

work and dedication that Ms. Davidson advocated on behalf of their education.

I wish Ms. Davidson an enjoyable and peaceful retirement.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER FAIRNESS ACT OF 2010**

**HON. DAVID WU**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 2010*

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise to let my colleagues know that today I introduced the Volunteer Firefighter Fairness Act.

This bill would clarify for volunteer fire departments, volunteer firefighters and emergency personnel, and the Internal Revenue Service that volunteers are not employees of the fire departments where they serve.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, volunteers comprise approximately 72 percent of our nation's fire and emergency services. Although volunteers make up the majority of firefighters nationwide, we are experiencing an overall decline in the number of volunteer personnel. This is due to increased emergency call volumes, the time demands of ongoing training, and the struggle many Americans face trying to balancing family and work obligations.

To help recruit and retain volunteer firefighters and other volunteer first responders, some states and local governments offer nominal payments or benefits, such as covering expenses for uniforms.

Historically, fire departments have used the IRS Form 1099 to report these benefits and nominal payments for their volunteers. However, recently many volunteer fire departments have been told by local or regional IRS offices that they must the Form W-2, instead of the 1099, to report payments and benefits. In Oregon, a volunteer fire department was even hit with a \$9,900 fine for using a Form 1099 instead of a Form W-2.

The bill I am introducing today will clarify the law to ensure that fire departments will be able to use Form 1099 to report any minimal pay or benefits for volunteer first responders. I am pleased to report that this bill has the full support of the International Fire Chiefs Association.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I would like to clarify one point about who the bill would cover. This legislation is designed to specifically cover volunteer firefighters and volunteer emergency personnel. The practice of providing volunteer firefighters and emergency personnel with reimbursement, reasonable benefits, and nominal fees for their services is allowed under both the IRS Code and the Fair Labor Standards Act. The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division ruled on August 7, 2006, that "generally an amount not exceeding 20 percent of the total compensation that the employer would pay to employ a full-time firefighter for performing comparable services would be deemed nominal." Since both the IRS Code and the FLSA use the term "nominal fee" as an allowable form of compensation for volunteer firefighters, I urge the IRS to use the U.S. Department of Labor's ruling in drafting any regulations to implement this legislation or define the term "nominal fee" for volunteer firefighter compensation.

THE SYRACUSE JAMES JOYCE CLUB/BLOOMSDAY

**HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 2010*

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Syracuse James Joyce Club's celebration of the 17th annual Bloomsday. Bloomsday is the day people from around the world celebrate the life of Irish author James Joyce and his novel *Ulysses*, which is heralded as one of the greatest novels of the 20th century.

*Ulysses* chronicles the day the main character, Leopold Bloom travels into Dublin on June 16. This date had special meaning for Joyce. It was also the first date with his future wife Nora Barnacle. For these reasons, June 16 was marked as the special day Joyce's life and literary work, *Ulysses* would be celebrated.

The first Bloomsday was organized in 1954 by critic, John Ryan, and author, Flann O'Brien. The day was named after Leopold Bloom in *Ulysses*. Ryan and O'Brien organized a day long pilgrimage along the *Ulysses* route. They planned a day to travel through the city, visiting the scenes from the novel. The night ended in what had once been called the brothel quarter of the city, the area which Joyce had called *Nighttown*.

Born in Dublin, on February 2, 1882, Joyce was the son of John Stanislaus Joyce and Mary Jane Murray. Joyce's father struggled as a businessman and his mother was an accomplished pianist. Joyce grew up in poverty, and his family struggled to maintain a solid middle-class lifestyle. From the age of six, Joyce was educated by Jesuits at Clongowes Wood College then Belvedere College in Dublin.

It was in college that Joyce blossomed as a writer. His first published work was an essay on Ibsen's play *When We Dead Awaken*. Joyce went on to write several other works that sealed his place in writing history.

I am proud that the Syracuse James Joyce Club continues to keep the life and work of Joyce alive. It is important that we remember the contributions he has made to literary history. I am pleased that the Syracuse James Joyce Club will gather people from the community today to share their favorite excerpts from Joyce's works.

The Bloomsday celebration attracts over 300 people and is part of the CNY Chapter of the Irish American Cultural Institute. I commend the Syracuse James Joyce Club for keeping the legacy of one of the 20th century's greatest writers alive.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND ALVIN BARNETT

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 2010*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Reverend Alvin Barnett for his years of service to ministry and his community.

Alvin Barnett attended the famed Boys High, where he became a star football player. He

was goal-oriented and this served him well again during his college years, first at Tennessee State College, and then at American Baptist Theological Seminary, in Nashville, Tennessee, from which he received a Bachelor of Theology Degree. Rev. Barnett continued his studies in Business Administration at New York City's Pace University, and at Malloy College in Valley Stream, New York.

Reverend Barnett was licensed and ordained to preach the Gospel at the Mount Ollie Baptist Church in Brooklyn by the late Reverend Dr. R.D. Brown. His pastoral journey includes two other Brooklyn churches: Mount Zion Baptist Church, and West Baptist Church, where he has served for the last 30 years.

Alvin Barnett recognizes that one's journey in ministry must include learning and studying. He is a lifelong student and prodigious reader. In his life's work, he uses the collective knowledge gained from his theological intellectual pursuits for the glorification of God. He consults daily and advises young ministries, seminarians, and seasoned pastors in ministry. Alvin Barnett is humble, and seeks advice and consultation from the best and brightest in ministry and other professions. He is a keen observer of the human condition, and is faithful and persistent in the work that God has called him to.

Reverend Barnett is a team builder who utilizes his experience and knowledge to develop effective teams that actualize his vision of Ministry. He knows well how to use the best skills to enhance the work of the kingdom.

Rev. Barnett is an active member of many organizations, including Churches United for Worldwide Action, the Metropolitan Ministers Ecumenical Conference, the NYPD Committee Advisory Council, the International Prison Ministry (he serves as President), and the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. (NBCUSA), and he is active in the NBCUSA Moderator's Auxiliary. He has been a member of the Eastern Baptist Association (EBA) New York, Inc. for more than forty years. Rev. Barnett has served as treasurer and president of Prison Ministry, chairman and vice chair of the board of trustees, executive manager of the EBA Headquarters in Brooklyn, a member of the Board of Managers and the Advisory Council, and as chairman of the Board of Evangelism.

During his tenure in evangelism, he organized and taught classes on evangelism and prepared many teams for street ministry in churches throughout the Eastern Baptist Association. He remains a tireless Evangelizer, and utilizes a unique hands-on approach.

Reverend Barnett travels extensively, witnessing to incarcerated men and women throughout the Eastern Seaboard, including the Nassau County Correctional Facility on Long Island, Rikers Island in New York City, as well as upstate New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Reverend Barnett was overwhelmingly elected the 16th Moderator of the Eastern Baptist Association on July 17, 2009. He has embarked upon the work of reenergizing, rebuilding and regenerating the Eastern Baptist Association where a renaissance is taking place among Baptist churches of geographic Long Island.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the work of Reverend Alvin Barnett.