

HONORING THE SANDY GROUND HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR THEIR CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor the Sandy Ground community in Staten Island, New York. It is the oldest community established by free slaves in North America, and still thrives today.

After slavery was abolished in the State of New York in 1827, freedmen from all over the state, as well as far away as Maryland and Virginia, settled in the area known since colonial times as Sandy Ground, which was located in the area around what is now the intersection of Bloomingdale and Woodrow Roads in Rossville.

These early settlers were also skilled in the oyster trade, and brought this knowledge with them to Staten Island. Oyster harvesting was a major business on Staten Island during the 19th Century and was conducted mainly on the island's south shore. Sandy Ground also served as an important stop on the Underground Railroad, and is the oldest continuously settled free black community in the United States.

The Sandy Ground Historical Society, which preserves the history and physical surroundings of the Sandy Ground community and maintains a museum and library, was organized on February 28, 1980. The Museum and library contain letters, photographs, film, art, rare books, quilts and other archaeological artifacts. The Museum also possesses a rare surviving can of Tettorsalve, a beauty product manufactured by Harlem businesswoman Madame C. J. Walker, and a letter from W.E.B. DuBois.

The museum also sponsors arts-and-crafts sessions, a musical heritage series, a lecture series presented in Staten Island schools and churches, and a traveling lecture series to institutions around the country. The African-American quilt-making tradition is also continued through quilting workshops.

The Sandy Ground Historical Society has graciously lent us a quilt that we have hung proudly above the entryway to my personal office in Washington. The quilt depicts the history of strawberry farming on the land, which starts with two brothers named Moses and Silas Harris. They bought property circa 1850 in what is now Sandy Ground, with the intention of farming on it. Upon inspection of the land, they noted that the soil was sandy, but they found a plant that grew well in sandy soil: strawberries. They became so successful at growing strawberries that the town was first called "Harrisville," which later became Sandy Ground. Today there is a street in the Sandy Ground community called Harris Lane, named after the Harris Brothers. Wild strawberries still grow on the few open plots of land that are left in the area.

Sandy Ground is an important historical landmark, an asset to Staten Island, and an asset to the United States of America.

IN MEMORY OF MR. DAVID W. TROUTMAN

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mr. David W. Troutman of Akron, Ohio.

David (Dave) William Troutman, 67, passed away on October 26, 2009.

Dave was born on February 16, 1942 in Wooster, Ohio to George and Ruth Troutman. Most important to Dave was his beloved family.

He is survived by his lovely wife of 40 years, Janet L. Troutman. He was a loving and devoted father to Michael (Danielle) Troutman and DeAnna (Thomas) Donaldson; a dotting grandfather to his precious grandchildren, Luke Donaldson and MacIntyre Troutman. He is also survived by his sisters, Hannah Onderack and Florence (James) Castner through whom his family legacy extends through his nieces and nephews, Alicia, Nicholas, Jennifer, Daniel, Katie, Chelsea, Aleem, and Sofia.

Dave's life was dedicated to serving his community, state and country. His accomplished career in law enforcement spanned over 40 years. He served as a soldier in the U.S. Army Reserve, Summit County Sheriff Deputy for 10 years, Barberton Chief Probation Officer for seven years, Summit County Sheriff for 14 years and finally served as U.S. Marshall for nine years at the request of then President Bill Clinton. From his early years attending high school in Barberton, Ohio and college at Miami (Ohio) University, Dave was committed to serving his community and helping others. Throughout his lifetime, he served in numerous appointed and elected public offices to include Coventry Township Trustee, Coventry Country Parks and Recreation Board Member, Summit County Sheriff, OPOTA Council Member, Ohio Organized Crime Commission Member, Ohio Athletic Commission Member and Kiwanis to name but a few. His leadership role in so many offices was not for public recognition as is typical of so many, but for his belief that he could serve others from such a position and lead others to public service. Because of his generosity and outstanding servitude, an exhaustive list of recognition and awards were bestowed upon him including the Cliff Skeen Award and Sheriff of the Year.

To have known Dave was to know a man of integrity, honesty and service. His love for people and community was shown daily as he always helped others when often no one else would. To say Dave personally touched the lives of thousands would be an understatement. His legacy of service and love for others and his lifelong example of honesty and integrity is priceless and inspiring to so many. How would Dave have us honor such a lifetime of example? By following that example and becoming great through helping others. Dave will be missed, loved and never forgotten. Ohio has truly lost one of its most beloved sons. We love and miss you Dave!

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Department of Interior, EPA Appropriations Bill:

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fayette County Commission

Address of Requesting Entity: Fayette County Commission, 103 1st NW, Fayette, AL 35555

Description of Request: "Fayette County Reservoir \$6,000,000" The funding would be used for the construction of a water reservoir located in Fayette County that will serve as a water source for an area where residents are suffering from poor water quality. This project will provide a dependable supply of water to the 120,422 residents of Fayette and surrounding counties. Taxpayer Justification: This project will provide a dependable supply of water to the 120,422 residents in Fayette County, Marion County, and Walker County.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION AND SUPPORT OF OUR MILITARY FAMILIES

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the dedication and support of our military families, servicemembers, and the veterans who went before them.

When a servicemember joins the military, it is not a just a job; it is a family commitment to our country. As our country continues to deploy overseas, we see the impact it has on family members at home. The month of November is designated as Military Family Month. This observance provides an excellent opportunity to show support for our servicemembers and families as we pause and reflect on the contributions, support and patriotism they exhibit each day.

Military families continuously undergo tremendous challenges and it only begins when they find their loved ones deployed for long periods of time. During frequent moves, they effortlessly relocate their belongings, find new schools for their children, navigate the complex options for medical care, and solve myriad other challenges. They are truly resilient and strong.

It is an honor for me to convey my heartfelt appreciation for the service and support of some particular events in Northwest Florida in the coming weeks that will honor our veterans and educate our children about their heroism and sacrifice. On November 4, Blue Angels Elementary School will partner with the History Channel's Take a Veteran to School Day to