

force; A highly employable work force; An increase in workers contributing to the tax base; A decreasing percentage of our population who fall into the justice system; A higher quality of life for all.

What can you do to make a difference?

Contact your local school board members and superintendent and urge them to fully fund early childhood (pre-kindergarten) education for all children in your jurisdiction who need it.

Insist that the system determine how many children in your district currently need to be in a readiness-to-learn environment—but are not.

Continue following up to see that, using these data, the school system creates and implements an action plan to reallocate funds as necessary, and to deal with staffing, space, and other issues to get all those children into the system by opening of school next year, or the following year at the latest.

Clearly the increased funding for this will be a challenge. Nevertheless, if our nation is to survive and thrive, we simply must do this. We must not leave behind a single child who may have succeeded in life, but for want of an early childhood education which got them ready to learn. We must not risk the loss of our nation, for want of giving this our most urgent attention.

STEFAN YOUNG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Stefan Young for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Stefan Young is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Stefan Young is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Stefan Young for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO SHARON GOODINE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Sharon Goodine.

Sharon Goodine is the president and CEO of J.D.S. Paralegal Services, Inc. She is also the proud mother of two, Dominique and James Goodine.

For nearly 25 years, Sharon relentlessly served the community of Brooklyn, New York. She regularly organized and sponsored the Annual Brooklyn Community Outreach, a program focused on feeding and clothing the

homeless population of Brooklyn. Ms. Goodine also dedicated her time to the empowerment and education of young people; she understands their value and sees the importance of making a positive impact on their lives. Advancing community initiatives eventually required Ms. Goodine to extend her talents to political activism.

Ms. Goodine's work with civic and religious organizations is extensive. She held leadership positions with the Ms. & Mrs. Corporate America National Pageant and the National Council of Negro Women. She also served in membership positions with the Nehemiah Home Association, Community Board Five's Transportation Committee, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, the N.A.A.C.P., the New York State Fraternal Order of Police, the United Democratic Club, the National Federation of Paralegals Association, the T.D. Jakes Bishop Circle and the Worthy Matron of Shining Start Chapter O.E.S.

There is not enough that can be said about this mighty woman of God. Today, Ms. Goodine continues to use her talents, contacts, and name recognition to advance charitable causes and community initiatives. Her accomplishments were recognized by Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, who issued a proclamation declaring May 7, 2005, "Sharon's Day in Brooklyn." Ms. Goodine is also the recipient of many awards, including the following: KISS FM's 2004 Phenomenal Women Award; the Paul Robeson Theatre Award for Outstanding Service and Dedication; the City Council Citation for Exemplary Services to the Community 42nd District; the Mary McLeod Bethune Achiever Award; a Community Service Award by Assemblyman William Boyland, Jr.; and a Community Service Award by "You Can Go To College Committee."

Ms. Goodine attributes her success to her relationship with the Lord. Ms. Goodine's lives by the motto, "Only what you do for Christ will last."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Sharon Goodine.

IN HONOR OF RAYMOND L. FLYNN
IN RECOGNITION OF HIS LIFE-
TIME OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AND
DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Raymond L. Flynn in recognition of his lifetime of accomplishment and dedicated public service.

Ray was born and raised in South Boston, Massachusetts by his proud parents Steve and Lillian Flynn. He remains a lifelong resident of South Boston with Kathy, his wife of 46 years, raising their six children and seventeen grandchildren.

Ray worked several jobs as a kid, including selling newspapers at Fenway Park, Braves Field, and the Boston Garden. It was his time at the Boston Garden that led to him becoming a ball boy for the world famous Boston Celtics. As a student at South Boston High School, Ray was named to the Massachusetts All-Scholastic Basketball Team.

After graduating from South Boston High School, Ray attended Providence College and was an honors graduate in 1963 and an Academic All-American; the only Providence College student-athlete to receive such an award.

