

In December of 2002, Bishop Sheard received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by the St. Thomas Christian College. He is married to Grammy Award-winning gospel artist Karen Clark-Sheard and they have two children, Kierra Valencia and J. Drew, II.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting and congratulating Bishop J. Drew Sheard, Pastor of Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church of God In Christ, on the celebration of his outstanding leadership in the great State of Michigan.

HONORING BRANT MEREDITH

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Brant Meredith is a sophomore at Clements High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. His essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

Our government is what represents each citizen of the United States. It is important to be politically active because we all have a voice in the path that our country takes. It is necessary to express your governmental opinion so that the best choices for the majority may be made. Because our government represents us, it should play a major role in our lives. Our representatives voice our opinion so it is important that we elect them and advocate who we think will do the best job so they will in return play an active duty in our own lives.

The government of the United States should regularly exercise its powers. The people elected their representatives to represent them in the government. Therefore, they should represent the people by enacting decisions that would satisfy who they are representing. In order to please the masses our government should play an active role by satisfying the popular goals. The needs of the public are very numerous. In order to meet all of them, it is necessary for our government to play an active part in our lives. If they do not play a crucial part then many needs will not be met.

As an American it is very important to be involved in the political process. It is necessary to vote for an official that will best meet your needs. If you are not involved with elections then officials who will not meet your needs could come to office. If the majority of our country does not vote a politician who should not be in office could come to it because the vote would be lopsided due to political inactivity. By not being politically active, your needs will not be met. That is why everyone needs to be involved in the political process.

One of the most memorable events that has greatly impacted our history were the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001.

This marked the beginning of the war on terrorism. We also began to enter a recession. These attacks marked the beginning of hard economic times. America has encountered many problems and potential threats since 9/11. This one day was the most Significant event in the 21st century.

In conclusion, we are represented in our government by people who represent us and make decisions for us. It is important for us to be involved with this political process so we can choose pleaders who will do a good job representing us and getting through hard times.

RECOGNITION OF WILLETT THOMAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Ms. Thomas. A native of Macon, Georgia, Ms. Thomas has enjoyed nearly a century of good health with the love of her family and her deep faith in God. We celebrate your 100th birthday.

Ms. Thomas was born Willett Evelyn Smith on March 19, 1912, in Macon, Georgia. She is the oldest of three daughters born to her mother. During the early years of her life, Ms. Thomas grew up in Macon, Georgia in the household of her grandparents, Lucinda Jackson (Momma Lucinda) and Papa Dudda. Ms. Thomas has said, "Her family was very poor people, but she lived a rich and privileged life surrounded by lots of love."

Ms. Thomas completed her elementary education at Rutland Station School, a public school with grades one through seven. She attended high school at Hudson High located in the city limits of Macon, Georgia, but she had to walk a long distance to reach the bus line, where she then took a bus through the city to the school. She was motivated by her cousin Mary Washington, who was also determined to get an education. They, along with a few others, weathered many a stormy days in triumph of a better life.

Ms. Thomas moved to New York where she would meet and marry the late Nelson Brown. They had one son, Thomas Brown, but the marriage would later fall apart. Ms. Thomas continued to attend Antioch Baptist Church and served at Brooklyn Hospital until she met and fell in love with Army officer, Leroy Thomas.

Ms. Thomas struggled with her husband's post war syndromes but they weathered the storm and raised her son together. When her son took ill becoming disabled in 1976, she and her husband needed to share sacrifice. For several years, she continued to work her night shift while her husband worked during the day. This worked out great for them because one of them was at home at all times to be of assistance to their son.

Ms. Thomas took advantage of new opportunities and landed a position as a Nurses Aide at Brooklyn Hospital. She was a devoted, prompt and competent worker until her reluctant retirement after 60 years of service in 1996.

As her son's health continued to decline, Ms. Thomas turned to worship and began attending New Faith Community Baptist Church every Sunday. Over time his health improved

and together they attended fundraising events and became very active at the church. On December 29, 2005, her son passed quietly in his sleep.

