

A TRIBUTE TO PAUL B. MITCHELL

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Pastor Paul B. Mitchell, senior Pastor and visionary for Changing Lives Christian Center in the East New York section of Brooklyn, NY.

Pastor Mitchell was born in Kingston, Jamaica and is the sixth of seven sons to his parents Alfred and Myrtle Mitchell. Pastor Mitchell and his family migrated to United States in 1971. He can recall at the very young age of six, his parent's diligence and tireless work effort to provide for him and his brothers. Admiring their work ethic, determination and zeal to make a happy home for the family was the motivation needed to fuel and fulfill the calling on his own life.

Pastor Mitchell served as a successful banker for over fourteen years, working with well-known institutions like JP Morgan Chase, First Card and EAB were fundamental in preparing him to take on the leadership role that he now holds today. On January 1, 2003, Pastor Mitchell was called to serve a new role, as a Pastor.

In addition to his work with his congregation in the East New York section of Brooklyn, Pastor Mitchell is known all over the Tri-State area through radio and TV. Currently, he can be heard on WLIB 1190 AM every Sunday morning and can also be viewed on BCAT Television, Manhattan TV, and on Trinity Broadcasting Network (T.B.N). Pastor Mitchell ends all of his sermons with this phrase, "if you work the word the word will work for you." Truly the "Change Your Life" Broadcast is changing lives through the taught word of God.

Pastor Mitchell ministers directly to the hurts, issues and challenges that people face in a very practical and relevant way. He believes that the human spirit, which houses the purpose for which we've all been created, must be nurtured naturally and spiritually. He believes that everyone is intrinsically designed with a gift that has the power to propel them into their destiny. The goal of the Changing Lives Christian Center is to meet each person at the point of their need and equip him or her for success, by teaching them how to live successful Christ centered lives. Pastor Mitchell is a man of integrity and uprightness. He's a giver of himself. Most importantly he is a man of God that seeks to honor and obey God in all his ways.

Pastor Mitchell is a loving and devoted husband and friend to his wife Yasmin of fifteen years. He is a gentle, loving and encouraging Pastor to his people. He is a dedicated and loving son to both his parents, Myrtle, 77, and Alfred, 88.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Pastor Paul B. Mitchell for his service as Pastor of the Changing Lives Christian Center in East New York, Brooklyn.

HONORING CAPTAIN FRANCIS  
GARY POWERS**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2012*

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Captain Francis Gary Powers, a loyal, devoted citizen of the United States, who was posthumously awarded the Silver Star last week.

A native of Virginia's Ninth Congressional District, Captain Powers grew up in Pound, Virginia. According to the official award citation, from May 1, 1960 to February 10, 1962, Captain Powers served in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States. While assigned to the Joint U.S. Air Force, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), U-2 Reconnaissance Squadron, Detachment 10-10, Captain Powers was held captive in solitary confinement in the infamous Lubyanka Prison in Moscow after his U-2 aircraft had been shot down by a Soviet surface to air missile.

For almost 107 days, Captain Powers endured interrogations, harassment, and unmentionable hardships on a continuous basis by numerous top Soviet Secret Police interrogating teams. Although greatly weakened physically by the lack of food, denial of sleep and the mental rigors of constant interrogation, Captain Powers steadfastly refused all attempts to give sensitive defense information or be exploited for propaganda purposes. Captain Powers resisted all Soviet efforts through cajolery, trickery, and threats of death to obtain the information they sought.

Captain Powers was subjected to a trial and was sentenced to an additional 542 days of captivity in Vladimir Prison before finally being released to the United States in 1962. As a result of his unconquerable spirit, exceptional loyalty, and continuous heroic actions, Russian intelligence gained no vital information from him.

