

him with the Martin Luther King award for outstanding academic achievement and community service. In addition to all of these tremendous achievements, Pastor Owens has retained a loving relationship with his wife Cheryl and raised two daughters, Tracy and Kimberly.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues will join me in thanking the Reverend Dr. Ronald L. Owens for his leadership and service to New Jersey, as well as congratulate him on his 20th anniversary with the New Hope Baptist Church.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, January 21, 2010 I mistakenly voted "nay" on the vote on the Senate Amendments to H.R. 730, the Nuclear Forensics and Attribution Act. I intended to vote "yea." Please accept this letter as clarification.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENERGY ASSISTANCE FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, is a vital safety net for millions of Americans. This winter, a perfect storm of economic hardship, rising heating oil prices, and increased demand for home energy assistance is leading to a serious home energy crisis for millions of Americans. The Energy Assistance for American Families Act that I am introducing today would increase the level of funding for LIHEAP and expand its availability in order to protect millions of American families who are facing difficult choices this winter between paying for food or paying for fuel.

The Energy Assistance for American Families Act would increase the authorized funding level for LIHEAP to \$7.6 billion per year for fiscal years 2011 to 2014, an increase of \$2.5 billion over the last authorized level, enacted in 2005. The Energy Assistance for American Families Act would also extend the expanded eligibility levels that were included in the omnibus appropriations bills for fiscal years 2009 and 2010—giving states the option of helping families with incomes up to 75 percent of the State Median Income level.

According to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA), states assisted 8.3 million households last year—more than a 33 percent increase in the number of households served from the previous year. In my home state of Massachusetts, LIHEAP funding helped 186,160 Massachusetts families in 2009, according to the Campaign for Home Energy Assistance.

However, overall demand for LIHEAP aid is rising this year, in large part due to the eco-

nomic downturn. NEADA estimates that 10 million households may apply for assistance this year. Increasing the LIHEAP funding level will allow states to meet this increased demand and to continue to provide meaningful aid.

Energy prices are also on the rise—average household expenditures on heating oil this winter are expected to increase to \$1,911 from \$1,864 last winter, according to the Department of Energy. The Energy Assistance for American Families Act will allow grants to continue to cover a significant portion of home heating bills.

Our economy may finally be heating up, but the effects of a recession, periods of cold weather, and rising energy prices are still having a chilling effect on millions of American families. Expanding LIHEAP's funding and availability is absolutely essential to help families who are struggling this winter.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE CAMDEN COUNTY FREEDOM MEDAL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the twelve recipient winners on receiving the 2010 Camden County Freedom Medal. I commend them on being honored for their commitment to their profession and their work on behalf of the community.

The Freedom Medal is awarded to extraordinary citizens of Camden County who have unselfishly contributed their time and effort to better their community and continue Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of bringing people together. Brief descriptions of these twelve recipient winners are below.

Dr. Mumtaz H. Bodla played a vital role in organizing fundraisers for several natural disaster relief projects. Dr. Bodla has also contributed to the food and clothing drive for the homeless in Camden County. His tireless dedication and time working for all of these causes has not only benefited them but certainly his own community is enriched by his presence and all of his hard work.

Mr. Kevin Jackson is a member of the M.E.N. (Men Empowering Nations) Board and serves as its Treasurer and invaluable mentor. He shares his extensive education, rich employment and entrepreneurial experience with the young men in positive ways. Mr. Jackson epitomizes Dr. King's beliefs and passes that onto the young men in the community.

Ms. Madeline Shilling was one of the earliest members of the Hi-Nella Fire Company's Ladies Auxiliary, for which she served as President. She has always been active with the skits the members of the Fire Company and Auxiliary put on for their Socials. As a dedicated volunteer over the years, Ms. Shilling has impacted and benefited her community.

Ms. Marilyn Torres is a community activist who has served in a myriad of capacities throughout the city of Camden. She served as Acting President/Chairperson of the Camden County Human Relations Commission, and was later elected to the position of Chair-

person due to her esteemed leadership. Ms. Torres is dedicated to improving the quality of life in her community.

Mr. Timothy Chatten serves as the Section Chief of the Juvenile Unit of the Camden County Prosecutor's Office. He has volunteered his services countless times in Biloxi, Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina. His remodeling, reconstruction, and handy work skills has helped dozens of families recovering from the disaster. His faithful commitment and personal sacrifice to these people has not gone unnoticed.

Ms. Marian Stoy has served as Hi-Nella Fire Hall Girl Scout leader, a member on the PTA local school board, and as an officer of the Hi-Nella Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary. The auxiliary, during her term, donated over ninety-six thousand dollars to the local Fire Company. Over this period of time, she was instrumental in instilling positive morals and values to hundreds of young girls.

Rev. Charles E. Giddins Sr. is the Senior Pastor of Victory Temple Community Church of God In Christ in Camden New Jersey. He has taught courses from Moody's Bible Institute and the American Bible College and also has held school bible study for city youth. Rev. Giddins established a Day Care program so that young mothers could go to work knowing that their children were safe. Rev. Giddins continues to serve and better his community as he answers the call of God.

Mr. Qasim Hussain has provided leadership as a member of The Pakistan-American Society of South Jersey. He has spent countless hours volunteering for several international natural disaster relief missions, while helping his own community with the yearly Christmas collection of food, clothing and toys for the homeless of Camden City. Mr. Hussain is not only a shining example for this community, but he has truly touched many lives by his dedication and generosity.

Ms. Christine Parry is the Chairperson for the Human Concerns Ministries at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Gibbsboro. Ms. Parry volunteers the majority of her time to the Christian Cupboard, Prison Ministry, Nursing Home Companion Ministry and Local Outreach Ministry. Many lives and families have been assisted and touched by these various ministries and by Ms. Parry's unselfish service to the community.

Ms. Jennifer Storer is a lifelong resident of Camden County who unselfishly contributes to her community as a member of the Black Horse Pike Board of Education. She is a major force on the Policy and Planning Committee and the Facilities, Security and Transportation Committee as well. She also won the Renaissance Achievement Award for her leadership and service. Her dedication and service to the community, especially the youth, will continue to impact the community.

Mr. William and Mrs. Patricia McCargo have distinguished themselves as advocates for the rights of the underserved and the promotion of the equity and fairness as President and Corresponding Secretary of the Cherry Hill African American Civic Association. They are exemplary models of the vision and dreams of Dr. King. As Cherry Hill natives and graduates of Cherry Hill High School West, they know the meaning of qualitative education.

Madam Speaker, the work of these twelve individuals is truly praiseworthy. I congratulate the 2010 Camden County Freedom Medal