

HONORING SAMUEL LEE AYERS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel Lee Ayers, 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, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Samuel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Samuel 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 Samuel Lee Ayers for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE
CORPS**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, March 1, 2008 marks the 47th anniversary of the Peace Corps. It is only fitting that we pause to congratulate this tremendous organization and all of its volunteers for the incredible work they do on behalf of millions of people around the world.

Since 1961, over 190,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 139 countries. As teachers and consultants, they bring a broad range of intellectual acumen to concerns as diverse as business, economic development, health care education, and agricultural improvement. Their dedication speaks to the highest ideals of our Nation; it shows our global neighbors the true face of American compassion and generosity.

Currently, there are 18 citizens of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina volunteering their time in countries around the world ranging from Romania to Jamaica: Coy Beale, Christopher Belser, Erin Curtis, Michael Edmonds, Lee Enzastiga, David Hart, Rebecca Hartz, Karla Hoppmann, Amanda Jackson, Danielle Kuczkowski, Lucy Marcil, Ingrid Martens, Cynthia McDonald, Carol Preston, Crystal Reardon, Alexis Serna, Phillip Shealy, and Erin Swails.

I am grateful for their service and wish to recognize their tremendous efforts. These leaders and their fellow Peace Corps volunteers deserve our utmost respect.

Congratulations to the Peace Corps on its 47th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO DOMINICAN HERITAGE
MONTH ON THE 164TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE INDEPENDENCE DAY OF THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I join with the hundreds of thousands of Dominican residents of my congressional district and across our Nation to commemorate today, February 27th, the 164th anniversary of the Dominican Republic's Day of Independence. This celebration comes at the tail end of what has been a momentous Dominican Heritage Month.

Dominican Heritage Month gave us the opportunity to acknowledge and applaud the economic, cultural, and social contributions Dominican Americans have made to this great Nation. Dominicans living in our shores have been motivated by the value of hard work and the bonds of family—the same pillars of our society that has built this great Nation for over 230 years.

It also gave us an opportunity to consider the many Dominican achievements, on the island and in the United States. Many of our hemisphere's first institutions were established on the shores of Quisqueya, including the first cathedral and the oldest university.

Since the initial wave of Dominican migration in the 1960's to the most recent arrivals of today, Dominicans have worked hard to contribute to our national identity, educating us all on their culture and traditions and enriching the quality of our shared futures. Their contributions can also be found in every facet of U.S. life—from the many baseball stars in our national pastime, to fashion legend Oscar de la Renta to the thousands of professionals that do battle as soldiers, doctors, lawyers, journalists, educators, and public servants.

This past year, the Dominican community and I shared the loss of our fallen soldier, Cpl. Juan Alcantara, who lost his life tragically on August 6, 2007 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. We also shared the grief of Hurricane Noel, the deadliest storm of the 2007 hurricane season, responsible for at least 140 deaths and the displacement of more than 80,000 people in the Dominican Republic.

The Dominican people are known to triumph in the face of tragedy. They first began their campaign for the independence of the Dominican Republic in 1831 under the leadership of Juan Pablo Duarte, who formed a secret society named The Trinity. Thirteen years later, he succeeded in commanding a decisive uprising, which resulted in independence for the Dominican Republic. After the long and hard campaign for freedom had ended, a ceremonial musket shot fired on February 27, 1844 marked the Dominican Republic's first official Independence Day.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in marking this celebration of not just the independence and triumphs of the Dominican people, but also the invaluable impact that they have had on our Nation and the world.

HONORING LAURIE SULLIVAN

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my sadness over the untimely passing of Laurie D. Sullivan due to breast cancer. Laurie was a successful female entrepreneur in the world of advocacy. More importantly, she is remembered for her love of life, family, friends, colleagues, and politics. I am grateful for our friendship and the laughs that we shared.

Laurie grew up in a union household in Connecticut, where her political roots took hold. She was a Democratic activist during high school and college. She represented Connecticut as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1972, serving as the youngest delegate ever at that time. She received her education at the University of Connecticut School of Law with highest honors. Laurie spent a decade doing legal and government relations work at Aetna's corporate headquarters in Connecticut. During this time, she cultivated strong ties to the Connecticut delegation in Congress.

Laurie built her influence through a long history of Democratic Party activism, in Washington, DC, as well as Connecticut. After moving from Connecticut to Washington, DC, she first co-founded Sullivan & Baldick, and then separated from that firm in 2002 to found Avenue Solutions, a small and successful all-female, all-Democratic firm that specializes in health and financial services lobbying. Avenue Solutions is notable for its individual attention and service given to clients. On behalf of those clients, Laurie played a leading role with Democrats on numerous legislative issues, including healthcare reform, Medicare expansion, legal reform, pension relief, and telecommunications.

Today I rise to pay tribute to Laurie Sullivan's outstanding career and life achievements. Laurie combined her commitment to political and legislative advocacy with a love of life and dedication to her family throughout her courageous battle with cancer. She lived by her words, "It is the quality of life, not the quantity." She will be dearly missed for her candor, devotion, and her ability to step back, take a deep breath and smile.

HONORING TYLER EVAN ARTHUR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Evan Arthur, 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, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tyler 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 Tyler Evan Arthur for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING ESSIE MAE REED
DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Essie Mae Reed of Tampa, Florida. Ms. Reed devoted her life to the poor and underprivileged in Tampa. She became their voice.

