

Human Relations Service Award on October 25, 2006. This distinguished honor is awarded annually by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission "to the person who has performed outstanding and meritorious service to [the] community through personal efforts by enhancing the dignity and worth of its citizens." This award is given in memory of the late Big John Riley, who dedicated his time and efforts for the advancement of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

Just as Big John Riley gave to the community during his time, Virginia Day too works tirelessly, in various capacities. As the Manager of Evergreen Manors, since 1983, Virginia has been working hard for companies like Improved Dwellings for Altoona, Inc. She has also been involved with organizations such as the YMCA, the Altoona Housing Authority, the City of Altoona with Community Education and Training Agency, and ENCORE court advocates for youth. Through her efforts, Virginia has helped improve the lives of the citizens of the Altoona community.

To cite each individual accomplishment and contribution that Virginia has been a part of would be nearly impossible. Her involvement in the community over the years has been immeasurable and certainly in the spirit of the late Big John Riley. Miss Virginia Day has selflessly dedicated herself to the Altoona area, and we are all very grateful for her effort toward positive enrichment of the community, as she has certainly deserved this distinguished honor.

#### HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ASTRONAUT JOSEPH TANNER

##### HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2006*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of NASA astronaut, Joseph Tanner for his outstanding service to his country in the name of space exploration, including his recent mission to the International Space Station on the Space Shuttle *Atlantis*.

Joseph Tanner was born in Illinois in 1950 and graduated from Danville High School in Danville, Illinois in 1968. He pursued a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Illinois graduating in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science degree. Upon graduation, Mr. Tanner joined the Navy where he earned his pilot wings in 1975 before serving as an A-7E pilot with the Light Attack Squadron 94 aboard the U.S.S. *Coral Sea*. He finished his active service with the Navy as an advanced jet instructor pilot with Training Squadron 4 in Pensacola, Florida.

In 1984, Mr. Tanner began working for the NASA Johnson Space Center as an aerospace engineer and research pilot. His primary flying responsibilities involved teaching the astronaut pilots Space Shuttle landing techniques in the Shuttle Training Aircraft and instructing the pilots and mission specialists in the T-38. In addition to his flying duties, Mr. Tanner held positions as the aviation safety officer, the head of the pilot section, and the Deputy Chief of Aircraft Operations Division. In total, Mr. Tanner has accumulated an impressive no less than 8,862 hours in military and NASA aircraft.

Selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in March 1992, Mr. Tanner reported to the Astronaut Office in August 1992 where he completed one year of initial training and worked in the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory before being assigned to his first mission. Mr. Tanner also served as part of the Astronaut Support Personnel team at the Kennedy Space Center, supporting Space Shuttle launches and landings. Throughout his NASA career, Mr. Tanner has participated in four space flight missions.

The most recent space flight Mr. Tanner flew on was STS-115, the Space Shuttle *Atlantis*. *Atlantis* launched on September 9, 2006 with six crew members to continue construction on the International Space Station. The 12 day mission included several space walks to construct crucial components to ensure the future of the International Space Station, including the installation of two solar arrays to assist the station in generating power. Mr. Tanner performed two space walks on this particular mission, bringing his total number of space walks to seven. *Atlantis* landed in Florida at the Kennedy Shuttle Landing Facility on September 21, 2006 in the early morning. The Space Shuttle *Atlantis* accomplished its mission of delivering the first major new component to the International Space Station since 2002 and laid important groundwork for upcoming station construction.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the crew of the Space Shuttle *Atlantis* and especially to astronaut, Joseph Tanner.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP-ELECT MITCHELL G. TAYLOR

##### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Bishop-Elect Mitchell G. Taylor. The Senior Pastor of the Center of Hope International and the Founder and President of the East River Development Alliance, Reverend Taylor has dedicated his life to serving his community, which includes Queensbridge Houses, the largest public housing complex on the North American continent, as well as the Ravenswood, Astoria and Woodside public housing developments. Reverend Taylor will be consecrated a Bishop in an Episcopal ceremony to be conducted next month in East Elmhurst, New York.

Reverend Taylor has rightly earned national renown for his work to improve the quality of life for residents of public housing. He is also the author of *Unbroken Promises*, a work offering an inspirational and optimistic message of trust, faith, and hope for a better future. As the Senior Pastor at the Center of Hope International, a non-denominational church founded by his father more than four decades ago, he has overseen the Center's Victory After-School program serving hundreds of school children and the Bread of Life Food Pantry, which has fed thousands of hungry families.

Reverend Taylor has been invited to deliver his inspirational message in lectures and speeches around the United States. Because of his leadership on issues involving public housing, he has been profiled in our nation's paper of record, *The New York Times*, and

dubbed the "Preacher in the Hood" by the CBS television network.

In order to more effectively serve his community, Reverend Taylor helped found the East River Development Alliance, or "ERDA". Working in close collaboration with government officials, tenant groups, parent-teacher associations, houses of worship, nonprofits, and other community organizations, ERDA has scored remarkable successes in expanding economic opportunities for the 30,000 residents in the surrounding community. ERDA also offers financial literacy and home ownership programs, enhanced extracurricular activities for local youth, college preparatory classes, free GED and computer courses, and job training and placement initiatives. With Reverend Mitchell's leadership, a neighborhood coalition was formed that undertook a successful campaign to attract a bank to the community.

In addition to his extraordinary and selfless service to his community, Reverend Taylor is a loving family man dedicated to his wife Barbara and their two children Telisha and Mitchell, Jr. They live in the Long Island City neighborhood to which he has devoted himself, and which he has called home for forty years.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his meritorious and selfless service to his community, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Reverend Mitchell G. Taylor on his elevation to Bishop and in paying tribute to his enormous contributions to civic life.

#### HONORING MICHAEL PARENT HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CA

##### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2006*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael Parent of Eureka, California, who is being honored for his contribution to one of our nation's most precious rights—participation in the political system. Mr. Parent is being recognized for his outstanding contributions to the political process by the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee as "Democrat of the Year, 2006." His commitment to the preservation of our political liberty is worthy of appreciation and recognition.

Mike Parent has had a long and distinguished career as an employee of the California Department of Forestry, serving as a Forestry Logistics Officer for over 29 years. During his tenure he helped to coordinate emergency response to wildland fires throughout the state. He was an exemplary employee and valued for his tenacity, organizational skills and commitment to duty.

Mr. Parent has exemplified the model citizen as an active volunteer and member of numerous local organizations. He served as President of the Fortuna Kiwanis Club and President of the Board of the North Coast Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Eureka. He worked tirelessly for these organizations and helped to improve his community and the lives of many young people. He was also a member and served as chairman of the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee for five years. During his tenure he re-energized the Committee's community activities and public events and helped to grow the membership.