

IN CELEBRATION OF THE WORK
OF RONALD EUGENE KIRK

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor a dedicated member of my staff, Mr. Ronald Kirk, who has dedicated his life to government service. Born on November 2, 1944, in New York City to William Henry Kirk and Marjorie Smith Kirk, Ronald Eugene Kirk, the fourth of five children, was born and raised in Harlem and is a product of the New York City Public School system. Ron's passion for community involvement and neighborhood empowerment was evident from the start of his life. After receiving a bachelor's in business administration from Pace University and a master's in business management from Manhattan College, Ron began his lifelong involvement in community service.

Early on, Ron became politically active and cut his teeth with such community based organizations as the Community Planning Board #10 in Manhattan, the Community Corporation/Harlem Youth in Action, Model Cities and several political organizations established in the Harlem community. He was twice elected Democratic District Leader in the 70th Assembly District of New York. Ron served as foundation director of the City University of New York and as a confidential secretary to a New York Supreme Court Judge. During his time in New York, Ron received numerous accolades and commendations from such notable individuals as Representative CHARLIE RANGEL, former Mayor David Dinkins, Former New York Secretaries of State Basil Patterson and Percy Sutton. His efforts have been recognized by organizations such as the Sickle Cell Foundation, the Catholic Youth Organization, and the New York City Department for the Aging.

Upon moving to Atlanta, Ron served as a dedicated host for the 1996 Olympics held in Atlanta, Georgia, and worked for the David Scott for Congress campaign in 2002. For the past 8 years he has served admirably as my senior Immigration/Department of State Specialist and Constituent Services Representative.

Ron is a dedicated family man, having been married to the lovely Emma for 38 years, has two beautiful children, Kwesi and Amina, and three wonderful grandsons, Nikai, James and Malachai. Ron is actively involved in community outreach and the Red Oak Methodist Church in Stockbridge, Georgia.

It is with a heavy heart that I and my staff say goodbye to Ron as he retires from my Congressional staff. I am extremely proud of the accomplishments Ron has made throughout his life and for his outstanding work in my office. As this chapter of Ron's life closes and he begins his new chapter, it is a blessing to know that Ron's ability to be a social catalyst touched the lives of many in the 13th District of Georgia and the Nation. Ron, I wish you every success for the future and thank you for your outstanding work effort, passion for change, and your ability to look at the impossible and ask, "why not?"

God bless Ron Kirk.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF MARVIN AND
MARY LOU COHRON

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marvin and Mary Lou Cohron on the occasion of their 75th wedding anniversary. Their 75 years of marriage is a testament to all American families, and I am proud to honor the Cohrons.

Marvin and Mary Lou first met at Excel Junior High School in Monroe County, Alabama, around 1932. Both were the children of farming families and spent much of their free time going to church services and social functions. On a Sunday evening, December 23, 1934, Marvin drove Mary Lou and some of her family to the home of the Justice of the Peace where the two were married. Marvin was 16 and Mary Lou was 15.

After their marriage, Marvin and Mary Lou tried their hand at farming. After 3 years of marriage, Marvin had saved enough money from the sale of collard greens they had grown to buy Mary Lou a wedding band. Marvin moved to Pensacola, Florida, in 1939 and started work at the Pensacola City Bus Company while Mary Lou continued working at Vanity Fair in Alabama until she was able to join her husband in Pensacola. In 1943, Marvin was drafted into the United States Navy where he served honorably in World War II. He then went to school on the G.I. Bill to learn refrigeration maintenance and repair. In 1950, Marvin began work at Navy Point stores before going into business for himself in 1958. He opened Cohron's Air Conditioning/Refrigeration Sales and Service and Mary Lou worked as the bookkeeper and secretary for the office. In 1986, the Cohrons retired. They now spend their days enjoying fishing, camping, and ballroom dancing. They belong to several seniors' dance clubs and Mary Lou belongs to the Red Hat Society.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the 75th wedding anniversary of Marvin and Mary Lou Cohron. Their family has been an invaluable part of our community for over seventy years. My wife Vicki and I wish Marvin and Mary Lou, their 5 daughters, 10 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchild all the best.

HONORING JUDGE DRAYER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Honorable Calvin S. Drayer Jr. who is retiring after faithfully serving the people of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, as a Common Pleas Court Judge since 1998.

Before joining the Montgomery County Court, Judge Drayer had a distinguished legal career that spanned nearly 30 years. He was a founding partner in the Norristown-based firm of Wilson, Drayer, Morrow and Broderick where he concentrated on estates and trust law.

Despite his demanding career and heavy caseload, Judge Drayer has always been generous with his time and talent outside the courtroom. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trusts and Estate Counsel and a member of both the Supreme Court Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committee and the Pennsylvania Joint State Government Commission Advisory Committee on Descendents' Estates. Judge Drayer also was an organizer of the probate and Tax Section of the Montgomery County Bar Association and an adjunct professor in the graduate tax program at the Villanova University School of Law.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the outstanding service and extraordinary career of the Honorable Calvin S. Drayer Jr. and all who dedicate their careers to the pursuit of justice.

A TRIBUTE TO FLOYD HAYS ELLIS

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a truly remarkable Kentuckian, Floyd Hays Ellis. Over the course of his long and storied life as a farmer, soldier, businessman and state senator, Bowling Green's favorite son embodied the values of the "Greatest Generation" to which he belonged.

Generous in the extreme, Ellis was just as thoughtful a legislator as he was a friend and father. Known for his winning smile and wry sense of humor, he proved to be a canny businessman, as well. He served for 20 years as the president and CEO of the Warren Rural Electric Cooperative Corp., in addition to chairing the boards of Citizens First Bank, Trans Financial Bank Corp., Commonwealth Health Corp. and the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Though many people who enjoy his level of success often sacrifice their private lives for the sake of their profession, Floyd never put his work before family and friends. To the contrary, Floyd's natural sociability and devotion to his loved ones was perhaps his most remarkable trait.

Sadly, on Saturday, December 12, 2009, Floyd Hays Ellis passed away in the company of his long-time group of friends and confidants; and while Kentucky may never again see one of its finest sons, the evidence of his legacy will be visible in the countless lives that he touched.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE
ONEIDA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF
WISCONSIN

HON. STEVE KAGEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin is sovereign government with a long and proud history of self-government. We are a federally recognized treaty tribe of the United States. We have faced threats and continue to face