

Chattahoochee Council gives the award to recognize an individual or group that undertakes outstanding service to our Nation, the state, or the local community. By presenting the award, the Chattahoochee Council calls attention to the honors, contributions, and good works of individuals.

Mr. Speaker, Larry's service to our state and Nation definitely sets an example for young people across the country. As the Distinguished Citizen this year, I call the House to remember his accomplishments and service as we all continue serving our states and this country.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO LINDA FREED ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to Mrs. Linda Freed, upon her retirement from her position as editor of the Bryan Times newspaper in Bryan, Ohio.

Linda Freed grew up in the small community of Bryan, Ohio, in Williams County where the journalistic skills which have served her well over the years were instilled at an early age. It is said, that as early as junior high, Linda began expressing her desire to write for a newspaper. Staying true to her dreams, Linda began her career at the Bryan Times newspaper on her 30th birthday as a secretary to the advertising manager on September 22, 1966. After only 1 year in that capacity, Linda quickly jumped at an opportunity to move to the news side of the paper by becoming their society editor.

Over the next 10 years, Linda served as the paper's society editor, where she quickly garnered a following of avid readers who enjoyed her weekly column entitled; "Thoughts from Under the Dryer." Linda's "Thoughts from Under the Dryer" became an opportunity to share her thoughts about being a mother, being a wife, and everyday life experiences. Then in 1977, Linda's experience and devotion to the community of Bryan, Ohio, propelled her to the position of editor of the Bryan Times where her journalistic integrity has served the community well for over 19 years. With more than 2,000 columns and 40 years of service, Linda can indeed be proud of her career at the Bryan Times.

Like many in northwest Ohio, I too have had the privilege of meeting with Linda to discuss the issues that affect the residents of Bryan, Ohio. And, each time I was interviewed by Linda, I found her to be fair and knowledgeable of not only the issues we were discussing, but also of the political climate both here in northwest Ohio and in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Mrs. Linda Freed. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Linda, who care about their citizens' well being and stability. We wish Linda, her husband, Lyle, and their two sons, David and Douglas all the best as we pay tribute to one of the Fifth District's finest citizens.

SUPPORTING EFFORTS PROMOTING GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF EFFECTIVE RUN-AWAY YOUTH PREVENTION PROGRAMS

SPEECH OF

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, as Congress considers H. Res. 1009 this week, I would like to highlight the outstanding efforts of an organization in my district, Promise House of Dallas. Since 1984, Promise House has served as a pillar of the Dallas community through its mission to serve the needs of runaway and homeless youth throughout our community.

Promise House was originally established by Lovers Lane United Methodist Church to provide a 16 bed emergency shelter for teenagers. Today, this program provides over eight large programs for runaway, homeless, and at-risk students, and is supported by numerous churches, businesses, and individuals. At-risk youth and their families may access services ranging from food and clothing to counseling, education, transitional living arrangements, and parenting services. With communal support, the Promise House staff works endlessly to offer hope to youth and families in crisis.

Promise House has helped countless youths pursue their hopes and dreams. When he entered Promise House, Justin was a 17-year-old young man who was physically and emotionally abused by his father. Between the abuse and family disarray, Justin turned to aggressive behavior and heavy drug usage. In a courageous and lifesaving decision, Justin came to Promise House for help. Promise House provided Justin with a safe environment and a variety of services, including shelter, counseling, intensive case management and life skills therapy. Through the support of Promise House, Justin turned his life around. Justin continued therapy services even after leaving Promise House and successfully graduated from high school. Today, Mr. Speaker, I am happy to say that Justin is a senior at the University of Texas at Dallas and a recipient of the Blake Davis Memorial Scholarship—established by Promise House to promote opportunities for higher education and a better life.

Justin's story serves as an example of how Promise House provides youths with a safe haven to help meet their life goals. I am proud of Promise House's selfless efforts in reaching out with open arms to the needs of the children and teenagers in the north Texas area.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUFUS JOHNSON

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak in recognition of the accomplishments of Rufus Johnson of Kerrville, Texas. Of African-American and Cherokee descent,

Mr. Johnson was born in Maryland in May 1911 and faced adversity at a very early age. Having lost his mother when he was 4 years old, he never allowed any situation to dictate his path.

After his mother passed away, Mr. Johnson was sent to live with his aunt and uncle in Pennsylvania. As a boy in Pennsylvania, he was forbidden to swim in the city pool. This cost him his much coveted Boy Scouts of America Eagle rank because he could not earn the swimming merit badge. Mr. Johnson never forgot this missed opportunity, and ironically, it was this missed opportunity that led him on his path to historical significance.

Among his many life achievements, Mr. Johnson worked in the White House of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and became a successful attorney.

Immediately after enrolling at Howard University in Washington, DC, he joined the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, took swimming lessons and became a certified lifeguard.

Mr. Johnson's certification won him a job as the White House Pool Lifeguard during FDR's Presidency. Having earned the respect and admiration of FDR, Mr. Johnson became his butler as well, a position that often included lifting the President from his chair. Mr. Johnson recalls with great respect the pride and independence of President Roosevelt.

Mr. Johnson earned a place in White House history when a bowl of soup on a tray he was carrying tipped over and spilled on the President's lap. According to Mr. Johnson, it was Roosevelt who intentionally, but secretly, tipped the tray and caused the bowl to land on himself during a meeting. Mr. Johnson said FDR continued the conversation without pause and earned the respect of his adversary sitting at the dinner table with him.

When First Lady Roosevelt learned that Mr. Johnson was preparing to take the bar exam, she had a desk set up in the White House to allow him to study for 2 hours every day.

In October 1942, he was called to active duty as a captain in the 92nd Infantry Division of African-American soldiers. Mr. Johnson earned the admiration and respect of all who served with him and was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantry Badge and received a special regimental citation for bravery. He was called to duty and served again during the Korean war, where he attained the rank of lieutenant colonel.

After his service in the military, Mr. Johnson set up a law practice in California and also performed pro bono work. He argued successfully before the California Supreme Court in defense of the First Amendment rights of American Indians. He won the decision and it still stands today.

Mr. Johnson relocated to Kerrville in 1994 where he still resides with his step-daughter, Yvonne Smith. He turned 95 last May, and the Texas State Legislature and the White House paid tribute to him on his birthday. Tonight I pay tribute to Rufus Johnson for his years of service to our Nation. He is a respected member of his community, and he has a life-story that deserves to be remembered.