

HONORING JAMES E. "JIM" YOUNG

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I present the following U.S. Citizen of Distinction.

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one man . . . who has given of himself in order for others to stand; and

Whereas, James E. "Jim" Young's work as President and C.E.O. of Citizen's Trust Bank is present not only in DeKalb County, Georgia, but across this great Nation; and

Whereas, this giant of a man was a husband, father, businessman and financial educator; and

Whereas, this remarkable man gave of himself, his time and his talent; never asking for fame or fortune, yet inspiring anybody to be involved in community activities, encouraging the everyday entrepreneur to build businesses which strengthen our communities and our Nation;

Whereas, James Young inspired citizens to be financially responsible, government officials to be just and small business persons to think and grow "Big"; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow special recognition on James E. "Jim" Young for his leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens of Georgia and throughout the Nation; and

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby attest to the 112th Congress that James E. "Jim" Young of Stone Mountain, Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Recognition"—James E. "Jim" Young, U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 3rd day of March, 2012.

IN RECOGNITION OF LINDA KOELLING

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Foster City Councilmember Linda Koelling who is retiring after eight years of service on the council, including two terms as mayor. Linda's upbeat personality and limitless energy will be deeply missed by her colleagues.

Linda's accomplishments on the council were many and long-lasting. She created an Ad Hoc Transportation Committee to complete a transportation study plan for Foster City. She helped determine the fate of a property that will become the town center. She was a major advocate in the completion of the teen center at Leo Ryan Park. She was instrumental in building the partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. When she was chair of a League of the California Cities campaign committee to pass a local proposition, she re-wrote the words to the song "Waterloo" that, with the help of council members from other communities, became a YouTube sensation.

On the council Linda represented Foster City on several San Mateo County boards

such as CCAG, CMEQ, Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance, Airport Round Table and the Airport Land Use Committee. She served on the Transportation, Public Works Policy Committee for two years and was the president of the Peninsula division of the League of California Cities.

Linda was born and raised in San Francisco. She graduated from Presentation High School in 1967, and she attended City College of San Francisco as a physical education major from 1967–69. She earned her BS in Parks and Recreation Management from California State University, Hayward, in 1971.

From 1972–77, Linda worked as a recreational supervisor for the city of Burlingame and was a member of the California Parks and Recreation Society. Among her responsibilities was the supervision of the recreational centers. One of the teachers who taught an upholstery class happened to be my mother, Nancy Speier, who later became a staunch supporter when Linda first ran for city council in 2003. I had the great pleasure of working with Linda when she was on the council and I was in the California State Senate.

Linda is passionate about education and sports. She founded the original Kids Connection private preschool and elementary school in Foster City. She was the president of pony/colt baseball for two years, created and co-ordinated a girls softball league, coached AYSO soccer teams and her children's softball team. Personally, she loves to play golf.

Linda and her husband Fred Koelling have been married for 40 years. They are the proud parents of Karen Koelling Gleason, Tommy Koelling and Bryan Koelling and have four grandchildren.

Though Linda is retiring from the city council, I have no doubt that she will continue to serve our community and pursue an active role in public life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor the work of Linda Koelling, my friend, extraordinary human being and an outstanding public servant.

REMEMBERING DAVID WALTZ

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to consider the life of David L. Waltz, who died of brain cancer last month in Princeton, NJ, at age 68. David Waltz was one of the world's leading experts and creative forces in computer science, and a fine example of a researcher, a teacher and mentor, and a life well lived. He was what we talk about when we talk about America's creative spirit and educational excellence and path-breaking industry.

A pioneer in artificial intelligence, David produced early research that led to Internet search engines that we all use. He also invented techniques that allow designers to look at two dimensional data from three dimensional perspectives, and he showed how to extend those constraint-propagation techniques beyond visualization to optimization of scheduling, routing, or building. His ideas and computer techniques of neural networks and machine learning are eagerly applied by com-

puter companies, power companies, medical researchers, and healthcare providers. David's advances made it possible for computers to move beyond laborious bit-by-bit checking and referencing to a fixed checklist and to begin to recognize patterns, whether applied to images or speech or music.

Taught by the renowned Marvin Minsky at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where David received his Bachelor's and Ph.D. degrees, he went on to teach at the University of Illinois and Brandeis University. As head of the software division of the iconic company Thinking Machines he produced software innovations that have long outlasted that computer company. A decade ago David founded the Columbia University Center for Computational Learning Systems, where he worked until his death.