During his playing career at Providence College, Ray was selected as a member of the NCAA College All-Star Team and was named the Most Valuable Player at the 1963 National Invitational Tournament, which at the time was the most prestigious college basketball tournament in the Nation. The following year, Ray was named captain of the nationally ranked Providence Friars' championship basketball team and was selected to the NCAA 25th Anniversary team as one of the top student-athletes in America. In the culmination of his tremendous collegiate basketball career, on February 20, 2011, Providence College retired Ray's #14 jersey to the rafters at the Dunkin Donut's Center (Providence Civic Center), joining other great Friar Basketball Legends.

Ray served in the U.S. Army and played professional basketball in Wilmington, Delaware. In 1964, Ray made it to the final cut with the World Champion Boston Celtics. Returning to South Boston, Ray founded the South Boston Summer Basketball League which would later become the Boston Neighborhood Basketball League. Ray was proud to have organized the South Boston Men's Softball League and later coached at the South Boston Boy's Club and at Stonehill College.

As an elected official, Ray served as a Massachusetts State Representative from South Boston and Dorchester from 1971 to 1978, Boston City Councilor from 1978 to 1983, Mayor of Boston from 1984 to 1993, President of the United States Conference of Mayors from 1991 to 1992, and was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See (Vatican) by President William J. Clinton from 1993 to 1997.

Ray Flynn grew up in a family and neighborhood which placed the dignity of a job and hard work as its highest priority.

A long time admirer of Pope John Paul II, Ray is the author of two best-selling books, *The Accidental Pope and John Paul II, A Personal Portrait of the Pope and the Man*.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take to the floor of the House today to join with Raymond L. Flynn's family, friends, and contemporaries to honor him for his lifetime of accomplishment and his dedicated public service.

SPENCER STAPP

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Spencer Stapp for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Spencer Stapp is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Spencer Stapp is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and

develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Spencer Stapp for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO SANDRA R. MARTIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Sandra R. Martin.

Born to Rita and Theodore P. Martin, Ms. Martin is one of seven children. She grew up in a very loving and nurturing environment and was spiritually fortified at St. Charles Borromeo R.C. Church. Ms. Martin was born and raised in Harlem and attended New York City Public Schools throughout her formative educational years. She spent her high school years working as a Senior Counselor at St. Ambrose Community Center, a Unit Clerk Assistant at Cabrini Health Care Center and a teacher's assistant at Chama Child Development Center, where she worked with special needs children.

Upon graduation from Mabel Dean Bacon Vocational High School, Ms. Martin enrolled at Long Island University, C.W. Post College. She majored in Criminal Justice and minored in Sociology; she was also a charter member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Zeta Kappa Chapter. Due to her academic success, she earned placement on the Dean's List, received the Presidential Merit Award, and garnered multiple graduate studies scholarships. Upon completion of her studies at LIU, Ms. Martin was employed at Downstate Medical Center as the Night Administrator then as the Assistant Director of Operations.

Ms. Martin had a long career in Criminal Justice. She started as a Case Manager, preparing cases for alternatives to incarceration. She later served as an investigator for the Department of Buildings, conducting surveillances to monitor City employees and contractors. For the next 20 years, Ms. Martin served as a member of the New York City Department of Correction. During her academy training, she was one of two officers selected as company leader for her squad. While the inmate population proved to be difficult and unyielding, she was able to work effectively with inmates by utilizing her problem solving and human relations skills to subjugate potentially violent situations. Her diligence, professionalism and interpersonal skills earned recognition from the department's institutional division and gang intelligence unit. Ms. Martin was promoted to Captain in 2001, and provided supervision to a staff of 25 officers; she eventually empowered five officers to take promotional exams and become captains themselves. Ms. Martin was respected by her peers, higher ranking officers and the inmate population, who often sought her advice.

Ms. Martin recently retired from the New York City Department of Correction. Now she likes to work behind the scenes without fanfare. Ms. Martin is tireless in her efforts to assist those in need. She thanks God for all

blessings bestowed upon her and looks forward to continued service to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Sandra R. Martin.