Today, Ms. Thomas remains in good spirits enjoying every moment of every day. She enjoys going out for a ride, taking in the sights of the city and various cultural events.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ms. Willett Thomas on her 100th birthday. She continues to live a life full of joy and is a model citizen to us all.

PROTECTING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system:

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I am caught between a rock and a hard place on this bill. I spoke and voted against the health care bill that is most frequently referred to as "ObamaCare."

I am strongly opposed to this Independent Payment Advisory Board, which many see as being a major step towards rationing of medical care.

I strongly favor protecting access to healthcare which is the title of H.R. 5.

However, legislators have been talking about \$250,000 caps probably since the late 1970s, if not earlier.

I can assure you that \$250,000 in the 70s is far more than \$250,000 today.

Secondly, it does not seem fair to me to tell all of my constituents—or at least more than 99 percent—that they can be sued for everything they have, but we are going to limit suits against this one small, privileged segment of our society.

I have great admiration and respect for physicians, but I also believe they should not be placed on a pedestal way above everyone else.

Third, every trial judge sits as a 13th juror and can set aside or reduce a ridiculous or unjust judgment. If the trial judge does not act, then there are courts of appeal. There are safeguards throughout the system, and most really excessive judgments have been reversed in some way by a trial court or at a higher level.

Fourth, USA Today published a box 4 or 5 years ago which showed that for the then most recent five-year period, medical malpractice judgments had gone up only 1.8 percent while medical malpractice premiums had gone up 131 percent.

A few big insurance companies have given the public a very false impression of what is really happening in the courts so that they can impose very exorbitant rate increases.

Last, some members, including me, believe that this should be handled by the states under our Constitution and that this malpractice part of the bill goes against the spirit and intent of our tenth amendment.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LEON EARL WYNTER IN HONOR OF NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of writer, journalist, former commentator and dear friend Leon Earl Wynter who passed away on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at the age of fifty-seven. Born in 1953, Leon grew up in the Bronx, New York and was fond of saying that he arrived “just in time for most of the things that mattered; the space race, the triumph of the civil rights movement, disco, cable and the Macintosh computer”.

He described himself as “first a Christian, then American and black by way of his Jamaican heritage”. He is survived by his daughter Grace Alexandra, his mother Sylvia, and his brother Stephen. Leon left behind an abundance of those who knew him personally and loved him, as well as those who knew him professionally and respected him. Leon created a legacy of friendship, a body of work to be proud of, and a life time of vivid memories of those of us who have been privileged, like me.

Leon had an extraordinary career, which began in commercial banking, and continued in journalism as a Washington Post staff reporter in 1980. At the Washington Post, he covered education and racial change in suburban Prince George’s County, Maryland. He later joined the Wall Street Journal’s bureau in 1984, and covered the federal banking beat on Capitol Hill, as well as federal telecommunications and technology policy. He then created and wrote a monthly column for the Wall Street Journal called “Business & Race”. He considered the title alone as a victory, and he wrote it for ten years, from 1989–1999. In his twenty-years as a journalist, essayist, commentator, speaker and an author, Leon develop into an acclaimed voice on the racial and ethnic transformation of American identity.

As a sought-after public speaker in business, Leon shared his expertise and perspectives with strategic marketers at Time Warner, Pepsico, GlaxoSmithKline, Cox Cable and the Strategic Research Institute. His commentaries on race, pop culture and life were frequently heard on National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered”. Leon published dozens of essays in newspapers and magazines, including the Wall Street Journal, Savoy, Washington Post, and New York Newsday, among a few.

In August 2002, Leon realized his goal in life after publishing his first book, “America Skin: Big Business, Pop Culture and the End of White America”. In 2007, Leon helped co-write my memoirs, “And I Haven’t Had a Bad Day Since.” Later, Leon would begin a new career with the Harlem Community Development Corporation where he served as Director of Communications.

Leon was known by many as one of the Valley elite, a committed Christian, professor of journalism, an Elder of the Presbyterian Church, an enthusiastic blogger, an evolving musician, a lover of Public Radio, a tireless debater, and someone capable of great passions. He once wrote, “I’m just in time to dis-

cover that life is not about being current it’s about being present with God for my child and my loved ones”.