Surely more important than all the computer ideas, big and small, that he spawned are the many creative people he inspired, taught, and mentored. People who worked with him said everyone can remember a meeting, a conversation, or a simple thoughtful word when David changed one's research direction, career, or entire course of life for the better. In recent weeks his colleagues and students recorded their admiration for David and their sorrow at his death. Phrases like "amazing mentor", "mentor with unreserved support and encouragement", "amazing colleague and boss", and "wise and understanding" appear over and over in their remembrances.

David's colleagues called him a listener who inspired attention, someone who was as eager a listener as a talker, and someone who carried his great stature in the field gently and with genuine humility. He imbued his research teams with optimism by always drawing out merit of the work of others. And he built teamwork by sharing his interests in art, literature, music, and culture well beyond the immediate concerns of the research team. He encouraged his students and colleagues not to narrow their thinking; as a result the group could contribute as much to the treatment of epilepsy as to power grid blackouts. Everything was food for thought and an opportunity for an amusing or inventive insight.

Probably the greatest praise for David's leadership came from women who have worked with him. Some credited him with providing the greatest opportunities for career advancement for women of anyone in the field. David recruited and promoted women not as a crusader for equal rights but because it was for him obviously the right and wise thing to do.

The lessons that teachers, researchers, supervisors—in fact any of us here in this House or elsewhere—can draw from David Waltz are not primarily about computer science and artificial intelligence. They are that the greatest creativity comes from inspiring others; the greatest technique of team-building is listening; the greatest innovation comes from devoting time to others' ideas; and the greatest wisdom is kindness.

I know all this to be true about David Waltz because he was a good friend of mine, and I personally also know he brought all of his wonderful qualities of uplifting and inspiring and nurturing others to his wonderful wife Bonnie and his two children, Jeremy and Vanessa.

HONORING ROBBIE DAVIS GUNN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I present the following U.S. Citizen of Distinction.

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one woman who has given of herself to her family, church, community, and Nation; and

Whereas, Mrs. Robbie Davis Gunn's good works are present in Nashville, Tennessee as an exemplary mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, aunt, neighbor, community worker and friend; and

Whereas, this giant of a woman, who was raised up in the Providence Community, was born on August 20, 1928, to Rev. Robert Mitchell Davis and Mrs. Ada Edmondson Davis; and

Whereas, Robbie Davis Gunn was a virtuous woman, a woman of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of her community and family which in turn uplifted others; and

Whereas, she was an exemplary mother and mother-in-law, serving as compass and wise counselor and bringing great joy to her own children and their spouses and friends; and

Whereas, Mrs. Robbie Davis Gunn loved her family, encouraging all of those around her to make a difference, be it her children, her elected officials, her neighbors and her church members at Lake Providence Missionary Baptist Church where she was a faithful member for 72 years; and

Whereas, this remarkable woman gave of herself, never asking for fame or fortune as she became a quiet storm, a spark that starts a flame; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow a Congressional Recognition on Mrs. Robbie Davis Gunn for her leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens of Nashville and the Nation;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby attest to the 112th Congress that Mrs. Robbie Davis Gunn of Nashville, Tennessee is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Recognition"—Mrs. Robbie Davis Gunn, U.S. Citizen of Distinction.

Proclaimed, this 25th day of March, 2012.

IN RECOGNITION OF JONI D. LEE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sergeant Joni D. Lee for her 31 years of service with the South San Francisco Police Department. Long before community policing was a popular concept, Sergeant Lee personified a law enforcement officer fully integrated into the community. She has worked closely with local businesses, educated our youth and supported our senior citizens.

Sergeant Lee was hired as the first female officer by the San Francisco Police Depart-

ment in June 1980. In November 2000 she was promoted to sergeant, another first for a woman at the department. She was instrumental in developing county wide programs and protocols for the investigation of sexual assaults, exploitation of children on the internet and curbing school truancy.

During her three decades in law enforcement, Sergeant Lee has demonstrated her professionalism, outstanding skills in negotiations and handling of dangerous situations while keeping her humanity and an open mind.

She solved her very first murder case in 1988 within 48 hours, a benchmark in law enforcement. A man who lived with his divorced wife had taken in a transient man and his young girlfriend. Tragically, the transient shot the man. After the murder, Sergeant Lee befriended the girlfriend of the transient and feels that she made a difference in the young woman's life.

