

RECOGNIZING CHAUNCEY POSTON

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Chauncey Poston to the City of Grass Valley, California.

Council Member Poston has a long history of service to others, beginning with his time with the United States Navy serving in Vietnam and Guam, following which he returned home to California where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources from California State University, Humboldt. Since 1978, Chauncey has lived in Nevada County, where he has served as President of the Nevada County Resource Conservation District, as a member of the Grass Valley Planning Commission and the Grass Valley Traffic Safety Review Committee and since 2006, as a member of the Grass Valley City Council. Chauncey is well known for his many accomplishments and contributions to our community, including his work to ensure the fiscal solvency of the City's infrastructure programs, facilitating the cooperation between local government, businesses and interest groups and working to address each issue the City has faced as it has grown: from traffic congestion to public safety and economic development. It is a remarkable statement of Council Member Poston's service that every part of our community, from businesses to fine and performing arts groups to environmental advocates, felt they were well represented by his efforts.

Grass Valley City Administrator Dan Holler described Chauncey well: "Throughout his years on the City Council he was dedicated to building a better community by listening to residents and businesses, by being involved in civic organizations, by making hard decisions and by focusing on the long-term vision of the City of Grass Valley." Madam Speaker, in a time where localities across our country are struggling to find competent and effective leaders, Council Member Chauncey Poston has served as a fine example of the culture of service that ought to be reflected in all elected officials, and it is my privilege to rise today in recognition of that service.

COMMENDING BRO. STUART TOMS
UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, it is with enormous pride that I rise today to commend Bro. Stuart Toms upon the occasion of his retirement from the Sweetwater Baptist Church. His unwavering dedication and service to Jackson Parish is admirable and deserving of our appreciation.

At a young age, Bro. Stuart began his impressive list of endeavors. In 1959, he was named class valedictorian of Quitman High

School. He went on to further his education at Northeast Louisiana University (NLU), which today is known as the University of Louisiana-Monroe. Here, Bro. Stuart excelled as a point guard on the basketball team. In 1961-1962, he helped direct his team to their first league title in the Gulf South Conference (GSC). He was named 1963 All-GSC First Team and was inducted into the NLU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1986.

After graduating from NLU, Bro. Stuart continued sharing his love of basketball as a high school coach. In this capacity, he also worked as a math teacher and principal until he retired from the school system in 1984. His talents on the sidelines matched his impressive skills on the court proven by the numerous accolades he earned for his coaching abilities. At his high school alma mater, he coached back-to-back Class B State Championship basketball teams in 1970 and 1971. Among his honors, Bro. Stuart was named Class B Coach of the Year for the State of Louisiana in 1970, inducted into the Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1989 and inducted into the Jackson Parish Sports Hall of Fame this year.

Bro. Stuart commenced his career service to the Lord when he was ordained as a Baptist minister in October 1983. Following his ordination, he began as the pastor of Sweetwater Baptist Church where he has continued to serve the congregation for the past 27 years. Through the years, he has addressed numerous revivals, presided over many weddings and funerals and has been on two international mission trips.

Beyond his professional career, Bro. Stuart has been married for 39 years to Johnette Pardue Toms. They are the loving parents of Stuart "Stu" Toms, Jr., Dr. Catherine Lucas and Mrs. Julie Nelson, and the proud grandparents of Ty and Kale Toms, Lily Lucas and Andrew Nelson.

I have been fortunate to have attended his worship services for several years. This truly gracious man is a friend to many, and it is his connection and involvement in his community for which we should all strive to model. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bro. Stuart Toms. His commitment, compassion and leadership warrant this laudable recognition.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL L. KERLEY

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, on December 31, 2010, Michael L. Kerley, Esq. will retire from the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors after 41 years of dedicated service.

It is a rarity in our Nation's Capital to find someone who has worked in one place for more than 10 years. For Mike to have been with NAIFA for over four decades is a tremendous achievement and a testament to his devotion and his character.

