

July, 41 African American men were determined to be eligible to be employed by the fire department. These men were appointed in three classes: 10 were appointed on October 15, 1953; 10 were appointed December 20, 1953, and 21 were appointed February 8, 1954. Just a few days ago, we commemorated the 55th anniversary of the completed integration.

These brave men faced very difficult times. They overcame insurmountable challenges and obstacles in order to become great assets to the Baltimore City Fire Department. All of these men have made exceptional contributions; I will take a moment to highlight a few accomplishments. From the 1954 Class, James Crockett re-wrote the department rules and regulations for the Fire Board, served as President of the Board of Fire Commissioners, and now serves as Commissioner of the Baltimore City Fire Department; Charles R. Thomas Sr. helped to start the first Baltimore City Fire Department, was active in starting the community outreach programs and led the charge to integrating the local labor union; and Herman Williams, Jr. became the first African American to be promoted to pump operator (driver), and is the first and only African American to become Chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department.

Madam Speaker, as we champion the presidency of Barack Obama, we must also remember the trailblazers who opened the door of opportunity to many in significant ways. It is with great admiration that these men who have paved the way for diversity within the Baltimore City Fire Department are recognized.

Class Appointed October 15, 1953

Lee D. Babb
Cicero Baldwin
Ernest H. Barnes
Louis Harden
Earl C. Jones
George C.W. McKnight
Charles T. Miller
Roy Parker
Charles L. Scott
Lindsay Washington, Jr.

Class Appointed December 20, 1953

Harvey Brown
John Butler
Thomas Chambers
John Davis
Randolph Handy
John Johnson
William Nesbit
David Pipken
Edgar Waddell
Ben Wood

Class Appointed February 8, 1954

Theodore Baker
Albert L. Biggers
Harold Borrows
Alfred Boyd
William Brown
Edward R. Bunch Jr
Alfred Clinkscales
James Crockett
Alfred Daniels
James Edwards
Celester A. Hall
Wade Morgan El
John T. Murray
Yeubear L. Poe

Raymond Purnell
Hilton Roberts
William L. Spicer
Charles R. Thomas
Eugene P. Watson
Herman Williams Jr.
Littleton B. Wyatt

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about a very important bill that I just re-introduced, the Keeping Families Together Act of 2009 (H.R. 938). This bill would reinstate judicial review to the immigration process, end the practice of automatically detaining productive members of our society for minor crimes they committed years ago and for which they have already served with their sentence, and allow immigrants previously deported to appeal that decision.

This law has allowed stable, long-term families headed by legal immigrants to be torn apart because of minor crimes committed years ago—crimes for which the offender has already served their sentence!

You may recall that a basic legislative attempt to fix this law was passed by the House of Representatives in the 106th Congress, but it was never taken up by the Senate. The time has come to reverse the unfair so-called “immigration reforms” instituted by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

Please join me in supporting this critical legislation to restore justice to our immigration process, by co-sponsoring the Keeping Families Together Act of 2009.

HONORING MIAMI UNIVERSITY FOR ITS 200 YEARS OF COMMIT- MENT TO EXTRAORDINARY HIGHER EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, as a native of Wisconsin, it may be strange that I am here to honor Miami University. However, this proud Wisconsinite is also a proud graduate of Miami University. I graduated from Miami University in 1992.

One of the reasons why I am here, standing and talking in the well of the House of Representatives, is because of the lessons that I learned at Miami University. I studied both economics and political science at Miami, and the excellent professors I had there—including Dr. Richard Hart—created an environment where intellectual curiosity was rewarded. It also was where I first became involved with politics. In fact, one of my early involvements in politics was working as a college Republican, working door-to-door for a new person running for Congress by the name of JOHN BOEHNER, our now esteemed minority leader, for whom I knocked on doors in Trenton, Ohio.

But, more to the point, Mr. Speaker, this is the bicentennial of Miami University. Two-hundred years of proud history. Founded in 1809, it is a school with such a rich history and proud tradition of top academic and athletic achievement. It is known as the “Cradle of Coaches” due to the high caliber of coaches it has produced, which includes such notables as Ara Parseghian, Paul Brown, and Woody Hayes.

Miami has also gained national recognition as one of the best Universities in the country. Referred to as one of the “Public Ivies,” due to its outstanding academic reputation, Miami ranks as a top school for all academic programs, including its business program, its arts and sciences programs and its architecture program. Importantly, in a time of increasing globalization, it consistently ranks as one of the top schools for study abroad programs, including the outstanding Transatlantic Seminar program.

One of the great things about Miami is its beauty, its aesthetics. It’s one of the most beautiful campuses in America. The poet Robert Frost called Miami “the prettiest campus that ever was.”

Miami University has such a rich tradition. It has produced so many great, faithful servants here in the Capitol, in public, in private institutions. It’s a real honor and privilege for me to be able to be here to be a part of this resolution, to be a cosponsor of it, and to honor this tradition, I know that Miami’s best days are yet ahead.

WATER USE EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 631—the Water Use Efficiency and Conservation Research Act. I commend my colleague—Mr. MATHESON of Utah—for crafting this thoughtful legislation that was reported to the House on a broad bipartisan basis.

Over the past couple of years, my home State of Georgia—and specifically my district—has experienced significant and historic drought conditions that have brought to the forefront what the future may hold for our local water supply.

In addition to the drought conditions in my district, a number of other states are facing similar challenges. Over the next five years, more than half of the states in our country anticipate some sort of water shortage that will wreak havoc on our environment, as well as our economy. In these currently tumultuous economic times, we need to take every step possible to efficiently use our water supply to assist our struggling economy.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 631 promotes the adoption of emerging technologies to help us make better use of one of our most precious resources—water. This legislation addresses ways in which the Environmental Protection Agency can use its Office of Research and Development to promote technologies that increase water efficiency and conservation via collection, treatment, and reuse of rainwater