HONORING JOHN VAN GELS

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Van Gels of Boeing Defense, Space & Security. John will be retiring this month after nearly 50 years serving in various positions in the aerospace and defense industry in St. Louis and southern California.

John Van Gels is the quintessential American story. In 1963, when he first joined the McDonnell Aircraft Company in St. Louis he took a job as an hourly employee making \$2.13. Over the years he did his job, worked hard and was rewarded with increased responsibility on the shop floor—holding positions as assistant foreman, foreman, and general foreman on numerous programs.

In 1981, John exchanged his blue collar for a white one and was named Production Manager for McDonnell's Tomahawk cruise missile program. Five years later he was named the Director of Production for the Tomahawk and in 1989 was named vice president of Production Centers—Missile Company.

Most folks would consider nearly 30 years with one company a great career, but not John Van Gels. In 1990, John accepted the position of vice president of Product Center Operations at Douglas Aircraft Company in Long Beach, California. There he oversaw production of the MD-80, MD-90, MD-11 and Trunkliner programs.

In 1997, he returned to St. Louis to assume the position of VP/GM Production Operations and General Services for McDonnell Douglas Aerospace. He will finish his career as Senior Site Executive for Boeing Defense, Space & Security—responsible for the day-to-day St. Louis operations.

While his career took him from the floor to the executive office building, John never forgot his time on the floor or the value of the men and women who produce the world's most capable military and commercial aircraft. Throughout his career, John was actively involved in labor negotiations, helping more than once to bridge the gap between blue collar and white.

I've had the pleasure of meeting John on more than one occasion during my time in Congress. His knowledge and dedication to "team" have been a help to both myself and my staff. You don't "replace" a man with the knowledge, experience and character of John Van Gels, you simply adapt, move on and hope to honor his commitment to the industry he poured his professional life into.

Thank you, John. I wish you God's speed and blessing in your retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF BISHOP JOHN RICARD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Bishop John Ricard after 14 years of serving as Bishop of the Roman-Catholic Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

Bishop Ricard entered the priesthood in 1968. He served in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. until 1984, when he was named auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. In 1997, Bishop Ricard was named Bishop of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, holding that post until his recent retirement. The Pensacola-Tallahassee Diocese is home to 64,000 Catholics in 18 North Florida counties. As head of the Pensacola-Tallahassee diocese, Bishop Ricard led an impressive expansion of services, including a \$2.8 million Pastoral Center. These expansions increased the ability of the Catholic Church to provide outreach and charitable work throughout North Florida.

Increasing the accessibility of the Catholic Church in North Florida is a lasting achievement; however, Bishop Ricard's lasting legacy as a servant of the Lord is a result of his tireless work fighting poverty around the globe. Bishop Ricard encouraged his local parishes to increase their efforts combating hunger and poverty. Bishop Ricard, however, is not simply a man of words. He practiced what he preached. After Hurricane Ivan devastated the Northwest Florida area in 2004, Bishop Ricard helped to rebuild homes destroyed during the hurricane. Bishop Ricard also worked to ensure that working class families had the support necessary to avoid becoming victims of homelessness. He led the effort to create the Interfaith Housing Coalition, which provided affordable homes for working class families.

Bishop Ricard was also a leader in the global community. He served as president of Catholic Relief Services, an international charitable organization that delivers food, water and other essential items to the developing world. Additionally, Bishop Ricard served as head of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Office of International Justice and Peace. In these capacities, he traveled around the globe, frequently to famished and war-torn countries, to preach the gospel and help the local community build a better future.

Spiritual leaders impact their communities in numerous ways, providing spiritual and emotional guidance, as well as charitable work. Bishop Ricard's dedication to the Lord ensured that his outreach expanded far beyond the confines of his local parishes and diocese, and his legacy will endure far beyond the diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I congratulate Bishop Ricard on his retirement. My wife Vicki and I wish him all the best as he continues to walk in the light of the Lord.