Many of us in Washington know Mike as a passionate advocate for the life insurance in-

dustry and those individual agents who work tirelessly to help Americans take the steps necessary to protect their loved ones and their employees from financial disaster in the wake of life's inevitable risks. Members on both sides of the aisle have had the pleasure of working with Mike and know him to be a man of high integrity and sincerity.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mike on an incredibly successful career and wishing him well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 626 on, H.R. 4994, On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendments, The Medicare & Medicaid Extenders Act of 2010 Agree to Senate Amendment, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 627 on, H.R. 6412, On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Pass, Access to Criminal History Records for State Sentencing Commissions Act of 2010, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

HONORING J. DAVID COLFAX OF
MENDOCINO COUNTY**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the civic accomplishments and dedicated public service of J. David Colfax who has served on the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors for the past 12 years.

As supervisor, educator and exemplary citizen his service has benefitted the ruggedly beautiful Mendocino County in northern California where he has lived with his wife Micki since 1973. He has served on many boards, committees and organizations including the Mendocino County Office of Education, First 5 Mendocino, the Economic Development and Finance Corporation, the North Coast Railroad Authority, the Criminal Justice Board Standing committee and the Local Agency Formation Committee.

David and Micki raised four sons whom they homeschooled on their Shining Moon ranch, where they built their own house and raised award winning goats. Their children went on to such universities as Harvard and Yale and all are working in professions that give back to others. David and Micki authored the book Home Schooling for Excellence which continues to inspire. And they wrote Hard Times in Paradise about their transition from their

urban lives in the eastern United States to their rural ranch outside of Boonville not far from the Pacific Ocean.

During his three terms as a Mendocino County Supervisor, David has represented his geographically diverse district that ranges from the coast to 4,000-foot ridges to valleys and includes at least five watersheds. He has won the support of constituents who are entrepreneurs, fishermen and women, winemakers, brewmasters and mavericks of many persuasions. With a college professor style and animated discourse, David Colfax has served with passion and dedication.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, David Colfax has earned the admiration and respect of his peers, his community and his family. He is a friend and colleague whose legacy and contributions are long lasting in Mendocino County. For these reasons, it is appropriate that we honor J. David Colfax.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. MICHAEL
BLANDINA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael Blandina, a resident of Brick Township, New Jersey and dedicated member of the community. On October 30, 2010, Mr. Blandina retired from his position as Manager of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission in Lakewood, New Jersey. He is also recognized for his work with various political organizations in Ocean County, including the Brick Township Democratic Municipal Committee where he serves as Chairman. Today, I applaud Mr. Blandina, as his achievements should serve as an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Blandina began his professional career as a Special Police Officer with the Brick Township Police Department in 1983. He valiantly served the constituents of Brick Township for seven years. In conjunction with his service as Special Police Officer, from 1985 through December 1999, Mr. Blandina served in the Tax Assessor's Office. His outstanding abilities and commitment were evident as he soon rose to the position of Principal Assessing Clerk. After approximately fifteen years of service to the Tax Assessor's Office, Mr. Blandina soon accepted a position with the Administration Department where he assisted constituents with various local issues. His responsibilities also included coordinating media related events for the Township of Brick. During his tenure, Mr. Blandina also spent summers working in the Recreation Department, specifically assisting the Township Recycling Program. In June 2007, Mr. Blandina accepted a position as Manager of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission in Lakewood, New Jersey. Throughout his professional experience, Mr. Blandina's generosity has undoubtedly touched many lives and has helped countless people throughout central New Jersey.

Mr. Blandina is also a valued member of various local and political organizations. Since 1983, he has proudly served on the Brick

Township Democratic Committee, eighteen of those years as Municipal Chairman. He has also served as Democratic Finance Committee Chairman and has dedicated his time to assisting the Ocean County Young Democrats. Similarly, Mr. Blandina has assisted with the Ocean County Columbus Day Parade Committee, one of the largest parades and ethnic festivals in the state of New Jersey. His other affiliations include the Ocean County Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee, The Girls Scouts of the Jersey Shore Awards Reception Committee, Brick Township Democratic Club, among others. Mr. Blandina continues to mentor, exemplifying confident leadership and management skills.

