint Timothy Community Church, the Gary City Clerk's Office, and Marshanelle Hill were among those being honored with various awards for their service to the community and to the branch.

In addition, the Mary White Ovington Award, the most distinguished award of the evening, was presented to Gary residents Jonathan Comer and Cherrie B. White. This very special award annually recognizes those making the greatest contributions to sustaining civil rights.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the members of the Gary NAACP for the efforts, activities, and leadership they have championed to improve the quality of life for

all residents of Indiana's First Congressional District. I also ask that you join me in commending the community leaders who, through their unwavering commitment to their community, are so deserving of the special honors bestowed upon them.

### TRIBUTE TO RETIRING BARTON COUNTY OFFICIALS

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2006*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a number of officials from Barton County, Missouri, are retiring this year after serving the public for a number of years.

I have had the privilege of representing Barton County in the United States Congress on two occasions. Barton County lies in the southwestern part of the Fourth Congressional District. Its county seat of Lamar is the birthplace of President Harry S Truman, and the people who live there today personify the same common sense, hard working, Show-Me State values that made President Truman an outstanding president and global leader. I am honored to represent these fine Missourians in the United States Congress and to have had the privilege to work with many of these outstanding public officials.

Presiding Commissioner Gerald Miller was born in Idaho but moved to Missouri as a child. He graduated from Lamar High School in 1958 and has been active in the community since that time. Since 1999, Mr. Miller has served as Presiding Commissioner and has worked tirelessly to improve the communities he represents. He is a member of the Lamar Metro Club, the Abou Ben Adhem Shrine, and the Lamar Masonic Lodge. He is a successful businessman who is married to Brenda Rinehart and has two sons, Mark and Matt.

County Clerk Bonda Rawlings is a lifelong resident of Barton County. She graduated from Lamar High School in 1961 and has dedicated much of her life to bettering her community. Since 1983, she has served as the Barton County Clerk and has been a leader in the State Association of County Clerks, serving as president in 1996. While working full time, she is also a member of the Barton County Chamber of Commerce, the Lamar Art League, the Barton County Historical Society, the Truman Area Transportation System, and the Lamar High School Booster Club. In all of these organizations, Mrs. Rawlings has held a leadership position. Bonda is married to Bill Rawlings and has two sons, Stan and Steve.

Circuit Clerk Jerry Moyer has spent his adult life serving Barton County and is a graduate of Golden City High School. In 1976, he graduated from the College of the Ozarks with a degree in criminal justice administration. Mr. Moyer has served as the Clerk of the Circuit Court in Barton County since 1983 and has been a leader among his colleagues, serving

as president of the Circuit Clerk and Record-ers Association in 1994. Mr. Moyer previously served as Deputy Sheriff, a police officer, and a Deputy Juvenile Officer. He is active in the First Assembly of God Church, the Lamar Rotary Club, and the Freedom Singers gospel choir. Jerry Moyer is married to Jena Moyer and has a daughter named Tiffany.

Recorder of Deeds Jean Keithly has lived in Barton County all her life and is a graduate of Lamar High School. From 1984 to 2003, she served as the Deputy Recorder of Deeds in Barton County. In 2003, she became the first elected Recorder of Deeds in Barton County since 1935, when the office had been combined with the Circuit Clerk's office. Mrs. Keithly has been an active member of the Recorder's Association of Missouri for 22 years. She is a long-time member of the Hopewell Cumberland Presbyterian Church and has been an outstanding charitable volunteer. Mrs. Keithly is married to Bob Keithly and has two children, Michael and Teresa.

Deputy Assessor Ona Mullinax has lived in Golden City, Missouri, for the past 41 years and has worked at the Barton County Courthouse since 1983. Throughout her tenure, she has capably worked through many changes within her office and was especially instrumental in assigning emergency 911 addresses to rural Barton County homes. In 1998, Mrs. Mullinax received the Employee of the Year award, which was presented by the Lamar Rotary Club. She and her husband, Rusty, have a shared family of seven children and ten grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, these five individuals represent the outstanding Missourians who live and work within Missouri's Fourth Congressional District. As they each prepare to spend time with their families and enjoy retirement, I know that my colleagues will join me in wishing them well.

### HONORING MR. TOM BENSON, RECIPIENT OF THE CHARLES E. PIPER AWARD

#### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2006*

Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tom Benson, recipient of the 2006 Charles E. Piper Award for exceptional business achievement. Mr. Benson is currently the owner of the World's Largest Laundromat in Berwyn, IL and also serves as president of the Berwyn Development Corporation. His outstanding leadership, receiving both local and national acclamation, has greatly impacted the local community and its businesses.

Since 1999, Benson has owned the World's Largest Laundromat—a business that is technologically innovative and community centered. After a devastating fire in 2004, he rebuilt the facility and powered it with state-of-the-art solar energy, which significantly saves financial and energy resources. The World's

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