

TRIBUTE TO THE LEE COUNTY COALITION FOR A DRUG-FREE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lee County Coalition for a Drug-Free Southwest Florida for spreading awareness about the dangers of drug use and underage drinking at its second annual Drug House Odyssey. Over 10 community agencies have partnered with the Coalition to inform children, teenagers and parents about substance abuse at this year's event. Last year's Drug House Odyssey attracted over 3,000 students, teachers, and parents, and I'm confident that this year's event in Cape Coral will be an even bigger success.

For nearly 20 years, the Lee County Coalition has educated tons of thousands of students in Southwest Florida about substance abuse. From school visits to conferences, community celebrations to professional counselor training, the Lee County Coalition has been empowering teenagers and families to make the right choices about drug and alcohol use. Their work is just a vital part of what makes Southwest Florida a great place to live, work and visit.

The focus of the Lee County Coalition's annual Drug House Odyssey is prevention: teaching children and teenagers about the dangers of drugs and alcohol and encouraging them to make smart decisions about their health. It's appropriate that this year's event will be held during National Alcohol Awareness Month. The facts are staggering: according to a recent Florida Youth Substance Abuse survey, over 35 percent of teenagers in Lee County have reported using alcohol in the last 30 days; nationally, the average is 16 percent.

That's why the good work that the Lee County Coalition performs every day to help children and teenagers make smart decisions about drugs and alcohol is so important, and why I ardently support their mission.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to represent the staff and volunteers of the Lee County Coalition for a Drug-Free Southwest Florida in Congress, and I wish them all the best at their second annual Drug House Odyssey.

HONORING DENISE JONES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Denise Jones who was born and raised in Brooklyn. Ms. Jones' commitment to public service originated from her mother and role model, Rosalie Jones, who showed her the benevolence of charitable kindness to others. Her mother is currently a retired New York City public school teacher who served her community for dedicated thirty-five years.

Denise Jones started her career in human services seventeen years ago working with

MRDD at Catholic Charities as a per diem weekend counselor. Even though she held a printing job, she went to work at the Odyssey House as a counselor making half the salary. She remembers saying that the moment she took that job, she knew it was her life's work.

Ms. Jones has worked with the following agencies: Project Return now known as Padilla; FEGS; The Fortune Society; AHRC; PSI Samaritan; The Partnership for the Homeless with the United Way of New York City; Innerforce; CAMBA and Ella Place. Denise has worked with youth at risk for incarceration, substance abuse MICA patients, mentally-challenged and ill, ex-offenders, senior citizens, homeless, people that suffer with HIV and AIDS.

She has been honored in the New York Nonprofit Press May 2007 issue as "Hero of the Year" and by the Elliot Tomlin Foundation with the vision award for outstanding community service. Denise Jones has marched on Washington to represent all the people that has died from lack of funding for HIV and AIDS research for a cure. Moreover, she is a certified rapid HIV tester and has completed a WORC program at Columbia University that addresses the delivery of vocational services for consumers with serious mental health conditions.

Denise attends a food and hunger conference to support world food aid once a year and currently serves Community Board #5 as a cabinet member. Dedicating her life to addressing social problems and assisting in reconstructing individual lives is Denise Jones' life's work and even now, she is working as a project coordinator on a SPICE pilot program to reduce disparities in childbirth through education and support services.

Madam Speaker, it is incumbent upon this body to acknowledge Denise Jones' achievements and her spirit of volunteerism on behalf of the betterment of our community.

EMILY BUNGE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Emily Bunge of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Emily is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Emily has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Emily has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Emily Bunge for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scouts Gold Award.

TRIBUTE TO JO ANN FORNEY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor an extraordinary public servant, Jo Ann Forney. Ms. Forney has contributed thirty plus years of love and concern to her community in East Orange, New Jersey. Prior to attending Rutgers University, Ms. Forney worked at Western Electric and at the Conmar Zippers Factory as an assembler. She also worked at Bell Telephone as a toll operator.

After graduating from Rutgers, Ms. Forney became a Family Enabler for Family Life Education Center. There she became a substance abuse counselor and worked part-time on weekends and holidays at Orange Memorial Hospital as a switchboard operator.

Finally, Ms. Forney worked as a social worker at United Hospitals and later she became a valued employee of the East Orange Board of Education at the Enrollment Center for the past 10 years.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Ms. Forney as she leaves the East Orange Board of Education, and in expressing appreciation for her hard work and dedication. I am proud to honor Ms. Forney and I wish her never-ending success in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BUSINESS EXECUTIVES FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to publicly recognize the contributions of Business Executives for National Security (BENS). Founded in 1982 by business executive and entrepreneur Stanley A. Weiss, BENS is guided by the simple notion that America's security is everybody's business. BENS has become a highly respected national, nonpartisan organization of senior executives dedicated to enhancing our national security using the successful models of the private sector.

The innovative business-government partnerships that BENS has fostered over the past two decades are uniquely positioned to help meet the new challenges of the 21st century. BENS is expanding these public-private partnerships into all aspects of homeland security—tracking terrorists' financial assets, securing the Nation's ports, and preparing State and local governments to deal with catastrophic events or terrorist attacks.

