

World Famous Apollo Theatre, over the years has been the home club of choice and hang-out for many of Harlem's renowned entrepreneurs and personalities. Since 1942, Showman's Jazz Cafe has showcased top musicians for Harlem and International audiences, as Mona, Co-Owner and retired Son of Sam New York City Police Detective Al Howard, and former barmaid "Lil" Pierce refer to as "family."

Madam Speaker, The Friends of Showman's roster include luminaries and entertainers like Count Basie, Billy Eckstine, Sammy Davis, Jr., Charles Honi Coles, Leroy Myers, Gregory Hines, Pop Brown, Nat Davis and Savion Glover. Personalities like Jesse Walker, Joe Yancy and Jimmy Booker. Performers like Bill Doggett, George Benson, Seleno Clarke, Irene Reid, Jimmy "Preacher" Robins, Gloria Lynne, Joey Morant, Akiko Tsuruga, Grady Tate, Frank Dell and the Prince of Harlem Lonnie Youngblood.

Mona has always been, and still is a "Hands-On" person and as Operations Manager she along with her dedicated and energized staff, is responsible for the reputation that Showman's has maintained for being "The Jazz Club in Harlem" since it was founded back in 1942. For her service to the community, Mona has been honored to receive a "Woman of the Year" award from the Tioga Democratic Club, the Women's Ministry Achievement Award, and a special award from the Greater Harlem Uptown Chamber of Commerce Association. In 2009 Ms. Lopez became a partner in Showman's Jazz Club.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 29, 2009, on rollcall number 216 I am not recorded. This rollcall vote on S. Con. Res. 13, the Conference Report to a Concurrent Resolution setting forth the Congressional Budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010 and budgetary levels for fiscal years 2009 and 2011 through 2014, occurred while I was absent from the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

I would have voted "nay" on S. Con. Res. 13 because the budget significantly increases the Federal deficit and passes the burden of payment on to future generations of Americans. The reserve funds singled out for healthcare reform, climate change, affordable housing, and Medicare alone represent a dramatic expansion of the powers of the Federal government. I am committed to voting to improve fiscal responsibility and to reduce the size and power of the federal government. As a result of that commitment, I would not support this resolution. On April 2, 2009 the House of Representatives voted in favor of the House Budget Resolution (233-196), on that vote, I am recorded as voting "nay."

TRIBUTE TO JAMES GRABAU

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize James Grabau, a resident of Boone, Iowa, and president of R. H. Grabau Construction Inc.

James, who has been the president of R.H. Grabau Construction Inc. since 1984, was recently honored with The Master Builders of Iowa "Build Iowa Award." The award is given to one Master Builder member each year who best exemplifies skill, integrity, and responsibility in the construction industry and in the member's community.

James has offered his time and talents to many community organizations. Among many other contributions, he has served as President of Boone's Future, the Boone Chamber of Commerce, Boone's Industrial Development Corporation, and the Master Builder's of Iowa. He has served on the boards of Boone County YMCA and Hawkeye Federal Savings Bank. Additionally, he has served as Global Ambassador for the Rotary Group Study Exchange to Australia, Church Elder, and Chairman of the Congregation of the Trinity Lutheran Church. Through his work, he has been honored with such awards as the Al Kinney Award, DMACC Alumni Award, National Leadership Award, and the Associated General Contractors of America Chapter President of the Year Award while President of the Master Builders of Iowa.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending James Grabau for his professional contributions to the construction industry, his leadership and dedication to representing Iowa in his career, and committing time to his community. I consider it an honor to represent James and his family in Congress, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING STACEY DONALDSON 2009 MISSISSIPPI TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the 2009 Mississippi Teacher of the Year, Stacey Donaldson.

The Teacher of the Year program, sponsored by the state Department of Education and the Mississippi Teacher Center, awards certified public school teachers for their outstanding performance. Donaldson, a 37-year-old Murrah High School English teacher, was selected for exhibiting leadership, excelling in the classroom and being active in her community.

Stacey, a graduate of University of Southern Mississippi, obtained a bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism and a minor in speech communications. She worked as a broadcast journalist before changing careers and becoming a teacher. Stacey earned a master of teaching degree from William Carey College and became a national board certified teacher

and completed the Advanced Placement Institute at Millsaps College.

Prior to teaching at Murrah H.S., Ms. Donaldson taught at Bassfield High School in the Jefferson Davis School District and at Sumner Hill Junior High in Clinton, MS. "The art of teaching is bigger than the subject one teaches," Donaldson said. It is no surprise to those who know Stacey best that she would be recognized for her achievements. Donaldson's father, Allen Hall, "noticed his daughter's potential and encouraged her to be the best she could be". With this in mind, Stacey serves as a member of the Murrah site council and sponsor of the school's Not Here Club, which discourages students from substance abuse, as well as coordinates Murrah's Seatbelt Safety Project.

Stacey's husband, Johnny Donaldson, describes her as passionate, hardworking and devoted. She is the mother of two daughters, 10-year old Camaryn and 5-year old Cailyn. In addition to her role as wife, mother and teacher, Stacey finds time to give back to her church and community. She is a member of Greater New Jerusalem's scholarship committee and is a young women's ministry volunteer for the Sims House Stewpot Ministries.

I am very proud of Ms. Donaldson and all of her accomplishments. She is truly a remarkable example of the talented, dedicated and hardworking teachers that help to educate Mississippi's best and brightest children.

Please join me today in congratulating Ms. Stacey Donaldson, the 2009 Mississippi Teacher of the Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 29, 2009, on rollcall number 223 I am not recorded. This rollcall vote on H.R. 1913, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009, to provide Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes, and for other purposes, occurred while I was absent from the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Violence, whether it's based on a perceived or actual threat, is of enormous concern when it is combined with constitutionally protected rights. Race. Color. National Origin. Religion. Gender. Disability. All of these fundamental rights are protected by our Constitution and hate crimes themselves have additional protection in Section 280003(a) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. Any hate crimes perpetrated in violation of either law should be fully prosecuted by the U.S. Department of Justice and we, as the DOJ's appropriators, should give them all the resources they need to prevent any hate crimes from occurring.

I believe existing federal law is more than adequate to prosecute hate crimes and, as such, should I have been present I would have voted "nay."