

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE
LIFE OF THE HONORABLE JAMES
E. BURCH

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the extraordinary life and work of the Honorable James E. Burch, known to all as 'Jim', who died on Monday, November 28, 2011, at the age of 85.

Jim Burch was born on February 27, 1926, in Evanston, Illinois to a World War I veteran and a religious pacifist. He, his parents and two brothers moved to San Mateo, California in 1940. Jim graduated from San Mateo High School in 1943 and served in the U.S. Army until 1946.

He returned to civilian life and launched a very successful career in advertising, retiring in 1974 to serve his community as a volunteer. He co-founded San Francisco's Urban Coalition and was President of Palo Alto's Creative Initiative Foundation, which evolved into Beyond War and then into the Foundation for Global Community, organizations he volunteered with for 36 years. He gave so generously of his time and considerable talents to many other organizations, including the Boy Scouts, United Way, NAACP, and most recently he served on the Palo Alto Police Chiefs Advisory Committee, where his wise counsel earned the respect of the entire committee.

In 1999, Jim was elected to the Palo Alto City Council, and he was elected Mayor in 2005. At the age of 78, he was the City's oldest Mayor, but he served in the role with energy, enthusiasm and distinction. He was honored for his Lifetime of Achievement by Avenidas in 2011.

I was privileged to know and work with Jim Burch for many years. He was a friend, a mentor, and an inspiration to me. The memory of this strong and gentle, wise and funny, proud and humble man will live long after him, as will his countless contributions which have made our community better and our country stronger.

Jim's son, Bill, is quoted as saying "My father led a life of giving to his family, of giving to his community, of giving to his city and giving to the world." His daughter, Barbara Lindsay, said "He was the most giving person in terms of what he sought to do out in the world and his hometown." There can be no greater tributes than these from his beloved children.

I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and the accomplishments of Jim Burch, and extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Wileta, and his children, Barbara, and Bill.

RECENT EVENTS IN BAHRAIN

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. and Bahrain share a decades-old economic and strategic partnership that spawned a free trade agreement in 2006 and influenced the

decision to locate the U.S. Fifth Fleet in the port-city of Jaffair. That partnership has endured for years in part because the U.S. viewed Bahrain as a nation committed to evolving toward a political system that allowed greater public participation and respect for religious tolerance. Events over the last year have dealt a serious blow to that long held belief.

The Arab Spring inspired Bahrain's Shi'a majority to seek the full human and political rights that they say they have been denied since the Al Khalifa family became the rulers of the tiny island nation over 200 years ago.

The Bahraini government's response to the largely peaceful demonstrations of the opposition groups who seek only a better life for themselves and their families has been violent and systematic. Dozens of demonstrators lost their lives; independent media outlets were silenced; Shi'a mosques were burned; thousands of Bahrainis were incarcerated and thousands more lost their jobs.

Our worst suspicions were confirmed by the report recently released by the Bahrain Commission of Inquiry. The report described the disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force by security forces. Opposition members were abused, beaten and even tortured.

I associate myself with the public statements of President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton as they strongly urge the Bahraini government to follow through on its promises and to systematically and expeditiously implement the forthcoming recommendations of the newly established follow-on committee.

To achieve a meaningful and lasting reconciliation, all parties must engage in comprehensive political dialogue geared toward a mutually satisfactory power-sharing solution. The long-standing commitment of the United States to a strong partnership with the government and people of Bahrain will be influenced by how the government of Bahrain chooses to negotiate this challenging moment in its nation's history.

We all will be watching closely.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INDO-
NESIAN FAMILY REFUGEE PRO-
TECTION ACT OF 2011

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation with my colleagues, Rep. FRANK PALLONE, Rep. LUIS GUTIERREZ, Rep. MADELEINE BORDALLO, Rep. MIKE HONDA, and Rep. ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, which would simply allow Christian Indonesian citizens fleeing persecution, many of whom arrived during a five-year timeframe (January 1, 1997–November 30, 2002) and were denied asylum solely for missing the one-year filing deadline, the opportunity to reopen their claims during the two-year period following enactment.

Beginning in 1997, many Indonesian Christians fled religious persecution in Indonesia, where extreme violence and destruction of churches drove them from their homes. These individuals came to this country, seeking relief from extreme violence and persecution for their religious beliefs, but were unable to make the one-year filing deadline. They deserve the opportunity to have their claims heard.

The United States has long sought to protect refugees fleeing persecution and provide a process to fairly consider their claims. This bill does not, in itself, grant asylum, but merely removes a procedural barrier to their claims being considered. These individuals seeking asylum deserve a second chance to avoid the persecution they have fled and remain united with their families.

