

Baptist Church met with me in acknowledgment of our success in fighting for first amendment rights.

One of the many outreach programs of Trinity Baptist Church is Hearts with Hands. Hearts with Hands is a disaster relief organization that provides humanitarian aide to worldwide victims of hurricanes, tornadoes, and tsunamis. To this day, this organization is still working with many of the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Again, it is my privilege to recognize the great accomplishments and leadership of Trinity Baptist Church over the past 40 years, and I, along with the rest of the United States Congress, wish for their good work to continue.

TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY WILSON

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, whether she was called Beverly, Bev, Mom, Grandma, Dear Friend or the Mail Lady, Beverly Wilson was known by all for her compassion and generous spirit. Bev was a fifty-year resident of Lincoln, California, and served as a postal carrier for 26 years. Tragically, Bev was killed in the line of duty a mere four weeks short of retirement.

Beverly dedicated her life to bringing joy to those around her. She was an ideal co-worker. She gently guided her younger colleagues through thoughtful gestures and kind words. For no occasion at all, she would surprise her fellow workers with homemade baked goods, fresh vegetables from her garden, or jarred pomegranate jellies. The people who worked alongside Bev knew that, in her, they had a true friend.

Her customers thought the world of Bev. She took the time to know each of them, and her association with the people she serviced grew into friendships that lasted decades. While seeing them six days a week for twenty-six years, Bev shared the lives of her patrons, delighting alongside them during their joyous moments and providing warm comfort in times of sorrow. One of Bev's sons once asked, "How can one little old woman touch the lives of so many people?"

Beverly Wilson was the proud mother of five children and fifteen grandchildren. While she spent so much of her time doing good deeds for her customers, co-workers and other friends, she always had time for her family. Beverly's fifteen grandchildren could always expect a card from "Grandma Bev" on their birthdays, as she never missed even one.

Beverly Wilson remains an example of dedication and kindness today. When the residents of Lincoln, CA visit the new postal facility named after her, they will be inspired by the memories of such an outstanding and considerate individual.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN TURKMENISTAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and Vice Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, today I introduce this resolution on systemic human rights violations in Turkmenistan. Freedom House recently ranked Turkmenistan as one of the most repressive countries in the world. Along with co-sponsors Representative JOSEPH R. PITTS and Representative MIKE MCINTYRE, we seek to put the Government of Turkmenistan on notice that these policies must change and that the Congress expects improvements in human rights observance and democratization.

The human rights situation in Turkmenistan remains abysmal. According to the State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, "Turkmenistan is an authoritarian state dominated by president-for-life Saparmurat Niyazov. . . . The government continued to commit serious abuses and its human rights record remained extremely poor."

Turkmenistan is a one-party state with all three branches of government controlled by President Niyazov, who was made "president-for-life" by the rubber-stamp People's Council in 2003. No opposition is allowed and the state promotes a cult of personality around President Niyazov, the self-proclaimed "Turkmenbashi"—the father of all Turkmen. His likeness is on every public building and the currency. Authorities require that his self-styled spiritual guidebook, the Rukhnama, be taught in all schools and places of work.

There are consistent reports of security officials physically abusing, torturing and forcing confessions from individuals involved in political opposition or human rights advocacy. The regime also continues the dreadful Soviet practice of using psychiatric hospitals to jail dissidents.

In August, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty correspondent Ogulsapar Muradova and two Turkmenistan Helsinki Foundation members were sentenced to 6 and 7 years of imprisonment, respectively, for their involvement in a documentary about Turkmenistan. Sadly, Muradova died while in custody just three weeks later.

The resolution therefore urges President Niyazov to, among other things, conduct a thorough investigation into the death of Muradova, free all political/religious prisoners, provide ICRC access to all Turkmen prisons, and allow peaceful political opposition parties to operate freely. The resolution also lays out recommended steps for U.S. action, should the government not improve respect for democratization, freedom of movement, human rights and religious freedoms.

The abuses don't end with repressive actions against dissidents and reporters. Niyazov is also reportedly diverting billions of dollars of state funds into his personal off-shore accounts. The "father of all Turkmen" is pillaging his country and jeopardizing the future of its citizens.

