

where he continued his education and volunteered in a leper colony to help those most in need.

Joshua was employed at Humana, Inc., Louisville, Kentucky, where he was clearly a valued employee. Upon hearing the sad news, Humana issued the following statement: "Joshua was an exemplary Humana associate, beloved by his colleagues and held in high esteem by his supervisors. We are deeply saddened by his death and extend our thoughts, prayers and heartfelt sympathy to his family."

Funeral services were held for Joshua at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Louisville, Kentucky, on Saturday, July 15, 2006. Joshua is survived by his parents, ANNE and Woody NORTHUP, and five brothers and sisters: David, Katie, Kevin, Mark and Erin.

On behalf of the entire congressional delegation from Kentucky, as well as her colleagues from across the Nation, we offer our most sincere condolences to the entire Northrup family.

CONGRATULATING THE ORGANIZERS, PARTICIPANTS, AND PATRONS OF THE 25TH ANNUAL W.C. HANDY MUSIC FESTIVAL

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the organizers, participants, and patrons of the 25th Annual W.C. Handy Music Festival, which begins on July 21 and lasts until July 30.

The W.C. Handy Festival is named after Florence, Alabama, native William Christopher Handy. Mr. Handy, who is remembered today as the "Father of Blues," was born in 1873 in a log cabin that his grandfather built. He left Florence in 1892, settling in Memphis, Tennessee, where he penned his most recognized composition, "St. Louis Blues." Before his death in 1958, W.C. Handy wrote over 150 songs and his widespread appeal is credited with popularizing blues music into America's cultural mainstream.

Mr. Speaker, beginning with the birth of Mr. Handy and continuing today, the Shoals Region of Northwest Alabama has a storied musical history. The Shoals area is also the birthplace of the "Father of Rock and Roll" Sam Phillips, who discovered artists such as Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, and Jerry Lee Lewis. The region is also the home of the Alabama Music Hall of Fame, as well as generations of musicians, composers, songwriters, and internationally recognized recording studios and producers. Over the last 50 years, musical legends such as Aretha Franklin, the Rolling Stones, and some of today's musical superstars have recorded many of their biggest hits in the area.

Each year, the Music Preservation Society organizes this unique festival to pay tribute to W.C. Handy's legacy and the area's rich musical heritage. Thousands of musical patrons are entertained through more than 200 events at locations throughout the Shoals. Musical

acts range from a wide variety of blues, jazz, gospel, R&B, soul, and country acts. The artists perform live in local restaurants, nightclubs, theatres, parks, libraries, art galleries, churches, malls, museums, and street corners throughout the region.

The Festival, which began in 1982 featuring jazz legend Dizzy Gillespie, has continued to grow each year. Past headlining acts have included Clarence Carter, the Manhattan Transfer, and Percy Sledge. In its 25-year history, National Geographic, the Southeast Tourism Society, Travelocity.com, the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, and the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel have recognized the festival as one of the top events in the South.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to congratulate and applaud the efforts of the Music Preservation Society Board of Directors and staff, and the festival's volunteers and musicians who make this celebration of the cultural heritage of northwest Alabama a reality each year.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN T. CASEY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend warm birthday wishes and to pay tribute to a dear friend and great man, Mr. John T. Casey.

John will not turn 80 years old until August 17, but I want to take this opportunity to honor him before the House of Representatives adjourns for the month of August.

As many of his friends would tell you, John is a very civic-minded man. He was an active member of the Town of Gardiner Democratic Committee for 35 years, of which he served as its chairman for 22 years. It was in this capacity that I came to know him when I ran for a seat in the New York State Assembly in the early 1970s. I truly appreciated and valued the support and encouragement that John gave me, and am happy to say it was the start of a wonderful and long lasting friendship.

His contributions weren't limited to the Democratic Party. John was equally dedicated to improving the lives of working Americans through the labor movement. He and I share the belief that good jobs, fair wages and true economic opportunity must be realized for every single American. This is a message that must be carried to every corner of this nation, and John carried this out as a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, local #445. Not only was he a member of the Teamsters for almost 50 years, starting out as a shop steward, he also served as its president from the mid-1970's to 1980.

