

Vlangas became Royce at his agent's request and with his parents' blessing, thus following the show business practice of the time. He changed his name, but never forgot who he was. Even at the height of his career in the late 40s and 50s the Nicholas Royce dancers stood for all good things and wowed 'em with Nat King Cole's "Calypso Blues", and a modern dance number based on "Harlem Nocturn". They performed in all the top supper clubs, niterys and TV shows; Ed Sullivan, Milton Berle, Kate Smith, etc.

From his new home in California, starting in 1957, Nicholas Royce has exercised his rights as a layman of the Orthodox faith. He launched a vigorous letter writing campaign to mass media, Government officials, private and public agencies, industry and individuals, and he has succeeded in broadening the public's understanding and recognition of the Orthodox faith. Because "exclusion of Orthodoxy is a form of discrimination and prejudice", Nicholas has made these efforts, so Orthodoxy would be an integral part of American life along with other major faiths.

Retired since 1994, Royce now resides in Valley Village, California. Retirement has given him more time to fight for AIDS victims, the homeless, and abused women and children. He broke the stereotype by joining the Hollywood Women's Press Club, Women in Film, and American Women in Radio and TV. In 1996, the University of Minnesota's Immigration history Research Center was pleased to announce the addition of "the Nicholas Royce papers" to their archival library.

Never one to rest on his laurels, he continues to accept new challenges.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2008*

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, I regret that on January 28, 2008, due to travel complications, I was unable to vote on H.R. 4140 and S. 2110. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING DR. ASA G. HILLIARD  
III

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2008*

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Dr. Asa G. Hilliard III (Baffour Amankwatia II). A devoted father, husband, mentor, and world-renowned humanitarian who worked tirelessly and inspired us all, Dr. Hilliard will be sorely missed by us all. Asa passed away on August 13, 2007.

An accomplished academic and devoted professor, Dr. Hilliard affected the lives of thousands of students. He was not only a mentor in his community, but a hero in the African Diaspora Movement. Dr. Hilliard began his academic career in Denver, where he earned a B.A. in Education Psychology, an M.A. in counseling, and a Ed.D in Education Psychology at the University of Denver.

Dr. Hilliard launched his professional career at the University of Denver, teaching at the College of Education and in Philosophy colloquium of the Centennial Scholars Honor Program. After moving with his family to California, Dr. Hilliard dedicated 18 years of his life to San Francisco State University. During this time, he served as Department Chair for two years, Dean of Education for eight years while also working as a consultant for the Peace Corps. Dr. Hilliard's influence and reach was truly global. As he mentored and taught students in the United States, he also made constant visits to Africa, serving as the Superintendent of Schools in Monrovia, Liberia for two years.

Dr. Hilliard was a founding member of the association for the study of Classical African Civilization, serving as its first Vice President. He was co-developer of a popular educational television series *Free Your Mind, Return to the Source: African Origins* and produced many videotapes and educational materials on African-American History through his production company, *Weset Education Productions*. Dr. Hilliard was so groundbreaking and forward-thinking in his approach to education that several of his methods have become national models in the field.

Dr. Hilliard was a purposeful man with an unquenchable passion for education and the preservation of his culture's history and traditions. Without reservation, Dr. Asa Hilliard significantly changed the world with his dedication to the preservation, study, and spiritual understanding of Africa, African Americans, and Africans in Diaspora throughout the world.

One of my long standing desires was to travel to Egypt with Dr. Hilliard on one of his study tours. Each time I saw him I mentioned this and we both were very excited about the prospect. Due to my hectic schedule, this never happened. As God will have it, I was in Ghana, West Africa, at the Cape Coast Slave Castle when I learned from Reverend Jeremiah Wright through Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. that Asa had passed the day before in Egypt. Like many, I was devastated and saddened, yet thankful to his family and to God for his amazing life. I reflected upon his death in Egypt in a prayerful manner, and took pause to commemorate this great soul.