Sergeant Lee has worked on the Hostage Negotiation Team since 2000. In a high-profile hostage-suicide incident at the Travelodge in 2003, she was one of two primary negotiators and deserves credit for saving the life of the suspect's girlfriend. The suspect had barricaded himself and his girlfriend in a room at the motel after allegedly killing a prominent kick boxer. After about 14 hours of negotiations over the phone, Sergeant Lee convinced the girlfriend to leave the motel room.

Mr. Speaker, I have been at events with Sergeant Lee and have witnessed the air of safety and calm she radiates.

Sergeant Lee also worked as a Peer Support Advisor and Police Explorer Advisor. She was honored as the South San Francisco Police Association Officer of the Year in 1996 and 2003 and was awarded the Avoid the 23 Pin in 2002 and 2003.

Enthusiasm, optimism and generosity are in Sergeant Lee's DNA. Outside her work with the police department, she volunteers her time and expertise to Special Olympics and the Boy Scouts of America. She has also coached varsity softball at Menlo Atherton High School.

She was born in San Francisco in 1956 and attended South San Francisco High School. She earned her Associate in Arts, Administration of Justice from the College of San Mateo and her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from San Jose State University.

In her spare time—of which she now will have much more upon her well deserved retirement—Sergeant Lee enjoys reading, softball, racquetball, bicycling, traveling, outlet shopping and cooking.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor Sergeant Joni Lee for her dedication to public service and safety. She will be deeply missed by her fellow officers and the law abiding residents of South San Francisco.

SMALL BUSINESS TAX CUT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak out against the fallacy that is H.R. 9.

I am always happy to support policy initiatives to stimulate economic growth and job creation and believe a private-public partnership during this time of economic recovery is essential.

Unfortunately, H.R. 9, the so-called Small Business Tax Cut Act, is a broad measure affecting 99.6 percent of all businesses that is not targeted at job creation.

The benefits it provides will be meted out unevenly and in an arbitrary manner, accruing in large measure to the wealthiest taxpayers.

While these facts alone argue for its rejection, this temporary and expensive provision is also the very antithesis of tax reform. It couldn't be further from the truth.

Yet again the Republican tax plan in the form of H.R. 9 would along with the Ryan Republican Budget Plan, serve to dismantle Medicare and instead hand older and disabled people a voucher toward the cost of private insurance. It's not a new or creative idea, and it will actually add more costs to families and to our Nation's bottom line. You cannot have a tax giveaway to a select few businesses while Medicare continues to suffer, ultimately hurting our most vulnerable.

While claiming to "preserve" Medicare, the plan would actually imperil the community program and shift much of the costs to the very people it is supposed to help. As private plans aggressively court the healthiest and least costly beneficiaries, the traditional Medicare program would be left with an ever dwindling pool of beneficiaries—those who are too sick and poor to purchase private insurance with the help of Mr. RYAN's coupon.

In time, Medicare will "wither on the vine," as those who oppose the program have long intended. Like last year's proposal from Mr. RYAN and last week's proposal from Senate Republicans, this plan does nothing to really preserve Medicare or to solve our Nation's skyrocketing healthcare costs.

It only slams those costs onto individuals who can least afford them: older and disabled Americans, while jeopardizing their health coverage, adding profits to corporations, and letting millionaires off the hook.

Similarly, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program is our most important anti-hunger program, with over 46 million Americans in more than 21 million households relying on it to help feed themselves and their families. Yet, by advancing H.R. 9 this Majority takes away money that could be used to shore up this program which serves the truly destitute.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, is the cornerstone of the Nation's nutrition assistance safety net. SNAP touches the lives of over one in seven Americans. Indeed you could say that SNAP saves lives. Everyone's life is not as simple as some on the other side would have us believe—every person who is homeless cannot be fixed with magic dust and self-help policy prescriptions. Life is complicated and fraught with danger and uncertainty.

Lucky are many of us who go home to warm shelter, food, and family. There, but for the grace of God go I.

SNAP benefits are available to most people who meet the financial requirements, and the program serves a broad spectrum of low-income people. In Fiscal Year 2010, SNAP provided about \$5.4 billion in food benefits to a monthly average of over 3.6 million people in Texas.