Born in Savannah, Ms. Reed moved to Tampa as a child. For decades she was the representative for Central Park Village housing project families. Ms. Reed's eagerness to help others stretched beyond her closest neighbors. Her role as Central Park Village's spokeswoman began in 1967 when she created the Tenant's Association to represent the nearly 4,000 families in public housing in Tampa. She served the Association without pay and worked as a housekeeper to make money for her family. She fought for a Boys & Girls Club in the housing complex. She took children to Hillsborough Community College on the weekends for enrichment activities. She publicized the unsanitary conditions and had hot water heaters installed in the apartments so residents could shower in warm water. She ensured children received lunch at school. But her biggest accomplishment was overturning the policy excluding single mothers from being allowed to live in public housing.

In 1971, Ms. Reed ran for Tampa City Council. She was the first black woman ever to run, and when they charged her a substantial qualifying fee, she sued the city to have the fee waived. The federal district court ruled that the fee was unconstitutional because it excluded some candidates on the basis of socioeconomic status.

Madam Speaker, Essie Mae Reed is a Tampa treasure. She stood up for so many that didn't have a voice and improved lives throughout my community. She is an example that people, individuals, are capable of performing enormous feats. Ms. Reed didn't learn to read until she was 40, and she said it best: "People thought we was nobody because of living in the slums, but we could all be something given an opportunity."

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS, A MEMBER OF THE 2006-2007 PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of North Texas for being recognized as a member of the President's Honor Roll for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Launched in 2006, the President's Honor Roll recognizes institutions of higher education

all across the Nation that support innovative, effective, and exemplary community service programs. Honorees for the award were selected based on a series of factors, including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers service-learning courses.

In congratulating the winners, U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings said, "Americans rely on our higher education system to prepare students for citizenship and the workforce. We look to institutions like these to provide leadership in partnering with local schools to shape the civic, democratic and economic future of our country."

The Honor Roll is jointly sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service, through its Learn and Serve America program, and the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, USA Freedom Corps, Campus Compact, and the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

It is my honor to represent a university that shows such hard work and dedication to their local community. I strongly believe in the philanthropic efforts of those who volunteer and give their time and resources to help others. I extend my sincerest congratulations to the University of North Texas, as well as their fine students, faculty, and staff. It truly is an honor to represent such extraordinary citizens in the 26th District of Texas, and I look forward to the positive impact these students will inevitably have on our Nation's future.

PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF H. RES. 979, RECOMMENDING THAT HARRIET MIERS AND JOSHUA BOLTEN BE FOUND IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS, AND ADOPTION OF H. RES. 980, AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO INITIATE OR INTERVENE IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS TO ENFORCE CERTAIN SUBPOENAS

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday February 14, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 982, yet I feel a great sense of disappointment that Congress has been put in the position to take such action. This resolution recommends that the U.S. House of Representatives finds White House Chief of Staff Joshua Bolten and former White House Counsel Harriet Miers in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with subpoenas issued by the Committee on the Judiciary. Furthermore, H. Res. 982 authorizes the Committee on the Judiciary to initiate or intervene in judicial proceedings to enforce certain subpoenas.

Over the past year, Congress has been investigating the firing of U.S. Attorneys by former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales based on what appears to be purely political grounds. Congress has been investigating with the intent of exposing any wrongdoing and to restore integrity and transparency to the Jus-

tice Department. Clearly, Congress and the American people will not tolerate an Attorney General, our Nation's top law enforcement officer, politicizing the conduct of the Department of Justice. Congress and the American people have the right to know what role Bush administration officials have played in the dismissal of these Federal prosecutors—including the former U.S. Attorney for Minnesota.

In July of 2007, Congress subpoenaed Mr. Bolten and Ms. Miers after previous requests for information from them had been denied. At the direction of the White House, Mr. Bolten and Ms. Miers refused to comply with the Congressional subpoenas. They cited executive privilege in an apparent attempt to avoid answering questions under oath as to their involvement and their knowledge of the involvement of others in the firing of the U.S. Attorneys.

Now, Congress has decided it must hold Mr. Bolten and Ms. Miers responsible for their failure to appear. A subpoena from Congress is not to be ignored. Their decision to dismiss the Congressional subpoena like a piece of junk mail is regrettable and has serious consequences as H. Res. 982 demonstrates.

The Executive Branch—regardless of occupant of the White House—must be held accountable by both Congress and the American people. The Bush administration too often forgets that Congress is a co-equal branch of government and deserves open and honest cooperation when conducting oversight duties. H. Res. 982 reflects the House of Representatives' frustration with the conduct of this White House in impeding legitimate oversight and I strongly support the passage of this resolution.

HONORING PATSY AND FRED PATTERSON FOR THEIR SERVICE TO DENTON, TX, AND TEXAS WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Patsy and Fred Patterson of Denton, Texas, for their exceptional service to the community of Denton and to Texas Women's University. Mr. and Mrs. Patterson have been awarded the 2008 Texas Women's University Founders Award.

With a more than 50-year history of community activism in Denton, Patsy and Fred Patterson have established themselves as committed leaders in promoting the city, its events and organizations, and its universities.

Mr. and Mrs. Patterson have had leadership roles with several Denton community organizations, including the Denton Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Denton Arts Council, the Denton Community Theatre, the Denton Public School Foundation and the United Way of Denton.

One of my heroes, President Ronald Reagan, often spoke about the importance of community service to everyday life in America. He once said voluntary service is like "a spirit that flows like a deep and mighty river through the history of our Nation." Patsy and Fred Patterson and their tireless work are part of this rich history.