

years in the Strategic Air Command during the Vietnam War. Upon being discharged, he attended graduate school at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA. Earning an M.A. in counseling in 1975, he also entered the Washington Air National Guard, joining the 105th Tactical Air Control Squadron. It is obvious, Mr. Speaker, that Frank Thompson's dedication to the United States and his willingness to serve in the armed forces can never be doubted.

Frank began his service of three decades to American veterans on February 1, 1976, when he began working at the Spokane County Veteran Services as a Veterans Contact Representative. His reliability and talent shown through when, just 4 years later, he was appointed director in 1980. Mr. Speaker, he did all this while still serving in the Washington Air National Guard and did not retire from military service until December of 1991, having attained the rank of major. He continued his honorable work at the Spokane County Veteran Services until this past week.

Madam Speaker, I thank Frank Thompson for his service to those who sacrificed so much for their country. I praise him as example to us all of what true responsibility to our veterans looks like. And I offer my best wishes for him and his family as they open this new chapter in their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on February 28, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for roll-call Nos. 85–87.

Had I been present I would have voted: Rollcall No. 85—"yes"—John "Marty" Thiels Southpark Station.

Rollcall No. 86—"yes"—Sgt. Jason Harkins Post Office Building.

Rollcall No. 87—"yes"—Iraq and Afghanistan Fallen Military Heroes of Louisville Memorial Post Office Building.

HONORING WINIFRED ANN WATERS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, a community is an aggregate of its residents, but its quality of life is determined by the dedication of those who devote themselves to the welfare of their community. Winifred Ann Waters, known to all of us as Winnie, is a born and bred Bronx girl who has devoted herself to her community and the people in it.

She was born to Peter and Elizabeth McGee and grew up on Cypress Avenue and 138th Street. Her father died when she was a youthful teenager and she grew up helping her mother care for her siblings, Jimmy, Louis, and Veronica.

Winnie was 16 when she first met Jimmy Waters, who was to become her husband. They have now been happily married for 40-plus years, and have 4 children, Jimmy, Vincent, Peter and Mary, who gave them 6 grandchildren with a seventh on the way.

After working for several years in the private sector Winnie left to have her first child. In 1985 she began working at Community Board 12 as a community associate with one of her responsibilities taking the complaints of unhappy citizens.

Taking lemons and making lemonade, she established many lasting and close relationships over the years. She is one of a rare breed who works unselfishly without need for credit or praise. In time she started to adopt the community as a second family and devoting herself to making the community a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Now, no matter where Winnie walks in the Community Board 12 neighborhood, she is recognized by all. She will be greatly missed in her retirement but her goal of making the community a family environment is one that we will continue to follow from her fine example.

I sincerely thank her for all that she has done for the people of her community. She is an inspiration to all.

A BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO WILBERT TATUM AND THE AMSTERDAM NEWS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate two birthdays.

Wilbert "Bill" Tatum never shies away from a good fight. The publisher emeritus of Amsterdam News, starting in 1978, ran editorials excoriating then-Mayor of New York, Democrat Ed Koch, once a week—every week—on the paper's front page. The recurring, and unrelenting, box read: "Why Koch Should Resign." By the time Koch left office a decade later, Tatum had turned his attention to another New York mayor, this time Republican Rudolph Giuliani. He demanded his resignation, too.

Throughout his life, which this year eclipses the 75-year mark, Tatum has been unafraid to show his mettle. He has railed against one-time popular policies—the invasion of Iraq and racial profiling—and defended unpopular, often controversial figures. The man who forged a niche for himself in black journalism, and broadened the field with his editorial perspective, is all about developing big ideas—and sticking to them. "Don't worry about your beliefs if they are yours," Tatum writes in a recent column. "If you have to depend upon somebody else's beliefs, then you have no beliefs at all." On the anniversary of his birth, it is that unflappable spirit we celebrate, honor, and uplift.

He's a self-billed "pragmatic idealist." As the director of community relations for the city's building department, he fervently sought to develop new housing in poor neighborhoods. He

spent a winter's night in 1967, huddled in an evacuated and unheated Queens housing development, just to highlight the plight of tenants. He, years later, lobbied then-Governor Mario Cuomo to establish a toll-free telephone line that gave residents tips, and accepted their complaints, about drug trafficking. But over the past quarter century, he's made his mark in the media.

He owned financial interests in Inner City Broadcasting Corp, Apollo Theatre, and two radio stations, WLIB and WBSL. He served a brief stint as co-publisher of the New York Post in 1993, alongside real estate developer Abe Hirschfeld. And through the pages of the Amsterdam News, the Harlem-based Black weekly that came under his direction in 1982, Tatum developed his own voice.

That paper projected a critical and focused voice of its own, particularly at a time when issues of concern to African Americans were largely ignored by the mainstream media. It all began nearly 100 years ago—with nothing but \$10, six sheets of paper, a lead pencil, and a table as its initial capital—and, in short order, it became New York's largest and most influential Black-owned, Black-operated business. At its zenith, its circulation peaked 100,000 and by the 1940s, it had become a leading black paper along with the storied Pittsburgh Courier, the Afro-American, and the Chicago Defender. Greats like W.E.B. DuBois, Roy Wilkins, and Adam Clayton Powell contributed to its pages. As one of the most frequently quoted black weeklies in the world, it says its strength lies in its "shaping the advancement and realization of Black aspirations."

It now commands an irrefutable spot on the mantel of American Black history. It made visible the invisible; gave speech to the voiceless. It championed the causes of civil rights, amplifying the too-often muffled calls from the community. It fought for integration in the Armed Forces during World War II and was at the forefront in covering events such as the Montgomery bus boycott in Alabama. Tatum, himself, has been lauded for taking the paper in a new, fresh direction—harkening back to its history while remaining modern and relevant. He's expanded its coverage of international affairs, attracting a wide variety of new readership from all corners of the local, national, and even international market.

Tatum was born in January 23, 1933, in a three-room shack in Durham, North Carolina, 10th out of 13 siblings, against the backdrop of segregation and summers of tobacco-field toil. He today boasts a degree from Pennsylvania's Lincoln University, the oldest Black university in the U.S., a master's in urban studies from Occidental College in L.A, and a National Urban fellowship at Yale. Out of work in segregationist America, "too well-educated" to land a post as a janitor at any of the New York newspapers, and instead, tried his luck as a reporter and columnist in Europe.

But he has since carved out a safe space of his own, assuming the leadership of a historic paper and injecting his powerful voice into the dialog. He has all our best wishes on his birthday and in this year, as his paper celebrates a milestone—a century's worth of scoops, awards, exclusives, and history-making. We are all the better for it.