Consequently, the resolution urges the Government of Turkmenistan to "end the diversion

of state funds into President Niyazov's personal offshore accounts, and adopt international best practices as laid forth by the International Monetary Fund regarding the disclosure and management of oil and gas revenues." In addition, the resolution urges the U.S. Government to encourage companies dealing in Turkmen gas to increase transparency, and to encourage the European Union and other countries not to enter into trade agreements with Turkmenistan until the "government demonstrates a commitment to implementing basic norms of fiscal transparency." To further demonstrate the level of Congressional concern regarding the misappropriation of state resources, the resolution recommends the U.S. Government issue "a report on the personal assets and wealth of President Niyazov."

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this resolution is to bring to the attention of the Congress and the world the appalling human rights record of the Government of Turkmenistan. The resolution is timely, as the European Parliament will soon consider an enhanced trade relationship with Turkmenistan. I hope this resolution will be a catalyst for change and that President Niyazov will initiate serious and far-reaching reforms.

CELEBRATING THE IMPROVEMENTS OF CAPUCHINO HIGH SCHOOL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Capuchino High School's successes since the passage of the November 2000 bond issue, Measure D, in San Mateo County. I am so proud of the foresight my neighbors and friends had when they approved the bond that has created the extraordinary facilities, so it can match its high caliber students. It will be my privilege and honor to join the Capuchino High School community to commemorate the modernization and new construction provided by the bond issue, as well as the opening of the new Electronic Arts Technology Arts Center built with the support of a \$200,000 grant from Electronic Arts.

Like other high schools within my district, Capuchino has leveraged the \$137.5 million bond measure into a \$234.5 million capital improvement dedicated for an innovative academic and extra-curricular program designed to enhance the teaching-learning environment for students today and tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, Capuchino is a California Distinguished School and is recognized for its extraordinary didactic methods. Academically strong, Capuchino offers the highly prestigious International Baccalaureate Program and is one of only 60 schools in the state and 400 across the country qualified to offer such a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum.

I am very proud that Electronic Arts, one of my district's largest employers, was able to contribute in building this state of the art technology arts center. Because of Capuchino High School's excellence, it was selected as one of 250 schools nationwide to receive a Carnegie Grant and was selected to share in

a \$450,000 grant collaborating in Entertainment and Media with five community colleges and their associated high schools.

The school's dedication to the arts includes its Honor Band's selection to participate at the inauguration of President Kennedy, the only marching band from North America to perform at the Expo '88 ceremonies in Australia, and has performed at various west coast events including the Tournament of Roses.

Mr. Speaker, Capuchino High School has had a long history of achievements and I am absolutely delighted that our community is dedicated to the success of our children. Capuchino High School is one of the real gems in my district and with the help of Measure D and Electronic Arts, Capuchino will be able to keep up with the constantly changing environment that faces our children when they leave school. I would like to thank all those who are responsible for these much needed improvements and am looking forward to seeing them for myself firsthand.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN ADAMINI

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to Stephen Adamini, a Representative in the Michigan House of Representatives from the 109th District. The 109th District is comprised of four Upper Peninsula counties: Alger, Luce, Marquette and Schoolcraft.

First elected to the House in 2000, Stephen Adamini will be concluding his service in that body at the end of this year. The people of the 109th Representative District have been well represented by Stephen and he will be missed.

Whether the issue was timber or roads, Stephen was always ready to jump into the political and legislative arena, and he was a tireless worker for the "Yoopers," those residents of Michigan that live in the state's Upper Peninsula. As Steve has recognized, while there are many common issues in communities across our state, each region also has unique needs and concerns of its own. Steve recognized the unique qualities of his district and he worked hard in our state capital to find creative solutions on both sides of the Mackinac Bridge.

Stephen was also known for his work in Lansing in the area of health care. He served as Minority Vice Chair of that Committee in addition to serving on the Judiciary and Transportation Committees. Among the bills, that he authored Steve's legislative skills helped tackle thorny issues surrounding the privacy of medical records.

Even prior to going to Lansing, Stephen dedicated much of his life to public service and community involvement. Whether it was serving on the Executive Committee of the Gwinn Area Chamber of Commerce, Chairing the Marquette County Airport Board, serving on the Marquette County Re-Appportionment Commission or his work on the Michigan Transportation Commission, Steve has always strived to improve and serve his community and the entire Upper Peninsula.

In the Michigan State House of Representatives, Stephen has represented Marquette, the

largest city in the Upper Peninsula. His distinguished record in Lansing has endeared him to his constituents in Michigan. Stephen and I have always enjoyed a special relationship personally and professionally. I look forward to his continued involvement in the communities of Alger, Luce, Marquette and Schoolcraft and I applaud him for his years of service to Michigan, to the Upper Peninsula and to the people of Michigan's 109th legislative district.

