

Currently, Eddie is Special Assistant to William C. Thompson, Jr., President of the New York City Board of Education, a position he has held since 1997. In this capacity, he advises President Thompson on education policy and administrative oversight of the nation's largest school system. Eddie has led efforts to expand minority procurement and contracting and to explore alternatives for building new schools. He was also involved in the passage of a citywide school uniform policy.

Never one to limit his community activism, Eddie serves on the Board of Directors of Neighbors Helping Neighbors, a Brooklyn-based not-for-profit housing and business development organization. He is a former Advisory Board member of the Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation. He and his wife, Jennifer, have one son, Carlos.

I salute Eddie Castell for his commitment to a career of public service.

HONORING VISIONONE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor VisionOne, Inc. for being an economic force that attracts high-tech skills and companies to the Fresno area, as well as delivering the most affordable e-business solutions and Internet technologies to the region. I had the privilege of attending VisionOne's ribbon cutting ceremony on July 8, 1999 as they officially opened their new Fresno location.

VisionOne is a privately held international corporation that was founded in 1998, with United States headquarters in Fresno, and additional offices in Switzerland, Mexico, Germany, Chile, and Brazil. The specialty of VisionOne lies in their ability to provide user-maintainable e-business solutions and Internet technologies. Their mission is to help clients in various industries conduct cost-effective and successful online business. With a focus on e-business solutions and Internet technologies, VisionOne is strategically positioned as a force that will attract high-tech skills to the Central Valley.

VisionOne is a creative company with a high-tech gut. Their philosophy is to never lose sight of the fact they are developing technology for users, not users for technology. The solutions VisionOne offers derive value to the extent they simplify lives and overcome business challenges.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor VisionOne for its commitment to the financial prosperity of Fresno and the Central Valley. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing VisionOne many more years of continued success.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MR. GEORGE B. SALTER

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Chicago's unsung heroes, the late George B. Salter. His untimely death on October 24, 1999, will truly leave a deep void in our community.

Mr. George B. Salter was born in Hickory, MS on October 13, 1916 to the union of Sallie Johnson Salter and Frank Salter. Mr. George B. Salter later married his high school sweetheart Louise Lucille Salter. To this union two daughters were born, Brenda Yvonne Salter and Henrietta Louise Salter.

A Navy veteran, Mr. George B. Salter committed a part of his life to protect the freedom of Americans and to further the fight for the freedom of others around the world. While in the Navy Mr. George B. Salter was a member of the prestigious Navy band playing the Trumpet while stationed in Earl, NJ.

Mr. George B. Salter was employed by the Chicago Burlington and Quincy Railroad (presently Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad) where he rose in the ranks and became the first African-American to be appointed to the position of crew supervisor. Mr. George B. Salter was a steadfast believer that with the proper amount of work anything was possible.

Mr. George B. Salter took an active part in his community. This was seen in his utmost commitment to his vocation as God's faithful servant. As a senior usher in charge of the balcony at Liberty Baptist Church, George B. Salter enjoyed helping Liberty's official greeters bring their children to the steps. Mr. Salter brought hope and optimism to ordinary folks whose lives he touched so deeply never holding anyone at arm's length.

Mr. George B. Salter was a relentless community builder, a loving father, and a doting grandfather, completely unselfish in all of his endeavors. Mr. Salter leaves behind this devoted wife of 58 years Louise, his daughter Brenda Salter Jones married to James Jones Jr., Henrietta Salter Leak married to Spencer Leak Sr., and four beautiful grandsons James Jones, Spencer Leak Jr., Stephen L. Leak and Stacey R. Leak. The man they called "Papa" will surely be missed.

My fellow colleagues please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. George B. Salter, a true beacon of the Chicago community.

CONDEMNING THE ASSASSINATION OF ARMENIAN LEADERS IN ATTACK ON PARLIAMENT

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and shock that I rise to mourn the loss of Armenian Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsian, Speaker of the Parliament Karen Demirchian, and the Members of Parliament

November 1, 1999

who were killed in the legislature on Wednesday, October 27, 1999. Their exemplary leadership contributed immensely to the bold political and economic reforms that are transforming Armenia into a vibrant democracy. Their dedication helped Armenia evolve toward transparency, peace and stability. It is painful that the attack takes place at such a hopeful time in the Nagorno-Karabakh peace talks, and only one month after the Prime Minister's successful trip to the United States.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenia, I condemn these acts of terror. It would be an injustice to the memory of these courageous leaders to let an assassin's bullets disrupt their important work. I join the President, the Vice President and my colleagues in extending my deepest condolences to the families of the victims, President Kocharian, the Armenian people, and their friends in America. Our thoughts and prayers are with them doing this difficult time in their history.

URGING AN END OF THE WAR BETWEEN ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, Ethiopia and Eritrea have been at war since May 1998. Despite repeated and ongoing efforts of the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations, the United States, and other countries, the prospects for peace remain dubious.

Although a border dispute is cited as the proximate cause of the conflict, I have come to learn that tensions between these countries were building for some time, and some grievances between them precede their existence as national governments.

Both countries are governed by ex-liberation movement parties with a Marxist ideological background. The populations of both countries are highly mobilized, with more than half a million men and women currently under arms, in trenches and bunkers, across a 1000-mile border. Each country has waged a scathing propaganda campaign against the other. Many of the Members of this Congress have been subjected to that propaganda for the past 17 months.

President Clinton once held up the leaders of Eritrea and Ethiopia as shining examples of Africa's "New Generation of Leaders." He correctly pointed to their governments' lack of corruption and their genuine desire to advance the development of the rural poor. Regrettably, these "new" leaders appear to have a few stubborn flaws of their own.

Ethiopia, for example, has been stalling the OAU mediators and Special Envoy Tony Lake to avoid moving forward on the same peace agreement that they once vigorously embraced. They have become paranoid about the power and intentions of their neighbor to the north. It now appears likely that Ethiopia is going to renew the military conflict even if it means international condemnation and a new generation of Ethiopian widows. Their sovereignty, they claim, must not be compromised.