

Center, where she studied the communities' statistics.

Recognizing her statistical talents, Ay'Tasha was given additional responsibilities by the Associate Executive Director of the Division of Chemical Dependency for the North Brooklyn Health Network in the newly established Performance Improvement Department, helping the Assistant Director in strategizing ways to support the population suffering from substance abuse addictions.

Her most recent opportunity towards climbing the corporate ladder came in March of 2006 when she was assigned to assist the Associate Director of Psychiatry in restructuring Woodhull's Psychiatric Emergency Department. As the Administrative Manager of Psych ED, Consultation and Liaison Services and the Chemical Dependency Inpatient Detoxification Units, Ay'Tasha is also faced with the daily challenge of aiding the Psychiatric patients as well as encouraging, mentoring and challenging her staff to heightened levels, while advocating for the Williamsburg and Bedford Stuyvesant communities.

Throughout her HHC career under the umbrella of the Department of Psychiatry, Ay'Tasha has been a member of many committees such as Cumberland's Open Access Team, Billing/Finance, Information Technology and Community Affairs.

Ay'Tasha's walls are lined with many awards, certificates, and presentations as a testament of her hard work. She has also received extensive continuing education in Healthcare Professionalism such as Managerial, Administrative Assistant, Graphic Design, and the list continues. Ay'Tasha's most heartfelt accomplishment is her Associate of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies from Bethel Bible Institute. Ay'Tasha is presently seeking her Bachelors Degree in Health Administration.

Ay'Tasha understands the importance of children. She nurtures her nieces, nephews, godchildren and a host of other youth. Not only is she an inspiration to children, Ay'Tasha mentors young women in her community. Ay'Tasha encompasses the true identity of a role model in today's society.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive achievements of Ay'Tasha T. Hanton for her commitment to her community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful person and the great things she has done.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I stand in opposition to H.R. 1591, a measure that would set dangerous and unprecedented timelines for U.S. troop withdrawal from Iraq.

On September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked the United States of America, killing thousands of innocent people in a horrific fashion and forever changing America's role in the fight against global terrorism.

Just days later, President Bush and leaders of this Congress together affirmed America's commitment to leading a global war on terrorism. Our goals are to bring those responsible for 9/11 to justice while working to prevent future acts of terrorism.

Since then, the bravery of our troops, the courage of our leaders, and most importantly the vigilance of the American people have helped prevent further attacks on American soil.

Our strategy of taking the fight to the terrorists is working. Our continued efforts in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom are making a real difference, both there and here at home. We are moving closer to the day when the Iraqi army and police force will be adequately prepared to take full control of their country.

What day will they be prepared to do so? Our military commanders might have a good idea. Leaders of the Iraqi military might know. Neither have set a date certain—neither have published a time line for withdrawal, because they understand the danger in doing so.

As a Member of Congress, I do not know the exact day this withdrawal should happen. In short, I believe it should be on the day when we have achieved our objective. As a Congressman, I expect continued, measurable progress toward that day—and, like every American, I hope that day is soon. But it is too early to tell what day that is; if telling emboldened our enemy and put our troops in harm's way, I wouldn't tell.

Yet according to the measure before us today, a majority of my colleagues apparently believe they know the exact day. They've picked a day when—whether the job is finished or not—we will pack up and go home.

This is bad public policy, it is bad military strategy, and it cuts the very legs out from under the soldiers who have so bravely fought the battles to keep America safe. The road to this day has been long, sometimes difficult, but largely successful. If we remain committed to leading the fight to keep the American people safe from terrorism, then we owe it to our military commanders to help them finish their job without arbitrary and capricious intervention from politicians.

Mr. Speaker, the timelines for troop withdrawal are not the only bad idea in this legislation. Woven into a bill that is designed to fund our military is more than \$20 billion in non-emergency spending on such items as peanut storage and spinach farmers.

Millions of Americans wake up and go to work each morning to provide for their families and help make America a better place. As the saying goes, they work hard, play by the rules, and pay their taxes.

These are the families I keep in mind each time I cast a vote on public policy.

This measure contains hundreds of millions in taxpayer dollars being diverted from national defense to pork-barrel spending to benefit the pet projects of certain interests.

Like many Americans, I am outraged by the reports that Democrat leaders are promising this and additional pork-barrel spending in exchange for Democrat votes for this measure.

Each of these dollars came from taxpayers, and taxpayers deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, there are good things in this bill, like funding for our troops in battle, im-

proved health care for our soldiers and veterans—things I am proud to support.

However, when weighing the good and bad in this measure, the pro-family, pro-troop, pro-American vote is easy to identify. That vote, in this case, is “no,” and I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the measure.

A TRIBUTE TO AIDA T. WILSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Aida T. Wilson. Aida T. Wilson was born in Panama City in the Republic of Panama. She is the eldest of five children born to Olga and Charles Tyrell. After completing high school at Santa Familia School for Dressmaking in Panama City, she was immediately employed by Maloul Brothers for five years in Colon, City of Panama.

Ms. Wilson migrated to the United States in 1956 and immediately began to further her education by attending several adult education programs while employed as a seamstress. She was later employed by one of New York City's most prestigious department stores Lord and Taylor. After serving in several positions she became their Merchandising Auditor. She retired in 1994 after 37 years of service with the company. Following one year of retirement, she was hired to work on a part-time basis at Community Board 5 in East New York as a Community Service Aide and has maintained this position for the past 11 years.

Ms. Wilson has been a communicant of St. Laurence Church RC for the past 30 years. She has served on their Board of Trustees; as member and past President of the Laorencian Guild (Rosary Society); Chairperson of the Liturgy Committee; Treasurer of the Church AARP Chapter; and presently a Lector at Sunday Masses and a member of the Parish Pastoral Planning Committee. Mrs. Wilson is an active member and Past President of the Brooklyn New Lots Lions Club and Part District Treasurer for the Lions of District 20 K1 (Brooklyn and Queens). For her lionistic activism, she has been recognized with many awards and citations including the Distinguished Service Award for Community Service, Lion of the Year, Knights of the Blind Award and the highest recognition by an association, The Melvin Jones Fellowship.

Aida Wilson is married to Lloyd G. Wilson, (retired MTA Motorman). This union brought forth a son Rodney, and a daughter Sharon who have blessed them with six grandchildren: Tyrell and Cherrell Wilson, Jazine Miller, Eryka, Elissa, and Jessica Hill. A step granddaughter Kristin Reid Hill, son-in-law Eric Hill and daughter-in-law Angela A. Wilson.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this pillar of our community for all of her good works and kind gestures.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Aida T. Wilson.