

Despite the fact that the Secretary of the Air Force and the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition have tendered their resignations in order to remove the accountability argument, we still find no action on the general officer nominations. In addition, the USAF is now being led by an Acting Secretary—and on an equally serious note, the Acting Secretary wears three other critically important hats: that of the Under Secretary of the Air Force, the OSD Space Acquisition Chief, and the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office. He will soon add a fifth critical hat as he takes on the responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition.

This vacuum in senior civilian and uniformed leadership has a deleterious impact on our Air Force and the morale of those who serve, and it is adversely impacting the many fine leaders who are committed to serving their nation. Leaving key positions unfilled for lengthy periods can have a significant impact on the ability of the Air Force to execute its mission. Lack of consistent senior leadership and supervision, which led to criminal prosecution, was cited recently in the case of an acquisition official who served approximately 50% of her time without confirmed appointed leaders above her.

Our Air Force faces not only the demands of today's Global War on Terrorism, but is now entering a critical period where the Military Services are engaged in the Quadrennial Defense Review, planning for the future force, and supporting the Base Realignment and Closure efforts in shaping our infrastructure. These activities will result in key decisions that will directly affect the efficiencies and effectiveness of our U.S. Military. The Air Force and its sister services must also address Presidential Budget Decision 753—a critical decision document which will have significant impact on our current and long term force structure and weapons systems effectiveness. These activities require full-time, focused leadership.

It is imperative that we move forward on nominating and confirming the required civilian and uniformed leadership of our Air Force in this especially critical time. We respectfully urge the leadership of the Executive and Legislative Branches to come together to resolve these issues without delay. The leadership requirements of our Air Force must be addressed now so that it can meet its responsibilities in addressing today's critical challenges. Our nation and those who serve it deserve no less, and our future security requires it.

Respectfully,

STEPHEN P. CONDON,  
*Chairman of the Board.*

44 YEARS LATER, THE PEACE  
CORPS CONTINUES TO FULFILL  
ITS MISSION

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the American people are compassionate, generous and eager to help improve the lives of others less fortunate than them. Today I'm honored to recognize the Peace Corps, an organization that provides Americans with an opportunity to promote peace and friendship throughout the world.

Since 1961, over 178,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 138 countries. They offer their time and talents by serving as teachers, business advisors, information technology consultants, health and HIV/AIDS educators, and youth and agricultural workers. Their efforts are spreading hope and goodwill, and they are making a positive difference in the lives of millions of people.

In 2002, President Bush challenged Americans to contribute two years or 4,000 hours of service to their community, the Nation or the world. I am proud of the eleven volunteers from South Carolina's Second district who answered the President's call to service by joining the Peace Corps: Lindsey Bach, Amanda Bell, Catherine Chesnutt, Jennifer Emmert, Kimberly Hardee, Lydia Lester, Hedda McLendon, Rachele Olden, Roscoe Oswald, Ashlee Painter and Kiva Wilson. Their willingness to serve is extraordinary. They follow a tradition of service established by Warner Montgomery of Columbia who was South Carolina's first Peace Corps volunteer.

I congratulate the Peace Corps on its 44th anniversary.

BILL TO NAME FEDERAL COURT-  
HOUSE ANNEX AFTER JUDGE  
WILLIAM B. BRYANT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this bill has an unusual origin. The Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, for himself and the members of the trial court, visited my office to request that the annex under construction for the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Building be named for senior U.S. District Court Judge William B. Bryant. Judge Bryant was unaware of the desires and actions of his colleagues, who unanimously agreed to request that the annex be named for the judge. It is rare that Congress names a courthouse or an annex for a judge who has served in that court and even more rare for a judge who is still sitting. However, I am grateful that the House understood the unique importance of Judge Bryant and passed the bill last year. Unfortunately, the bill was stopped in committee in the Senate because of the reluctance to name a building for a seated judge. However, because Judge Bryant richly and uniquely deserves this honor, I have added a section declaring the effective date to be when the judge no longer holds the position. We must pursue this compromise to get the bill through the Senate. We will celebrate this remarkable historic judge and invite him to witness the honor when the bill passes.

Judge Bryant's colleagues, who know his work and his temperament best, have found a particularly appropriate way for our city and our country to celebrate the life and accomplishments of a great judge. I know Judge Bryant personally, I know his reputation in this city, and in the law profession. I know that the request to name the annex for Judge Bryant reflects deep respect for his unusually distinguished life at the bar.

Judge Bryant began his career in private practice in the segregated Washington of the 1940s and 50s, when African American lawyers were barred from membership in the District of Columbia Bar Association and from using the bar law library. He established his legal reputation as a partner in the legendary African-American law firm of Houston, Bryant and Gardner and taught at Howard University Law School. His reputation as an extraordinary trial lawyer led to his appointment as the first black assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. He rose to become the first African American to serve as Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court whose members now ask that the annex be named for Judge Bryant.

Particularly for his representation of criminal defendants, Judge Bryant was admired as one of the city's best and most respected lawyers. Among his many notable cases is the landmark *Mallory v. United States*, 354 U.S. 449 (1957), where the Supreme Court ruled that an arrested person must be promptly brought before a judicial officer.

Judge Bryant graduated from D.C. public schools, Howard University and Howard Law School, where he was first in his class. After graduation, Judge Bryant served as chief research assistant to Dr. Ralph Bunche when Bunche worked with Gunnar Myrdal, the famous Swedish economist, in his studies of American racial issues. Judge Bryant served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was honorably discharged as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1947. Judge Bryant, who is 93, took senior status in 1982. He raised a family but, as Chief Judge Thomas Hogan wrote, "lost his beloved wife, Astaire and now lives alone—with this court and the law as the center of his life."

This unusual request from all the judges of the court gives our bill great credibility. I am grateful to the judges of our U.S. District Court here for their thoughtful proposal that honors a Washingtonian of historic proportions. I very much appreciate the many efforts of Senator PATRICK LEAHY to get the bill through the Senate last year and for agreeing once again to be the lead sponsor of this bill. The residents of this city, the court that Judge Bryant has served so well, and the members of the bar here join me in our hope to get the bill passed this year.

COMMEMORATING WORLD WAR II  
SERVICE OF MONTFORD POINT  
MARINES

**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce today a resolution along with Representative CORRINE BROWN to commemorate the World War II service of the Montford Point Marines.

On May 25, 1942, the Commandant of the Marine Corps issued instructions to begin recruiting African-Americans for service in World War II. These recruits were placed in a segregated training camp; a portion of Camp