For his sustained courage in an exceptionally hostile environment, Captain Powers was publicly recognized by the Director of the CIA and the Senate Armed Services Committee. By his gallantry and devotion to duty in the dedication of his service to his country, Captain Powers has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

It is with great admiration, respect, and appreciation that I stand before you to honor such a courageous American. I know I speak for so many when I say, we're proud of our native son, Captain Francis Gary Powers.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT HURT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2012*

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 383 on agreeing to the DeFazio Amendment to H.R. 2578. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING CAMELOT ELEMEN-  
TARY FOR BEING NAMED A  
GREEN RIBBON SCHOOL**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Camelot Elementary School, in Auburn, Washington, for being named a Green Ribbon School. This honor, awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, is given to schools participating in activities to promote and encourage a healthy and environmentally sustainable learning environment.

Students and staff at Camelot Elementary have taken a wide variety of steps toward reducing energy consumption. Since 2007, the school has reduced energy usage by 50 percent. They replaced light bulbs, removed personal appliances, and placed reminders on light switches and computers. Teachers and students use green checklists in every classroom to remind each other about ways to decrease energy consumption and waste.

To address the threatened salmon population in Washington State, students raised salmon in classrooms to release into local streams. Students also published a newspaper with information and resources about conservation. To decrease the use of plastic bottles, the school organized a fundraiser for reusable water bottles.

In addition to becoming good stewards of the Earth, staff, students, and parents are taking steps to improve health and nutrition. The school raised money from the community to build a community garden on the school grounds and the school follows the United States Department of Agriculture standards to make sure students have balanced meals. Nearly 60 percent of the student body walks or bikes to school. On the weekends, the school and the Parent-Teacher Association send backpacks filled with healthy foods home with disadvantaged students.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the students, staff, and parents from Camelot Elementary. The steps they are taking to reduce energy consumption, improve nutrition, and protect our environment and resources will continue to benefit our community for many years to come. I hope many other schools follow Camelot Elementary's example.

## A TRIBUTE TO LEROY SAWYER

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor Mr. Leroy Sawyer, a man who has spent much of his life working for the public good.

Mr. Leroy Sawyer was born to William and Georgina Sawyer. He graduated from Stuyvesant High School with a Science Major, a Math Minor Diploma, and lettering in baseball.

Mr. Sawyer rose quickly as a member of the New York City Police Department. Though not graduating from the Academy he was placed in "plainclothes" and promoted to Detective

after his third year on the job. He was only twenty-four years old.

Mr. Sawyer embodies the term ambitious. He has owned three taverns in Brooklyn, and managed five taverns in Manhattan include the "Spotlight Bar" next to the Apollo Theater. He's owned four Laundromats, liquor stores, an office supply store, and scores of houses in Brooklyn.

Mr. Sawyer is also very active in the community; he came out of retirement, and presently serves as my community liaison for the 10th Congressional District. He has been a member of the Board of Managers at the North Brooklyn YMCA for over twenty years, serving as chairman for ten of those. In addition, he is a Founding member of the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Eufaula, Alabama and a lifetime member of the NAACP.

Mr. Sawyer is married to Rosa Beatrice and together they have two children, Lisa and William, and four grandchildren, Tyra, Tammara, Leasia and Karima.

Mr. Sawyer believes that we all have an opportunity to succeed in life. He believes we should not be afraid to follow our dreams. He certainly followed his own advice and is now enjoying the sweet fruits of his labor. Mr. Sawyer and his wife currently split their time between homes in Brooklyn, New York and Eufaula, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Leroy Sawyer for his unceasing ambition in life, as well as his commitment and leadership in his community.

HONORING STEVEN ANDREW  
MULLINS

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2012*

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Steven Andrew Mullins, a devoted businessman and member of the Salem and greater Roanoke Valley communities, who passed away Saturday, June 9th at the age of 62.

Born on November 8, 1949, Steven was an athlete, student, and great friend to those around him. Everyone seemed to know Steve or know of him. In 1968, he graduated from Andrew Lewis High School, and then went on to obtain a Business Degree from the University of Georgia in 1973.

His first attempt at running a small business came in 1973 in Salem, VA when he and his father, Harold, opened Steve's Famous Hot Dogs with only \$500 in initial capital. Doing what he loved most, serving his community, Steve's business exploded with success and spread throughout the region to 17 different locations.

Later, Steve helped open Famous Anthony's in 1986. These business ventures helped Steve discover his interest in real estate, and he eventually became known as one of the best commercial realtors in the Roanoke Valley.

