November 17, 1999

In this capacity, he provides policy making and strategic advice to the President. Although Mr. Maldon is indirectly involved with a myriad of legislative affairs, he has excelled in those capacities in both the House and Senate involving Trade, Defense, International Affairs, Intelligence and Veterans Affairs.

In March 1993, Mr. Maldon was appointed as a Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs. He subsequently served as the first African-American to be appointed as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Military Office. In this capacity he managed and directed a large staff of over 1,900 personnel—providing operational, logistical, and state-of-the-art communications support to the President.

Prior to joining the Administration, Mr. Maldon enjoyed an outstanding military career. He entered active duty service as a commissioned officer in the United States Army in August of 1972. His assignments included tours in Europe, Korea, and various posts throughout the United States. Some of his highly visible positions included assignments as the Executive Officer, Armed Forces Staff College; and as Admissions and Public Liaison Officer at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. His career progressed through increasingly responsible positions as a Field Artillery and Adjutant General Corps Officer. He completed his military career as a Colonel with an assignment to the United States House of Representatives as the Deputy Director for Army Legislative Affairs in February 1993.

Mr. Maldon holds a Master of Arts Degree from the University of Oklahoma in Human Relations and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Florida A&M University. He also graduated from various military schools and colleges, including the Command and General Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the Army's Organizational Effectiveness Management Consultant School in Monterey, CA. He is the recipient of numerous military decorations including the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), the Army Commendation Medal, and the U.S. Army Staff Badge. In addition, Mr. Maldon received the United States Congressional Award for Leadership and Patriotism, and he is listed in Who's Who in America.

He has been blessed with a loving and caring family including his wife Carolyn and their daughter Kamesha Racha’el. The family resides in Fairfax Station, VA.

As Assistant Secretary for Force and Management Policy, Mr. Maldon will be responsible for policies, plans and programs for military and civilian personnel management, including recruitment, education, career development, equal opportunity, compensation, recognition, discipline, and separation of all Department of Defense personnel, both military and civilian.

Mr. Speaker, Al Maldon’s dedication to public service, both as a civilian and as a member of the United States Army serves as a model to us all. His commitment to those issues in both the House and Senate involving Trade, Defense, International Affairs, Intelligence and Veterans Affairs is inconceivable. One cannot restrict freedom of conscience and creed.” Our Embassy in Baku reports that the courts have set aside the deportation orders for the foreign Christians, and the Garadag Gas Plant has reinstated the jobs of the Jehovah’s Witnesses.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ambassador Stanley Escudero for persistently raising these issues with Azerbaijani authorities. I also commend the work of Political Officer Michael Speckhard who has been a tireless advocate for religious freedom.

I am hopeful that President Aliyev’s remarks signal a new dawn in Azerbaijan and that his country will become the region’s beacon for religious freedom. The prompt response of President Aliyev to these recent events is encouraging, and I am hopeful that religious group that previously have not been able to obtain legal status will now be registered and will be free to practice their faith.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would like to give recognition to a group of 21 young folks who traveled to the cities of Jackson and Clarksville, Tennessee at the request of city officials to provide assistance in clean-up efforts, following a tornado in January 1999. These outstanding young men were noted for their teamwork, enthusiasm and diligence in all they did to serve the people of Jackson and Clarksville. They are to be commended for their selfless service.

Jeff Bramhill, Ontario; Jason Brown, AL; Donald Burzynski, FL; Brian Cahill, TX; Brian Drozdov, WA; Christopher Ekstrom, OR; Paul Ellis, MS; Cory Finch, MO; Joshua Fox, GA; Christopher Hanson, WI; John Hill, IA; Seth Johnson, NE; Jonathan Lancaster, MI; Joshua Meals, TN; Samuel Mills, TX; Daniel Petersen, GA; Lance Stoney, British Columbia; John Tanner, MI; John Thornton IV, TN; Mark Wahl, OR; Andrew Whitaker, NY.

NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST
TRANSCRIPT INDUCTION
HON. STEVE LARGENT
OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, since the early 1950’s, Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives prayer groups have hosted an annual gathering in our Nation’s Capital known as the National Prayer Breakfast. The Breakfast has afforded the opportunity for both the House and Senate to come together, in a nonpartisan alliance, whether in times of peace or times of war, in times of