

Professor Ronald Banks was born on April 22, 1948 to the late Clifton R. and Annie Lee Banks in Brooklyn, New York. He was educated in the New York City educational system and is a graduate of George Westinghouse Technical High School.

Professor Banks has always had a love for music. At a young age, he would sit and watch Elder Sam Windham play the steel guitar. At the age of five, his mother bought him a steel guitar, his first musical instrument. He received his first piano lesson at age 8, and was inspired to learn the organ at age 12 and the bass guitar at 14.

Professor Banks was blessed with an ear for music and began playing officially for his first choir at the age of 12. He began teaching voices and sections the same year, and started his own ensemble called "The Eastern New York Ensemble" at age 15. The next year, his father founded the "Sensational Twilights" and Professor Banks was one of the lead singers and bass guitarist.

From a very young age, Professor Banks has developed a wealth of knowledge in music. He has passed on his wisdom and knowledge to generations of musicians, singers and choirmasters to further their ministries and for the good of the greater church community. Professor Banks' attention to detail and passion for his craft has made him an icon in the genre of Gospel music known today as the "Brooklyn Sound."

Professor Banks has recorded with the International Radio Choir, the Triboro Mass Choir, the Sensational Twilights, the Clara Ward Singers, and the Eastern New York Mass Choir of the Gospel Music Workshop of America. He has been a member of the Triboro Mass Choir for over thirty years, and currently serves as head musician.

He has earned the endearing title of "Professor" for his ability to bring out the musical talents of any individual. Through his service to his community and his church, he has earned numerous citations.

Professor Banks was a dedicated employee of Con Edison for thirty-six years until his retirement on December 1, 2004.

Professor Banks presently serves as the Minister of Music at Friendship Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, under the leadership of Reverend Craig B. Gaddy, Pastor. He is rooted and forever humble in his craft because of his loyalty and devotion to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Professor Ronald Banks.

RECOGNIZING FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR GRANTEES FROM THE 11TH DISTRICT

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 15, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize several young people from my community for being selected as recipients of Fulbright awards to study, lecture, teach or conduct research abroad during the 2010–2011 academic year.

Sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural

Affairs, the Fulbright Program's purpose is to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the international community. Since its establishment in 1946, the Fulbright Program sponsored exchanges for more than a quarter of a million people in more than 155 countries. Recipients are selected based on academic and professional achievement in addition to demonstrated leadership potential in their respective fields. The following residents of the 11th District of Virginia were selected as Fulbright recipients:

Ms. Sarah Argodale, College of William and Mary, English Teaching Assistant, Russia

Ms. Grace Erdmann, Georgetown University, English Teaching Assistant, Egypt

Mr. Kurt Gron, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Archeology, Denmark

Ms. Lauren-Claire Kelley, George Mason University, English Teaching Assistant, Italy

Mr. David Ramsay, Case Western Reserve University, Engineering, Ireland

Ms. Farrah Tek, University of Mary Washington, Law, Cambodia

The Fulbright scholarship is synonymous with excellence in educational exchange. It is one example of the importance of personal interaction at the individual level. The Fulbright Scholars from the 11th District will continue the tradition of citizen diplomacy that runs deeply through our community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing these outstanding young people for this level of achievement in their respective fields.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
MIKE "TRIV" TRIVISONNO

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 15, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mike "Triv" Trivisonno, devoted family man, radio host and community volunteer. Mr. Trivisonno was born and raised in Greater Cleveland and he continues to call Cleveland his home. He grew up in Mayfield Heights, dropped out of school by the tenth grade and ran with a rough crowd. At the young age of 17, he met the love of his life and future wife, Linda Conforto, whose kindness and integrity became a powerful source of strength in his life.

Mike and Linda married three years later and remained committed to each other and to their children. Mike's family means everything to him and he has worked hard to provide for them. Together, he and Linda started a landscape business and they even managed a golf course along the way. In the 1970's, Mr. Trivisonno's radio popularity grew; he earned the nickname "Mr. Know It All" as a regular caller to the popular Pete Franklin "SportsLine Show" on radio station WWWE in Cleveland. Soon, radio jobs were offered and his career began to skyrocket. Lively, on-air debates that normally included sports talk meandered into the realm of news and politics. His common-man, brash and humorous style, and his raw honesty continue to draw a massive and diverse listening audience. His radio persona elicits strong emotions from his audience and his popularity continues to grow. For nearly twenty years, the Mike Trivisonno Show on

WTAM 1100 has been the one of the most widely-listened to radio programs throughout Ohio.

Above and beyond his success in radio, Mr. Trivisonno's willingness to help others and his openness about his personal losses have touched the hearts of our community. For many years, he led the Coats for Kids annual campaign, and he continues to lead charitable events and initiatives, including charity poker events. After Linda Trivisonno lost her battle with cancer in 2009, he began honoring her life and memory with initiatives like the Linda Trivisonno Endowment Fund, which raises funds for cancer research and provides funds for financially struggling patients and their families.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor of Mike Trivisonno, one of the most fascinating and successful voices in the history of Cleveland radio. Beneath the armor of Mike's boisterous, self-deprecating, and sharply opinionated voice is a kind and decent man whose generous heart and desire to help others brings comfort, hope and strength to our entire community.

JIM CARTER

**HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 15, 2010*

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, Jim Carter died in Pueblo, Colorado, on July 28, 2010. Jim was born in Missouri, served in the U.S. Air Force in Germany subsequent to his graduation from college and was employed for many years by A.P. Green Refractories in Pueblo, Colorado. When A.P. Green Refractories decided to leave Pueblo, they offered Jim an opportunity to move to one of their eastern facilities. Having raised his children in Pueblo and having many friends in Pueblo, Jim decided that Pueblo was the home for his family and the right place for them to stay. Jim, along with his son, established Refractories West, Inc. which has continued to be an active employer in Pueblo. A few years ago, Jim turned the refractory operation over to his son but Jim could not completely disengage himself from the business opportunity that had occupied his energies for so many years.

Due to Jim's love of his adopted community, he became active in many local organizations and was a leader in establishing Puebloans for Economic Progress and served as the first Chairman of PEP. Eventually, PEP was part of a consolidation that became the Pueblo Economic Development Corporation; Jim also served as Chairman of PEDCO and was an active board member for many years.

Jim will be remembered as a valued member of the Airport Advisory Board for several years. His diligence, determination and knowledge have served the Pueblo Memorial Airport and the Advisory Board extremely well. Even Jim's illness did not thwart his drive and attentiveness to the best interest of the Pueblo Airport. No matter the obstacle, Jim could find a way over it, around it or through it and was forever zealous in his quest to do his best for the City of Pueblo.