Mr. Speaker, in celebration of National Black History Month, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembrance of my dear friend, Leon Earl Wynter. If you knew him, these are the facts and the celebration of his life. If you did not know him . . . you missed something very special.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the outstanding achievements of the American Physiological Society as it celebrates its 125th anniversary. The APS is a scholarly association dedicated to fostering scientific research, education, and the dissemination of information about human and animal physiology. Its headquarters are in Bethesda in Maryland’s Eighth Congressional District.

Physiology is the study of how living systems function and plays a pivotal role in advancing medical discovery. The APS is an outstanding example of a not-for-profit organization that supports the advancement of science in the public interest.

APS publishes research findings on physiology in its 13 peer-reviewed journals. These journals—the oldest of which has been publishing since 1898—collectively publish about 3,000 research articles each year. All of this scientific content is made freely available on the web 12 months after initial publication.

The APS also sponsors scientific meetings and conferences throughout the year where physiologists can share their latest findings with their colleagues.

The APS offers educational outreach programs for students beginning at the elementary school level and provides support to students of physiology in graduate school and beyond. The APS has been recognized with a Presidential Award for Excellence in Scientific, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring, PESMEM, for its long standing effort to increase diversity in physiology and to encourage the progress of underrepresented minority students and professionals.

Over the course of 125 years, the APS has grown from 28 founding members to more than 11,000 members. These physiologists teach and conduct research in medical schools, hospitals, colleges, universities, industry, and government throughout the U.S. and 66 other countries.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the APS on its 125th anniversary and honoring this organization for its many accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CHARLES EDWARD GUNNOE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a good friend of mine, Dr. Charles “Chuck” Gunnoe. Dr. Gunnoe passed away March 10, 2012, in Corona, California, with his wife Becky and his family at his side. Chuck was a pillar of the community in Corona, California, and he will be deeply missed.

Chuck was born September 25, 1928, in Chicago, Illinois, the son of Andrew Benton and Anna Gunnoe. After honorably serving in the United States Air Force, Chuck earned his medical degree from Indiana University. Chuck worked as a family physician for 54 years. Chuck, and his wife Becky, were known throughout the community and Dr. Gunnoe was the longest practicing physician in Corona. Chuck considered himself a country doctor and was inspired by his hometown doctor in Indiana who would make house calls. Dr. Gunnoe moved to Corona in 1956 after completing his residency at Riverside General Hospital and took over the practice of a local doctor.

Chuck was a visionary in Corona; he immediately saw the need for more medical services in the community and purchased land that would become the site for the second hospital in Corona. After many years of work, that hospital would become part of the Corona Regional Medical Center. As a physician, Dr. Gunnoe never rushed with his patients, would visit some at home if they were unable to come to the office, and gave many his home telephone number. That kind of service and commitment to the health of his patients is rare today. Dr. Gunnoe retired in 2010, having been a doctor to three generations of Corona residents. He would still see some patients in his home after he retired; his dedication to his patients as steadfast as ever.

It is hard to imagine that Chuck would have any free time on his hands yet he always found time for his community. He was past president of the Corona Chamber of Commerce, its Citizen of the Year in 1996, founder of the local Jaycees, and owner of Deerfield Station, a gourmet restaurant. In his free time, Chuck enjoyed spending time with his family, traveling in his motor home, playing tennis, golf and bowling.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Becky Gunnoe of 35 years; daughters, Dawne (David) Malone, Janis Tedesco, Laura Leigh (Michael) Gunnoe-Pass; sons, Bryan A. Gunnoe, Charles E. (Susan) Gunnoe, Jr.; sister, Mabel Pugh; seven grandchildren, Dylan and Nicolas Tedesco, Jessica, Danielle and Jake Gunnoe, Michael Benton and Sean Christian Pass, and three great-grandchildren, Sienna, Jonah and Sebastian.

On Friday, March 16, 2012, a memorial service was held celebrating Chuck’s extraordinary life. Chuck will always be remembered for his unwavering care for his patients, incredible work ethic, generosity, contributions to the community and love of family. His dedication to his work, family and community are a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to