Business Executives for National Security has provided decades of distinguished service to the Nation through a variety of programs. These include advocating for a more modern and agile fighting force, safeguarding and destroying nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons in the former Soviet Union, and creating innovative partnerships around the country in which civic-minded companies volunteer their assets and employees to assist local and

state governments in responding quickly and efficiently during an emergency or terrorist attack.

Madam Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in commending Business Executives for National Security for their commitment in support of our national security interests.

SALUTING PHIL COHEN, "MR. BROOKLYN CENTER," ON A LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special government, business and civic leader in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, Phil Cohen.

Phil's long career in public service has been guided by former Vice President Hubert Humphrey's fundamental principle: "The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped."

Phil has truly lived up to those lofty aspirations. I want to thank Phil Cohen for his many decades of public service to the people of our area—and wish him a happy 80th birthday.

Phil Cohen, "Mr. Brooklyn Center," is one of a kind—a friend to all and a dynamic whirlwind of economic, civic and charitable activity. His personal motto is: "It's important for each generation to leave society in a better state than they found it." Madam Speaker, Phil Cohen has done that and then some.

He is truly an inspiration. The Philip Q. Cohen Room at the Brooklyn Center Community Center attests to the magnitude of his giving.

There are many reasons Phil is known as "Mr. Brooklyn Center." From 1960 to 1990, at various times he served as Mayor and on the City Council and School Board. He has held leadership positions with the Metropolitan Council, the League of Minnesota Cities and many more community organizations.

There is no cause or community organization, from the Lions and Rotary to the North Metro Mayors Association, Chamber of Commerce and Babe Ruth Baseball, which has not been touched by his energy and his heart. Phil helped create the Brooklyn Center Crime Prevention Association and the Brooklyn Center Charitable Foundation.

Whether it is helping the Brooklyn Center Police Department obtain life-saving equipment; rescuing the Brooklyn Center High School Band program, which includes many students from disadvantaged families; helping local youth baseball; making every imaginable non-profit and civic group more viable and effective; mentoring a young person in leadership and public service; or just being there for someone in need, Phil Cohen has done it all.

I have personally long relied on Phil's wise counsel. As a young Congressman arriving in Washington, I appreciated Phil's guidance on the ways of our Nation's Capitol. Phil was always there to counsel. As Legislative Assistant to former U.S. Senator Dave Durenberger for a decade, Phil shared his expertise with

me, and my constituents have been the beneficiaries.

Madam Speaker, I want to wish Phil Cohen a most joyous 80th birthday for his inexhaustible spirit of public service and all the good he has done for the people of Brooklyn Center. Phil truly is "Mr. Brooklyn Center."

HONORING YVONNE GRAHAM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Brooklyn's Deputy Borough President, Yvonne Graham who has been a pioneer in the area of public health for over 20 years. As Brooklyn's Deputy Borough President, Ms. Graham oversees health care policy and all human services for the borough president. Her vision was critical to the 2005 founding of Brooklyn's first Center on Health Disparities, which works to reduce cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, infant mortality, asthma, and diabetes among minority communities. This center is part of an innovative partnership with the SUNY Downstate Medical Center and the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health.

In an effort to increase the number of women in leadership positions in government, business, and industry. Ms. Graham spearheaded the Women's Leadership Initiative, a partnership between academic institutions, government agencies, community-based organizations, and the private sector that brings women together for dialogue and networking.

Born and raised in Jamaica, West Indies, she moved to New York in 1979 working as a registered nurse in the emergency room of Brookdale Hospital. She holds a bachelor's degree in health administration and community health from St. Joseph's College and a master's degree in public health from Hunter College. In addition, she completed the Executive Program in business administration at Columbia University School of Business and an honorary doctor of law degree conferred on her by St. Joseph's College, her alma mater.

Yvonne Graham has written and published many professional articles and has recently co-authored a textbook that serves as a seminal guide to the operations and management of community-based health organizations and their role in improving health outcomes.

She has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors: YWCA's Women of Distinction Award; National Association of Black Social Workers' Public Citizen of the Year Award; the Frederick Douglass Medal of Honor awarded by the New York State Governor to distinguished Africans-Americans; the American Lung Association's Distinguished Award for Leadership, Creativity, and Caring in Promotion of Community Health; and the Harriet Tubman Award.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Graham's record of public service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication and today we should recognize this outstanding woman.

EMILY BECKER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Emily Becker of Blue Springs, Missouri. Emily is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Emily has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Emily has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Emily Becker for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scout Gold Award.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO NAME THE NEW CENSUS BUREAU HEADQUARTERS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill with my colleagues Mr. WYNN, Mr. HOYER, Mrs. HOLMES NORTON, Mr. TOM DAVIS, Mr. TURNER, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. COHEN to name the new Census Bureau Headquarters building for Founding Father, Thomas Jefferson. The Founding Fathers' recognition of the need for fully representative government which put power in the hands of the people was unprecedented at the time of the Constitution's adoption. The modern decennial census is a uniquely American invention. Naming the Census Bureau Headquarters for Thomas Jefferson, who oversaw the first national census, underscores this historic contribution.

ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the Democratic majority's commitment to ethics reform. In the first 100 hours of this Congress, we adopted vital new rules ushering in a new era of openness and fiscal responsibility. We then reformed lobbying practices, and this year many of us voluntarily will reduce and disclose our earmark requests. To continue this commitment to transparency in government, I am pleased to support H. Res. 895 and the creation of an independent, bipartisan Office of Congressional Ethics.