His loving wife, Mrs. Patsy Jo Hilliard, has quoted Asa as repeatedly saying, "It is not enough for us to be bright and competent. We must also have purpose and direction. It is not enough for us to 'make it' on our own—to save ourselves. As Abena says in Armah's novel, *Two Thousand Seasons*, 'There is no self to save without the rest of us.'" In this way, Dr. Hilliard touched and influenced the lives of all who were privileged to come into contact with him.

On behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, we salute and honor a great human being, our beloved Asa G. Hilliard III. We extend my deepest condolences to Asa's family, and our deepest gratitude to them for sharing this great spirit with us. May his soul rest in peace, and may we continue to benefit from the positive impact he left on the world.

RECOGNIZING NICHOLAS B. HANSER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas B. Hanser, 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 and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO EGGERTSVILLE HOSE COMPANY

### HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2008*

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Eggertsville Hose Company of Amherst, New York. For a century the members of the Eggertsville Hose have been volunteering to protect their neighbors.

The Eggertsville Hose began in 1906 in a corner meat packing store after a series of household fires could not be extinguished. The two home blazes were unable to be controlled by the bucket brigade, the fire fighting team at the time. Residents of Eggertsville then banded together to form an organization that would provide better fire protection to the community.

This fire company was incorporated in May 1908. The Eggertsville Hose was the first fire company in the town of Amherst outside of the Village of Williamsville. Fighting to protect the members of their community is the main priority of this 100 percent volunteer fire district. No matter what it takes these volunteers rise to the call of duty.

The Eggertsville Hose is an indispensable part of the Amherst Community, the members of the Hose have dedicated countless hours of service to assist their neighbors. As the population in the district grows the Eggertsville Hose advances along with the rising need for their service. In 1995 the fire station was moved to the center of the district which allows the Hose to respond to emergencies in all areas in a shortened period of time. The new station location along with new equipment and technology makes it possible for the volunteer fire fighters to be increasingly effective in their firefighting capabilities.

The citizens of Eggertsville know that they will be protected by the brave firefighters of the Eggertsville Hose whenever disasters occur or fires flare up. Madam Speaker, in

recognition of its 100th anniversary of tremendous service in the town of Amherst, I ask this honorable body join me in honoring the Egbertsville Hose Company.

HONORING MS. BETTYE BANKS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2008*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the retirement and celebrate the career of a true community leader, Ms. Bettye Banks. This year will mark 30 years of her outstanding service with Consumer Credit Counseling of Greater Dallas, with whom she has dedicated her professional career to providing financial education to citizens of North Texas.

Ms. Banks began her career as a secretary with Consumer Credit Counseling of Dallas in 1978. Her work ethic, diligence, and intellect allowed her to easily move up through the ranks, serving as office manager and counselor, among other positions.

In 1990, Ms. Banks singlehandedly created the education program, aimed at teaching financial wellness and literacy. Today, Ms. Banks is the senior vice-president for Consumer Counseling of Dallas and responsible for overseeing the financial wellness initiatives of the Education Department. With her vision and leadership, the department has also grown to include 41 individual presentations on money and credit related topics. Ms. Banks has truly been an asset to the department and has left a lasting impression on its growth and impact in the community.

In a true testament to her spirit, while working full time at CCCS Dallas, she completed her bachelor's degree in applied business practice. She has also earned professional certification as a Consumer Credit Counselor, Certified Financial Counseling Executive and Housing Counselor.

Among her many accomplishments, Ms. Banks has authored a series of consumer-finance workbooks and taught over 3,000 seminars and workshops. Her reputation as an expert in the fields has generated contributions in multiple publications, including *Today's Dallas Woman* and *Dallas Family*. She has appeared on CBS, NBC and ABC and is sought out as a conference speaker on the topics of financial wellness.

Additionally, Ms. Banks is an active community leader, serving on the boards of the Greater Dallas Rotary Club, the Dallas Legal Roundtable, and Friends of Consumer Freedom, among others. She has been a member of numerous local organizations including the North Texas Affordable Housing Coalition, Family Financial Advisory Council and the Dallas Downtown Rotary.

There is no doubt that Ms. Banks has generated a monumental legacy at CCCS Dallas. Through her drive and fortitude, she has undoubtedly elevated the organization, and her leadership will be missed. At this milestone in her life, I would like to take the time to commend her for her commitment to the community and education. I extend my best wishes for her retirement and thank her for her invaluable friendship.

