

winner on their accomplishment and I thank them for their commitment to their community.

HONORING AFRICAN AMERICAN  
HISTORY MONTH

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2010*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to honor African American History Month. African American History Month was created to celebrate and remember the great achievements, advancements, sacrifices and contributions that the African American community has done for the United States of America.

This month has been, and continues to be, a beautiful and powerful reminder as to why the United States of America continues to be a beacon of freedom and success in the world. If you work hard, and stand true to what is right, to what you believe in, and heed the messages of our forefathers, you can overcome all obstacles in the face of hardship. To this, African American History Month is a testament.

The message of this month should not be unappreciated and it should not be forgotten. This month remains relevant in today's changing political and social landscape. The fruit of the African American Civil Rights Movement can still be seen today. Just forty years after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., African Americans are now forces to be reckoned with in almost every field, whether business or academia, politics or the non-profit community. Once considered an impossible dream, an African American is now our own Commander and Chief in the White House.

It should be said, Madam Speaker, that learning about African American history is learning about the true history of America as a nation.

As such, I would like to ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating African American History Month this year.

HONORING BETTE BELLE SMITH

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor the life of Bette Belle Smith. Mrs. Smith passed away on Sunday, November 29, 2009, at the age of 88.

Bette Belle Anderson was born at her family's home in Modesto, California on January 17, 1921, to Jim and Maysel Anderson. She was born severely pigeon-toed and the doctors recommended that she take ballet lessons to force her feet to turn outward. At the time, the closest dance teachers were in San Francisco. Her parents enrolled her in dance lessons, and drove her to San Francisco two weekends per month. Her father installed a barre at their home so she could practice.

In junior high school, Bette Belle invited a girl with a broken leg to come over to her

home and practice ballet. This was the beginning of the Smith's dancing school. With nearly one hundred students, the school outgrew her home; rehearsals were moved to the Elks Hall and Odd Fellows Hall. Recitals were held at Modesto High School, with an occasional small orchestra, thanks to the help of her brother. Her love for the performing arts endured throughout her life.

Mrs. Smith attended Modesto High School, Modesto Junior College and the University of California, Los Angeles. She left UCLA and returned to Modesto to help her parents after they were in a car accident. At this time, World War II was in full force and Mrs. Smith was the first in line to assist. She rolled bandages for the Red Cross, gathered a group of her former dance students to perform for convalescing soldiers at Awahnee Naval Hospital and what was then Hammond General Hospital in Modesto. After the war ended, she married Jean Smith, her longtime boyfriend. He had served in Hawaii and in the Gilbert Islands during the war, and they corresponded with many letters while he was away.

In 1954, Mr. and Mrs. Smith had their first child, Talbot, and thirteen months later she gave birth to twins, Mary and Tim. Being a mom was Mrs. Smith's number one priority, and volunteering was the second. She served on the Enslens Elementary School Parent Teacher Association, the Rainbow Girls Mothers Club and the Girl Scout Advisory Committee. She helped establish a Modesto chapter of American Field Service, an organization devoted to international student education. Mrs. Smith served on the Modesto Junior College foundation board, and volunteered with Omega Nu, The Salvation Army, International Festival and Inter-Faith Ministries. She visited with women from the Redwood Family Center who were recovering from drug and alcohol addictions. For many years she delighted hundreds of children as Mrs. Claus at the McHenry Museum, the Modesto Symphony and Enslens School. Of course, her love of the arts led her to work with the McHenry Museum Guild, serve on the Modesto Symphony board of directors and serve on the Gallo Center's original board of trustees as well as a fund development committee member. For 70 years she was an active member with the Modesto Symphony and was a driving force behind bringing the Gallo Center to Modesto.

At the age of 59, Mrs. Smith went to work. In 1978, a group of investors asked for her assistance in chartering the Modesto Banking Company. She agreed and coordinated sales events to raise capital for the company. Mrs. Smith was named Vice President of Business Development and Community Relations for the Modesto Banking Company, now U.S. Bank. Although she was working full time, Mrs. Smith continued to volunteer and encouraged others to do the same.