Despite all of Steve's business success, his brother Brad found only one accolade in his brother's lock box. It was a printout of the motion Steve made to form Salem City Schools. At the time, the schools were part of Roanoke

County schools, so—as a member of the Salem City School Board—Steve made the motion to form Salem's independent school district. Described by many as a man with a passion that is hard to understand, this is just another example of Steve wanting to do well for his community.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Steve's family and loved ones. His love for his family, neighbors, community, and contributions will always be remembered and cherished in Salem and throughout the Roanoke Valley.

IN SUPPORT OF WORLD, REFUGEE  
DAY

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of World Refugee Day. Across the globe approximately 43.7 million people have been displaced after being forced to flee their homes due to the threat of persecution, violence and conflict. The majority of these people are forced to live in extreme poverty and endure unspeakable conditions.

This is a day where we can honor the courage and strength of those that have lost everything, through no fault of their own. Many have had to make the terrifying decision of risking their lives, and their families lives by staying in a conflict stricken area, or leaving their home, families and possessions behind in an attempt to find safer conditions.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees provides lifesaving assistance and protection to 33.7 million of those displaced, but even this is not enough. Women and children in camps experience high levels of rape and assault, and there is rarely enough food to go around. Health conditions in these camps are often extremely poor and disease runs rampant.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has taken in countless numbers of refugees in our history. They have become an essential part of the fabric of our society, but we can still do more. This is why I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 690, a resolution that recognizes America's positive impact on the international refugee community, but calls for important changes to be made to H.R. 2185, the Refugee Protection Act of 2011.

These changes would eliminate the 1-year filing deadline for asylum applications that puts at risk thousands of people each year, create a path to legal citizenship and ensure that victims of persecution are not inadvertently forced back to the countries they fled to begin with.

Mr. Speaker, this is a day to remember that we are the lucky ones. We live in the greatest country in the world where freedom of belief, speech, and press amongst others are God given rights, not privileges. As a member of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus I fully support the efforts of the UNHCR and H.R. 690 to try and make that a reality for all, regardless of nationality.

Today I rise to recognize all those living in poverty stricken refugee camps because it is safer than going home, and those all those who dream of returning to the land of their fathers, but are unable to do so. I ask my col-

leagues to support H.R. 690, and I support the honorable efforts of World Refugee Day.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND TITLE IV OF THE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974 TO PROVIDE FOR A GUARANTEE BY THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION FOR QUALIFIED PRERETIREMENT SURVIVOR ANNUITIES UNDER INSOLVENT OR TERMINATED MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION PLANS

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2012*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to rectify an inequity regarding the benefits provided to surviving spouses through the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). I am pleased to be joined by Rep. ROB ANDREWS in this effort.

PBGC provides pre-retirement survivor coverage, which provides a benefit to the surviving spouse of a pension participant who dies before retirement. However, in the case of a multiemployer pension plan turned over to PBGC, this benefit is guaranteed only if the plan participant dies before the plan is turned over. For single-employer plans the benefit is guaranteed regardless of when the participant dies.

The PBGC web site acknowledges this discrepancy, stating ". . . For the most part, the PBGC guarantees the same type of benefits for multiemployer pension plans as for benefits in the single-employer program, with the exception that preretirement survivor annuities are forfeitable in multiemployer plans if the participant has not died as of the termination date."

The debate over how to best provide income security for older Americans will continue for some time. However, in the meantime, it is unconscionable that a widow or widower would be denied the modest benefits provided under the PBGC multiemployer plan simply because his or her spouse did not die before the plan was turned over to the PBGC.

This discrepancy appears inadvertent and deserves to be corrected by Congress. I ask my colleagues for their support of this legislation so we can address this issue quickly.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2012*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on the 40th Anniversary of Title IX, I can clearly recall my youth when I and my female classmates didn't participate in sports simply because there weren't any sports for girls to play.

Many believe that Title IX applies only to athletics. While it's true that Title IX has literally changed the playing field for women in sports, this landmark legislation has also created opportunities for women in math, law,