John proudly served his country in the U.S. Army from 1944 to 1946, serving as a master sergeant in Holland, France and Germany during World War II, and is a member and past commander of the American Legion Post 176 in New Paltz, New York. Additionally, John also served his community as chairman of the

Board of Fire Commissioners in Gardiner, and is a life member of its fire company. This is a man who has dedicated himself to the betterment of the community and for that we will always be grateful.

Happy birthday friend, I'm honored to share your day with you.

TRIBUTE TO SEELEY LODWICK

**HON. JAMES A. LEACH**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform the House of the passing of one of Iowa's most distinguished leaders of the 20th century, Seeley Lodwick.

Seeley's was a life of public service—a Marine in the greatest war in human history; a farm leader during the greatest era of innovation and change in agriculture; a public servant who served in both our State and national capitols; and a political activist who helped elect presidents and legislators.

Seeley will be remembered as a gentleman of the soil, a son of Iowa, a true friend.

Seeley's passing leaves a gap in all of our lives, for his wife Pat particularly because no marriage could be closer; ours because no friend could be more counted upon for trusted support and sage advice.

He will be much missed because he stood so steadfastly for the values in American politics that seems so forgotten—loyalty, decency, respect.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. BENNIE F. WOOD II

**HON. WALTER B. JONES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bennie F. Wood II, the recipient of the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for 37 years of Federal service.

This July, Mr. Wood completes a distinguished 37-year career in Federal service that began with student service in 1969. After a brief stint with a private engineering firm following his graduation from the University of Virginia, he entered Federal service as a Civil Engineer with the Public Works Department of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Mr. Wood continued with NAVFAC until 1976, leaving his position as MILCON Project Manager for the Chesapeake Region to undertake more than two decades of service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' substantial nation building efforts in the Middle East. He held progressively more responsible positions, and served overseas in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait during the first Gulf War.

He returned to the U.S. to become Chief of Engineering and Construction Management Directorate and later, the Assistant Deputy for Programs and Project Management at Transatlantic Program Center. During this period,

Mr. Wood received two Commanders Awards for Civilian Service and, in 1991, a Superior Civilian Service Award.

With all these years of military construction and overseas project management behind him, Mr. Wood made a bold move in 1999 to enter the Corps' Civil Works arena for the first time as the Wilmington District's Chief of Technical Services Division. Determined to bring his overseas experience back home in the service of the nation's water resources, Mr. Wood vigorously led a highly successful effort to push ahead with the long-awaited Wilmington Harbor Channel Deepening Project. This multi-contract, multi-phase project called on his leadership skills and elicited outstanding efforts from his team of engineers, construction managers and environmentalists. Mr. Wood was a vital part of the leadership team that kept this and other District projects on track, despite the challenges and disruptions brought about by the terrorist attacks of 9/11/2001 and the following military actions in the Gulf Region.

In 2002, he was called upon to act as the District's Deputy for Project and Programs Management, while the serving Deputy and other team members deployed to Kuwait and Iraq in advance of the U.S. military effort there. His leadership during this crucial time kept the District's projects and programs moving ahead despite the absence of key staff members and the challenges of curtailed funding.

In 2003, Mr. Wood spearheaded an outstanding effort to accomplish rapid repair of a nearly mile-wide breach in Hatteras Island caused by Hurricane Isabel. During this period he was recognized with two Commanders Awards for Civilian Service.

In 2004, Mr. Wood stepped up permanently as the Deputy for Project and Programs Management, and has since been a key leader in a period of significant change for the Wilmington District. As the South Atlantic Division approached regionalization, he has been at the forefront of the change effort, and has played an important role in empowering the district to take on its new roles as the Engineering and Planning Center for the Savannah-Charleston-Jacksonville triad. He has also provided firm and supportive leadership as the District undertook the challenges of implementing the P2 system, and has kept many key projects on track through a period of wartime budget constraints. Mr. Wood's diplomacy and broad knowledge of the Corps have proved an asset as the District works with many local and national elected officials, and stakeholders. His leadership has been critical to the District's continued standing as a "first among equals."

His distinguished career brings great credit upon himself, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the United States Army.

As a member of Congress who has had the pleasure of working with Mr. Wood, I can honestly say that the American taxpayer has been well-served by his dedication and commitment to excellence.