It is leaders like Stephen Adamini who make our system of democracy great at all levels—State as well as Federal. On this occasion, I offer my best wishes to Stephen's wife, Linda, his two children Corrine and Stephen Jr., and his grandchildren; Alexandra, Marki, and Ryan. All of them have a great deal to be proud of in Stephen's life and career. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in saluting Stephen Adamini for his record of public service both in Lansing and at home in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF G. LUZ A. JAMES, ESQUIRE, TO THE COMMUNITY OF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to G. Luz A. James, Esquire, affectionately known as "Luz James", a Native Son of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands and an individual who distinguished himself by living a life of service to the people and community of the U.S. Virgin Islands and to our Nation.

Luz James served the Virgin Islands community as an educator in the field of Mathematics and Science and was so effective that many of his students found ease in understanding the difficult subjects and some later became teachers because of exposure to his style. Among his numerous honors and recognitions was the conferring of the rank of Honorary Policeman by one of our last appointed governors, Walter A. Gordon. He worked in the Virgin Islands Public Works Department; was a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor; the Assistant Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Urban Renewal Program, which started developing and renovating depressed areas of the islands at the beginning of the economic boom in the 1960's and the Special Assistant to Governor Ralph M. Paiewonsky in the Office of Public Relations. He was also elected as the first President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce for St. Croix.

Luz was also elected as a Senator in the 12th Legislature of the Virgin Islands, continuing a political tradition that began with his father, who served on the Municipal Council. His brother, Randall, served four terms as a Senator; his oldest son, Luz II served two terms in the Legislature before being elected Lt. Governor for the first term of our present Governor's Administration. One of his nieces ran for a seat in the Legislature and a nephew is presently seeking re-election for a second term.

Luz was also the first Scoutmaster and Founder of Boy Scout Troop 151, under the

sponsorship of the Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church, the church in which he was baptized and had a long and involved relationship with throughout his life. He served the church in many positions and was the church's Sacristan at the time of his death. His education began at the school associated with the church, St. Mary's, under the tutelage of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Sisters helped kindle his love of the church, and his deep spirituality. Luz was known for his generosity and kindness and he would visit some of the Sisters that had taught him during his childhood. His family has been a member of the Holy Cross Church for more than a century.

Luz James also had a distinguished military career that began as a commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon his graduation from Howard University in 1950 and served a tour of duty years later as an Artillery Officer at Fort Bliss, Texas. He was credited with the formation of the U.S. Army Reserve Units in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Governor Melvin H. Evans appointed him as the first Adjutant General of the Virgin Islands, which gained him the distinction of being the first African-American to serve as an Adjutant General in the in Army National Guard of the United States. At the time of his untimely passing, he and the National Guard were in the process of preparing a pinning ceremony for his promotion to the rank of Brigadier General, during a ceremony that was being planned for next month.

Luz James entered Law School in his mid forties, graduated, became a member of the Virgin Islands Bar Association and had one of the busiest practices on the island of St. Croix. He was also a member of the National and the American Bar Associations. This accomplishment, returning to get his Juris Doctorate degree, was one that inspired three other members of his family to enter the legal field and vividly impressed his youngest son, a medical doctor that an education and desire for self improvement can continue throughout a person's lifetime. In addition to helping many members of his considerable extended family, Luz assisted many Virgin Islanders to pursue and continue their formal educations.

Luz James became a disc jockey during the 1950's, which began his love affair with the broadcasting industry. He and one of his brothers, Randall, a medical doctor, had popular shows on one of the local stations. He later formed Family Broadcasting, Inc., when he acquired WSTX AM and FM, the fulfillment of a dream, which allowed him to revive the show, "Crucian Confusion", a program he originally aired during his first days on the air.

One of his greatest attributes was his willingness to help any person in need, sometimes to his detriment and he would part with his last dollar, without any hesitation, if it would benefit someone else. He served on practically every civic group formed on St. Croix and has been recognized and cited for outstanding contributions to the community from such groups as the Hospital Auxiliary, Parent Teacher Association, the A.M.E. Church, the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., the Crucian Forty Plus Baseball Club, the V.I. Midwives Association and the V.I. PAC, a New York based group comprised of Virgin Islanders.

Born on the island of St. Croix, Luz James was the youngest of four brothers that all