RECOVERY REBATES AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, today, Congress passed a \$146 billion, bipartisan economic stimulus bill that will quickly send hundreds of dollars to poor and middle-class working families while offering businesses one-time incentives to invest in new equipment. Although there is much more to do if we are to meet the needs of American families, including extending unemployment benefits and food stamps, I believe that this stimulus is an important first step in our effort to help hardworking Americans.

This broad-based stimulus package will provide tax relief of up to \$600 per individual and \$1,200 per married couple, plus an additional \$300 per child. Recovery rebate checks could be sent as early as mid-May, getting money to Americans who will spend it immediately to reinvigorate the economy. In Texas alone, approximately 8.6 million families will receive rebates averaging over \$900. Nationwide, over 111 million families would receive these rebate checks, including 35 million with earnings too low to pay income taxes. More than 19 million of these are families with children and 13 million are struggling seniors. Nearly \$50 billion of the rebate will go to middle-income Americans and those aspiring to it. Economists estimate that each dollar of broad tax cuts leads to \$1.26 in economic growth.

The economic stimulus bill also helps address the crisis we are facing in our home mortgage market by permitting more borrowers facing defaults to refinance through the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). For 2008, the bill increases the FHA loan limits up to \$729,750 from \$362,790 to expand affordable mortgage loan opportunities for families at risk of foreclosure. In addition, the bill also enhances credit availability in the mortgage market by including a 1-year increase in the conforming loan limits for single family homes from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac from \$417,000 up to \$729,750 for 2008. These increases in loan limits will benefit areas where housing costs are higher than the national average.

Mortgage rates on loans that currently exceed these loan limits are much more expensive than for smaller loans. These higher rates have hurt demand for housing in high-cost areas. The provisions in the stimulus will lower borrowing costs for many Americans, including middle-class families in high-cost cities to those who may be facing foreclosure. More importantly, this will allow more homeowners to refinance their existing mortgages, thereby increasing the effectiveness of the interest freeze for some subprime borrowers brokered by the Treasury in December. This is because more borrowers will be able to take advantage of the freeze to refinance into new FHA loans.

Finally, this bill will promote small business investment in equipment, which will spur job creation here at home. The bipartisan plan doubles the amount small businesses can immediately write off their taxes for capital investments made in 2008 from \$125,000 to

\$250,000, for purchases of new equipment of up to \$800,000 (from \$500,000). It also provides immediate tax relief for all businesses to invest in new plants and equipment by speeding up depreciation provisions, so that firms can write off an additional 50 percent for investments purchased in 2008.

While more needs to be done, I am confident that this bipartisan economic stimulus package will help many American families in the weeks and months ahead.

IN HONOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2008*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the University of Delaware Department of Public Safety for being recognized by the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, an independent organization created by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the National Sheriffs' Association and the Police Executive Research Forum. The importance of public safety officers within our community, and in particular within the University of Delaware, cannot be underscored enough. I am proud to represent a State that is home to such selfless and dedicated officers as those at the University of Delaware Department of Public Safety.

The University of Delaware is now a member of an elite group of public safety agencies in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Barbados that have received this prestigious, international award. The men and women of the Department have shown great dedication and commitment to providing quality service and protection to all students, faculty, and staff at the University of Delaware campus.

Employing only a total of forty-two officers on its Wilmington and Lewes campuses with approximately twenty security offices, the Department of Public Safety has no easy task as the University of Delaware has a large enrollment with students living on and off campus in the town of Newark. Despite this challenging task, the department has provided and continues to provide the highest quality protection and service to the University of Delaware community.

The citizens of Delaware deserve to know that the University of Delaware Department of Public Safety, has taken extraordinary steps to demonstrate their professionalism and pride in delivering quality public service to the University of Delaware community. I am tremendously proud of the Department of Public Safety and would like to commend and thank the men and women of the Department for the sacrifices and commitment that they make on a daily basis. The bravery and hard work of all those involved with this outstanding organization is responsible for making Delaware a safer place to live.