Due to the incredible amount of time that she donated to the city of Modesto and her community, Mrs. Smith has received many accolades. In 2000, California Governor Gray Davis named Mrs. Smith "Outstanding Older Worker of the Year." She has also been named the Soroptimist Woman of the Year, United Cerebral Palsy "Volunteer of the Year", American Legion "Man of the Year" (now called "Citizen of the Year"), United Way "Volunteer of the Decade," and received the Modesto Junior College Distinguished Alumni Award. United Way has named an award in

her memory, the "Bette Belle Smith Campaigner of the Year" award and the United Way building has also been named in her honor. In Modesto, Mrs. Smith is simply known as "Mrs. Modesto."

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Bette Belle Smith and wishing the best for her family.

HONORING GREGORY B. ROBERTS  
FOR FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE  
TO THE U.S. MILITARY AND IN-  
TELLIGENCE COMMUNITY  
THROUGH HIS LEADERSHIP IN  
THE DOD CONTRACTOR BASE

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2010*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary contributions of Gregory B. Roberts. On February 1, 2010, Mr. Roberts retired as President of L-3 Communication Systems-East after an amazing forty three-year career in the Aerospace and Defense industry. L-3 Communication Systems-East is located in my district and I have had the privilege to have known and worked with Mr. Roberts during the past 14 years.

Mr. Roberts is a graduate of the University of Virginia where he received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He also received a master's degree in electrical engineering from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn.

Mr. Roberts has held leadership roles in some of our most distinguished defense companies, including L-3 Communications, General Electric Aerospace—Reentry Systems, Martin Marietta, and later Lockheed Martin.

Mr. Roberts' provided the leadership that led to the development of numerous innovative and high technology solutions for U.S. government customers including secure communications technologies, maritime communications solutions, space-based communications, channel processing equipment, and re-entry and fusing systems for Minuteman and Peacekeeper missiles.

Those who know Mr. Roberts, know that throughout his career he has mentored our top scientists and engineers, and in doing so, has provided the country with our next generation of leadership talent.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Roberts has a proud record of service to our country and I am proud to call him my friend. I congratulate Greg Roberts for all his accomplishments and wish him the best in his retirement.

IN HONOR OF JOHN ALFRED  
"FRED" BENNETT

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2010*

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of John Alfred "Fred" Bennett and to pay tribute to his life of leadership and service. Mr. Bennett was a beloved husband, father, friend, and community leader in my district. He was born in Franklin Borough, Cambria County to James A. and Shirley R. Bennett. He grew up with a love of

sports and was especially fond of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Mr. Bennett graduated from Greater Johnstown High School and later attended St. Francis University.

After serving his country honorably in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, Mr. Bennett came home to Johnstown, Pennsylvania. He was employed for more than 40 years by the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, where he worked in many positions. He was a delegate to the Johnstown Regional Central Labor Council, became one of the area's most prominent Masons, and was a dedicated Elk.

A devout Christian, Mr. Bennett filled many leadership roles as a member of Mount Sinai Institutional Baptist Church. He served on the church's board of trustees and also participated as a member of the Male Chorus, Adult Gospel Choir, Lily of the Valley, and the John Bennett Singers.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Bennett was the former president and a lifetime member of the Johnstown Branch National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and also served as Chairman of the Civil Rights Committee of United Steelworkers of America 2634 Rod and Wire Mill.

At 78 years old, John Bennett lived a full and prosperous life. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Rosemarie and his loving family.

HONORING LORI YING, INTEL  
SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH FI-  
NALIST

### HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2010*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent Lori Ying and congratulate her as she is named a finalist in the Intel Science Talent Search 2010. The Intel Science Talent Search is America's most prestigious science competition for high school seniors. Lori is one of only 40 finalists nationwide.

Lori's project, "Female Mating Patterns and Mate Quality in the Dengue Vector Mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*," studied whether or not mosquitoes that are genetically altered not to carry diseases like malaria and dengue fever can be viable mates for normal female mosquitoes.