It is an honor to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Wood upon the completion of his distinguished 37-year career, and to extend my sincere thanks for his service to our nation and to the state of North Carolina.

HONORING BRIAN D. THORSON,  
CRNA, MA PRESIDENT OF THE  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
NURSE ANESTHETISTS

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brian Thorson, CRNA, MA. Mr. Thorson will soon complete his year as National President of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). I am very pleased that Mr. Thorson was tapped as the 2005–2006 President of this prestigious national organization, which I am proud to say is headquartered in Park Ridge, Illinois, in the Congressional district that I represent.

Celebrating its 75th Anniversary, the AANA is the professional organization that represents more than 36,000 practicing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) across the country. Founded in 1931, the AANA has ably served the interests of CRNAs and the patients who rely on them for quality care. CRNAs are anesthesia professionals who administer approximately 65 percent of all anesthetics given to patients each year in the United States. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered, including hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and plastic surgeons.

CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and, in some states, are the sole anesthesia providers in approximately 75 percent of all rural hospitals, affording these medical facilities obstetrical, surgical and trauma stabilization services.

Brian Thorson has done a remarkable job as National President of the AANA, bringing his training, skills and hands-on experience to the job. He was educated in the art and science of Nurse Anesthesia at the St. Paul-Ramsey School of Nurse Anesthesiology in St. Paul, Minnesota, and earned his Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Winona University in Winona, Minnesota. In addition, Mr. Thorson also holds a Master of Arts (MA) degree in Curriculum Development and Instruction from the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, and an additional Bachelors of Science from the College of Health Sciences at the University of Minnesota, in Minneapolis, where he graduated summa cum laude. Currently, he is a Staff Anesthetist within the Department of Anesthesia at Hennepin County Medical Center, which provides anesthesia services in and around the Minneapolis area. In an effort to make certain that those citizens in the Minneapolis area are ensured access to needed care, Brian Thorson continues to shape the future of nurse anesthesia by serving as a Clinical Instructor and didactic faculty member at the Minneapolis School of Anesthesia in St. Louis Park, Minnesota and Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.

Mr. Thorson held various leadership positions in the AANA as President-Elect, Treasurer, and Regional Director before becoming the National President of the AANA in 2005. In addition, Brian has served terms as President,

President-Elect, Vice-President, Federal Political Director, and as a Member of the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Association of Nurse Anesthetists (MANA). He has also served as the anesthesia representative to both the Council of Minnesota Nursing Organizations and the Minnesota Organization of Leaders in Nursing.

Adding to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Thorson has been recognized for speaking on anesthesia-related topics over the years. He has taken his experience and knowledge from the workplace and AANA leadership roles to lecture on political and academic anesthesia-related topics before different professional groups. During his AANA presidency, Mr. Thorson has played important roles in advocating for the practice of nurse anesthesia and its patients before Medicare and other federal agencies. He has worked tirelessly to help ensure that CRNAs have a seat at the table in the development of a pay-for-performance reimbursement model, increased communication among AANA members, promoted anesthesia patient safety through vigorous participation in the interdisciplinary National Quality Forum (NQF), and advanced principles of wellness among practitioners in this high-stress profession. In addition, under Mr. Thorson's leadership and direction, AANA testified before three House subcommittees about the importance of nurse anesthesia education, the roles and contributions of CRNAs in the Veterans Affairs health system, and the dedication with which CRNAs have provided safe anesthesia care to members of the U.S. Armed Forces at home and abroad. Finally, Brian Thorson has fought hard to maintain equality in teaching and instruction so that all anesthesia professionals have the opportunity to provide the care patients need, without the system harmfully favoring one provider over another.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me today in recognizing the outgoing President of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Mr. Brian Thorson, CRNA, MA, for his notable career and outstanding achievements.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE  
BAHAMONDE

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, the First Congressional District lost a great friend, supporter, and leader this past week. George Bahamonde, President and CEO of the United Way of the Capital Area, died suddenly on Thursday while on vacation in Maine.

George moved from Cuba to Bridgeport, Connecticut with his family when he was 11. He placed great value on education and received his bachelor's degree from the University of Bridgeport and earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Miami and a master's degree in education from Fairfield University. He stressed the value of education throughout his career in public service and was especially proud of his