A TRIBUTE TO CRUZ FUKSMAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Cruz Fuksman for her continued efforts to rebuild and improve her community through health and educational services.

Ms. Fuksman was born and raised in the Dominican Republic by her single mother and six siblings. Ms. Fuksman came to the United States to seek a better education to provide for herself and her family. She attained her bachelor's in Human Services from Boricua College and later received a Master's degree in Social Work from Hunter College School of Social Work. Currently Ms. Fuksman works as the Community Liaison at the New York Psychotherapy and Counseling Center where she uses her expertise in social work to serve as the director for a variety of mental health and family service programs. She likewise served in this capacity at the American Red Cross of Greater New York for more than a dozen years, where she was routinely honored as Caseworker of the Month.

The work that Ms. Fuksman has done reflects her ambition to reform her community at the highest levels. The social work discipline she learned throughout her schooling has been a guiding tool that Ms. Fuksman frequently relies on to help families. Recently Ms. Fuksman was honored by Bushwick Impact for her enthusiasm, wisdom, collaboration, and support in helping them serve over 2000 families in the Bushwick area.

Ms. Fuksman also displays her strong community ties by serving as one of the co-chairs of the Community Partnership Project of East New York, Chair of the Seed Committee of the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation and by participating in many community projects and events in East New York. Aside from her community involvement, Ms. Fuksman understands the importance of educating our youth, and has had the opportunity to work as an adjunct professor at La Guardia Community College.

Ms. Fuksman has a very genuine and unique passion for helping children and families to improve the quality of their lives and for getting the community involved in efforts to improve the quality of life for the residents. Ms. Fuksman is an excellent cook and uses her cooking skills to fundraise for many causes. Among them are victims of the earthquake in Haiti, Habitat for Humanity, Breast Cancer Foundation and various catholic charities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Ms. Cruz Fuksman.

HONORING REVEREND LEON H. MATTHIAS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a devoted servant of God, the Reverend Leon H. Matthias who will retire from active ministry on December 31, 2011.

Sunday, December 8, 1946 seemed to be a perfect day for the arrival of Leon Henson Matthias to George and Ethel Matthias. His humble home provided his first real setting where Christian nurture would take place. The family were members of Gracefield Moravian Church in Cedar Grove and Adrian Joseph, the grandfather, was the sexton of this small-congregation.

After primary and High School he gained four subjects at Ordinary Level from the University of London. In September 1967, he entered the teaching profession and was appointed as an uncertified teacher at the St. James Government School in Cedar Grove where he had received his early primary education.

At 19, he was elected as chairman of the Board of Stewards at Gracefield. The members of the congregation recognized that God was calling him to a special task in His church.

Leon Henson Matthias began his theological training on the island of Trinidad in 1970 and in 1974 he completed the Licentiate in Theology at the United Theological College of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica. He served as student pastor in the Antigua and Tobago Conferences and on August 24, 1975 Brother Matthias was ordained a Deacon. On September 1, 1975, he began his first appointment as a Moravian Pastor in St. Kitts. Six years after his ordination as a Deacon in the Moravian Church, Rev. Matthias was consecrated a Presbyterian.

On August 28, 1976, Rev. Leon Matthias made another decision in his life. He joined in matrimony to Mable Hall in that beautiful western Jamaica Town of Montego Bay. God blessed this marriage with three wonderful sons, Lennox, Leon Jr. and L Richard.

From all accounts, Brother Leon was as popular as he was active. He has always had an abundance of energy that seems contagious, and this has manifested itself throughout his life and the life of anyone with whom he has had contact. As an executive of the Rivals Sports Club in Cedar Grove, where he was a serious cricketer and concert performer, to Youth Soccer Coach in Richmond, Virginia, he displayed versatility and his love of sports.

Rev. Matthias has always enjoyed leadership roles in the church and the community. He however developed a new interest in 1992. In 1990, he was invited by the Lutheran Church in the United States Virgin Islands to participate in an oral history workshop led by Judy Saxton of Baylor University. This opened for him a vast new field of inquiry and an unquenchable thirst for the unwritten folk history of his people. This he has pursued in his visits to Tanzania, London, Johannesburg and Cape Town.

The versatility of the good Reverend has also been manifested in his editing of many

publications including Rapport' magazine and the writing of four books—Boy from Popeshead (1995), Against the Odds (1996), A history of the Friedensberg Moravian Church, Tales from the Hill (1997) and Winds of Change (1999) Gracefield—A Northern Star(2005)Down Punty Hill(2008)A Cloud of Great Witnesses (2011).