As a result of his outstanding service, Mr. Blandina has been the recipient of numerous awards. He has received Brick Township Democratic Club's "1999 Democrat of the Year" award and the Columbia Civic League of Ocean County's "1999 Man of the Year" award. He has also been the recipient of the Heritage Festival Ball Committee's "2003 Outstanding Ethnic Leader" award and Brick UNICO Chapter's "2004 Italian American of the Year" award.

Madam Speaker, please join me in acknowledging Mr. Blandina's multiple years of service to the Ocean County community. His dedication and commitment are positive examples of what steadfast determination and hard work can accomplish.

HONORING THE HONORABLE
RONALD PANIOTO

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of the Honorable Ronald Panioto, who is retiring as a judge of the Hamilton County Common Pleas Court. Judge Panioto leaves the courtroom some 35 years after he first ascended the bench of the Hamilton County Municipal Court.

Judge Panioto became presiding judge of the domestic relations division of the Common Pleas Court in 1981, and he quickly gained a reputation for fairness and sensitivity for families—especially the children—who came before him.

On the occasions in domestic cases when he had to interview children, Judge Panioto bought stuffed animals to give to the children to put them at ease.

Throughout his life, Judge Panioto has rightfully been proud of his Italian heritage and served as President of the United Italian Society from 1971 to 1993.

Judge Panioto's diligence, humanity and graciousness on the bench have won him the respect of the community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in wishing Judge Panioto a long and happy retirement and thanking his wife Judith, his son Ronald Jr., his granddaughter Christine and great-grandson Andrew for sharing the judge with us over all these years.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
RON SANTO

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the passing of legendary Chicago Cubs third baseman and broadcaster Ron Santo, and to recognize his lifetime of achievement both on and off the baseball diamond.

Ronald Edward Santo was born February 25, 1940 in Seattle, Washington. Twenty years later, he made his professional baseball debut at third base for the Chicago Cubs. Over his 14-year major league career, the first 13 with the Cubs and the final season with the cross-town White Sox, Santo hit 342 home runs, had 1,331 RBIs, won 5 Gold Gloves, and appeared in 9 All-Star games. He is considered perhaps the greatest player not currently in the Hall of Fame. Nonetheless, his number 10 is immortalized on the North Side, hanging on the left field pole at Wrigley Field, which Santo referred to as "my Hall of Fame."

After a successful baseball career, Santo spent 15 years in business before returning to the Cubs as the color commentator for WGN Radio's Cubs broadcasts in 1990. He spent the next 20 years in the Cubs radio booth, and his passion and enthusiasm for the home team, which surfaced in disheartened groans as often as supportive exclamations, endeared him to a new generation of Cubs fans. Santo always seemed at ease in the WGN booth and established himself as the rightful heir to Harry Carey's oversized throne as the king of Chicago Cubs commentary.

Away from the "Friendly Confines," Santo worked tirelessly to raise money and awareness for Diabetes through the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Diagnosed at age 18, his diabetes was unknown even to his teammates until 1971, when Santo decided to use his star power to draw attention to the disease. From 1979 until his death, Santo sponsored the JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes, helping to raise over \$60 million for research and advocacy. Santo's teammate Ernie Banks said of his fellow Cub, "Ronnie has handled his own ailment like the true champion he is. He is the most courageous person I've ever been around. I'm inspired by him and by his spirit. He is one of my idols, one of my heroes. I love Ron Santo."

Ron Santo passed away on Thursday, December 2. He will be sorely missed, but his legacy will continue to inspire us all.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JAMES L.
JONES

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to recognize an American hero, General James L. Jones, for his lifetime of public service. Having served more than 40