

RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING IN HONOR OF JOHN JOSEPH AND LIFE OF WILBERT "BILL" TATUM "WACKO" HURLEY OF SOUTH BOSTON, MA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, once in a while someone leaves this Earth and their life's story needs to be told, not just because it's interesting, but because it illustrates lessons that should be passed along. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recall the life Wilbert "Bill" Tatum, longtime publisher of the *Amsterdam News* and my personal friend, who, to the sadness and shock of my community, died suddenly last week. Bill lived the life that people dream of and few attain, and while doing so became a friend, mentor, and "brother" to countless people.

In the early 1970s, Mr. Tatum, along with former State Comptroller H. Carl McCall and former Manhattan borough president Percy Sutton, bought the *Amsterdam News*. This venture into the news industry reflected their longtime involvement in civic activism and passion for their community. Bill maximized his passion as the paper's publisher, a role for which his life prepared him.

Bill's voice goes back to his high school oratory competition days in North Carolina. He was a journalist, writing for three small newspapers that provided information to Black farmers. He served his country in the Marine Corps, graduated from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, and received his master's degree from Occidental College in Los Angeles. In New York, he was a community activist who served as deputy Manhattan Borough President under Percy Sutton's borough presidency and held various city-level posts.

Under Bill's ownership, the *Amsterdam News* was a brash and controversial voice for the Black community, regularly scorching politicians like 1970's Mayor Ed Koch. He was one of the angriest—and most eloquent—of voices on issues of politics, civil rights, and community action. What some perceived as sensational journalism, we in the community knew reflected the honest views of the publisher and his readers. At the same time, he filled the pages with colorful articles on social and community happenings.

Bill was a gentleman who loved people and derived no bigger joy than helping his community. He gave opportunities to scores of budding journalists and was a friend and professional mentor to many. A kind and decent person with a keen sense of humor, Bill was a man for all seasons and fierce defender of the causes he believed in. Despite an illness that confined him to a wheelchair, he and his beloved wife Susan continued their travels around the world. He entrusted his daughter Eli to succeed him as publisher and editor, and she has done an admirable and successful job in filling his shoes.

Wilbert Bill Tatum will be remembered as an honorable man of tough love, who used his brilliant mind and the First Amendment to denounce injustices he saw in his community. His life reminds us that the greatest love we can share with others is the power to speak up and be honest about where we are and where we need to go. I will miss him dearly.

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of John Joseph "Wacko" Hurley, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to his hometown of South Boston, MA, and to commend him for over 50 years of dedicated service to his community.

The son of Margaret and Michael Hurley, immigrants from County Kerry, Ireland, John was born on May 11, 1930 in South Boston and lived on East Fifth St. until 1965 when he moved to East Fourth St. in South Boston where he currently resides.

John attended Nazareth School at O and Third St., and South Boston High School graduating in 1948. Subsequent to his graduation, John enlisted in the United States Navy, serving from 1950–1952 aboard the USS *Noah* (DD–841).

Upon completion of his distinguished service to our country, John worked for the State Veterans Services for 20 years. Following this position, John worked as an office manager for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority for 18 years.

Along with providing distinguished service to his country and his state, John is also an active member of his community. A faithful parishioner at St. Brigid's Church in South Boston, John can be found daily at the 7 a.m. early morning mass followed by his walk around Castle Island. John also brought to the United States Supreme Court the case (John J. Hurley v. GLIB) that affirmed the First Amendment right of the South Boston Allied War Veterans Council to organize a private parade. He won a victory with a 9–0 vote. This law can now be found in every law book in the country. In fact, John has organized the Evacuation Day/St. Patrick's Day Parade in South Boston for the past 50 years.

John was recently awarded the Bishop Cheverus Medal from Cardinal Sean O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, for Community Service and Catholic Dedication. You will find John every Thanksgiving and Christmas at St. Monica/St. Augustine serving holiday meals to the less fortunate.

Madam Speaker, John is known for his quick sense of humor and great storytelling. He has had the good fortune to be married to Molly for 56 years; they are the proud parents of 7 children, 15 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with John J. "Wacko" Hurley's family, friends, and contemporaries to thank him for his remarkable service to his community of South Boston.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE TUSCARAWAS COUNTY COUNCIL FOR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Tuscarawas County Council for Church and Community has been faithfully serving the community of Tuscarawas County since 1966; and

Whereas, the Tuscarawas County Council for Church and Community has participated in "Character Counts! Week," a character building program meant to instill six pillars of character in children, from October 19–25; and

Whereas, the "Character Counts!" program teaches young people about the six pillars of character—trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship—and is an enrichment and community extension of the Tuscarawas County Council for Church and Community Character Formation Program, now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the participants of the "Character Counts!" program on their commitment to citizenship and respect of themselves and one another. I also commend those involved in the program for their dedication to the youth of our community and preparing them for lives of thoughtfulness, respect, and civic responsibility.

EARMARK DECLARATIONS

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the FY 2009 Omnibus.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Resource Conservation and Development

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Municipal Water District of Orange County

Address of Requesting Entity: 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92728

Funding Secured: \$134,000

Description of Request: Funding will be used to expand an existing \$2.2 million program launched in 2004 to distribute an additional 5,500 Smart Irrigation Controllers by the end of 2011 to the highest water using residential and commercial properties in Orange County. This "smart" Irrigation Controller technology assists customers in delivering the appropriate amount of irrigation water to landscape based on soil, slope, type of landscape, and changing water conditions. Smart irrigation controllers will help use exiting water resources and efficiently as possible to help take pressure off of our imported water supplies from Northern California and the Colorado River. When fully implemented there will be a reoccurring 40,000 acre foot savings of water every year.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Community Oriented Policing Services' Law Enforcement Technology Program

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Brea

Address of Requesting Entity: 1 Civic Center Circle, Brea, CA 92821