Brother Matthias holds a Licentiate in Theology from the University of the West Indies and a Master of Arts Degree from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education. In 2002 he obtained an, MLS Degree from Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, specializing in Archival Studies.

His ministry has spanned forty years and the Western Hemisphere—beginning in Jamaica as a Student Pastor in 1971, serving the Virgin Islands Conference in St. Croix from 1988 to 1996 and St. Thomas and Tortola from 1996 to 2000, then New York from 2002 to 2009 and lastly in Washington DC.

In that time he has served in many positions of church leadership, has mentored many young pastors and served every congregation and community with excellence, dedication and compassion. We are thankful to God for his service, which overcame many obstacles over the years, and for his family who served by his side these many years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in asking God's blessings on Reverend Leon H. Matthias, his wife, Mable and the entire family with gratitude for a life of exemplary service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on December 6, 2011 I voted "no" on H.R. 2471; I intended to vote "yes."

THE PASSING OF MY DEAREST FRIEND AND CBC FOUNDATION FOUNGING MEMBER, OFIELD DUKES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I have been blessed to call many wonderful people my friend, but none more than Ofield Dukes. I am extremely saddened by the passing of such great man who had significant impact in not only my life, but that of my Colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, dating back to its founding. Aside from his many accomplishments in business, politics and his personal life, Ofield was simply a true and kind person who sought to make our country a better place for all. I will forever miss his virtue, justness and sincerity.

Ofield was the best communications strategist in Washington. He helped organized the first Congressional Black Caucus (CBS) dinner in 1971 and served as an advisor to numerous CBC chairpersons. He was a founding member of the CBC Foundation and served on the Foundation Board (CBCF) for 14 years. As the

first chairman of the Foundation's Finance and Fundraising Committee, Ofield was instrumental in developing strategies for fundraising including recruiting business support and active involvement.

Ofield's devotion to his craft was esteemed by everyone. In 1988, Ofield was selected by CBC Chairman Julian Dixon to serve as chairman of a historic black-tie dinner in salute of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. When the CBC Chairman Clyburn needed a person to organize and edit the first news letter of the CBC-CBCF, he called Ofield and for seven years he did a superb job in editing the CBC-CBCF newsletter.

In addition to his work with the CBC & CBCF, Ofield was dedicated to fighting for racial equality. He served for 10 years on the board of the MLK, Jr. Committee for Non-Violent Social Change and as an advisor to Mrs. Coretta Scott King. He also served as an advisor to Dr. Leon Sullivan, organized the first Stevie Wonder March to make Dr. King's birthday a national holiday and was an advisor to Alex Haley, author of the epic book "Roots" which provided the impetus for the historic TV series.

Aside from all his public service achievements, Ofield always find time to nurture the next generation of communicators and political minds. As an adjunct professor for 25 years at the Howard University John H. Johnson School of Communication, Ofield is credited with influencing hundreds of students to enter the field of public relations. He also taught public relations at the American University for eight years.

In politics, Ofield served as a communications consultant to the Democratic National Committee in six presidential campaigns. In 1998, Ofield worked very closely with me in developing the national African American media strategy that helped generate a large black voter turnout that helped Democrats to gain control of the House of Representatives.

Ofield is credited with having tremendous impact on the professional lives of many. Radio One Founder Cathy Hughes says there would not be a Radio One without the early support and continuing advice of Ofield. Upon receiving his graduate degree from Princeton University, Robert Johnson called Ofield who arranged the first two jobs for Johnson in Washington, D.C. prior to his founding BET.

In 2001, Ofield became the first African American to win the Public Relations Society of America's Gold Anvil, the highest individual awards given in the public relations industry. In 2004, PRWeek named him one of this nation's top five national communicators. In 2009, Dukes succeeded Dr. C. Delores Tucker as President of the Bethune-DuBois Institute.

Ofield's other professional recognition includes: being named by the Washington Post as one of the top five PR persuaders in Washington; among the first to be inducted into the Washington, D.C. Public Relations Hall of Fame; inducted into the Commonwealth of Virginia Communications Hall of Fame; and receiving the Wayne State University 2010 Alumni Achievement Award.

Ofield's list of accomplishments goes on and on, but what his friendship meant to me and so many people is immeasurable. I want to express my deepest condolences to his beautiful family. Ofield Dukes was one of a kind and he will be deeply missed. His legacy will last throughout Washington and our country.