As a student at South Side High School, Lori has participated in numerous science research programs including Columbia University's Summer High School Program, Cornell University Science Research Program and the Intel Science Talent Search. In addition, Lori is a member of the engineering club, the forensics club, the environmental and social awareness club and the Science Olympiads. She has been recognized by the National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, National Foreign Language Society, and the National Science Honor Society.

As a senior member of the Education and Labor Committee, I am truly impressed by Lori's accomplishments. I am pleased to see that Lori values not only her education, but also service and volunteerism within her community. In her spare time, Lori is a volunteer for the Rockville Centre Public Library, where she writes book reviews for the library's Web site and reads books to children; the Big Chief

School and Camp, where she works with 2nd graders over the summer and South Side High School Summer School, where she helps to teach third graders mathematics.

Madam Speaker, it is with pride and admiration I offer my congratulations to Lori Ying and commend her dedication to education and science.

HONORING THE GLOUCESTER  
COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE NA-  
TIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED  
PEOPLE

### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2010*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary contributions that the Gloucester County NAACP has made in our community. Today, I stand to celebrate the NAACP's centennial along with the Gloucester County chapter's 18th year in creating change and being an influential voice in America's conscience.

The honorees at December's Annual Freedom Fund Awards Banquet, Chazz Witherspoon, Benjamin T. Griffith, Dr. Sandra M. Butts, Angela Nolan-Cooper, Seth Williams, Dr. Angela M. Jones, Frank Brown, Councilwoman Crystal Evans, Gwendolyn DeVera, Dr. Willie and Mrs. Emily Carter, Loretta Winters, Tiffany Grandison, and LaTonya Nelson, are a testament to the strength of the South Jersey community and the Gloucester County NAACP. These men and women come from all walks of life. They are boxers and bankers, police officers and politicians, anesthesiologists and attorneys. Despite their varied backgrounds, they have much in common. All should be commended for dedicating their time and energy to service of their community.

The Gloucester County chapter of the NAACP was established in 1991. In its first 18 years, the Gloucester County NAACP has been influential in providing scholarships for minority students, coordinating voter registration drives, and encouraging students to reach their full potential.

In celebrating the centennial of the NAACP, we must recognize the important role that the NAACP has played both on a national and local level to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of all Americans.

Madam Speaker, the Gloucester County NAACP has made invaluable contributions to the South Jersey region. I congratulate the Gloucester County NAACP on achieving its 18th anniversary, and look forward to its continued successes in the future.

RECOGNIZING DEBORAH LYNN AS  
THE WALTON COUNTY EDU-  
CATIONAL SUPPORT PERSON OF  
THE YEAR

### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2010*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Deborah Lynn as

the Walton County, Florida Educational Support Person of the Year for the 2009-2010 school year. I am honored to recognize her achievements and her dedication to the students and teachers of Northwest Florida.

Mrs. Lynn, affectionately known as Ms. Debby by her students, is the school nurse for Freeport Elementary School. She supervises the school's clinic, provides first aid for injuries, maintains health records, and administers medicine. But what sets Mrs. Lynn apart from her peers is her initiative. She created Freeport's annual Summer Safety program for students which brings community organizations into the school to teach students about summer safety. Mrs. Lynn also coordinates with the Walton County Health Department all student health screenings, records, and H1N1 vaccines. Finally, she goes above and beyond to also serve the school staff by organizing a mobile mammogram bus to visit the school annually and arranging flu shots for teachers and school employees.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Deborah Lynn as the Walton County Educational Support Person of the Year. Her passion for her students is commendable and her dedication to her profession makes her deserving of this award. My wife Vicki and I wish Deborah and her family all the best for the future.

A TRIBUTE TO FIRST NORTHERN  
BANK ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 2010*

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor First Northern Bank as it marked its 100th year in business yesterday, February 1, 2010.

First Northern Bank was established in 1910, and has remained faithful to its roots as an institution formed to address specific personalized needs. First Northern continues to serve such needs with a strong commitment to superior personal service, and commitment to support and reinvest in each of the communities the Bank serves. The Bank continues to maintain its commitment as a full service community bank serving the business, professional, personal, and real estate requirements of the people in Solano, Sacramento, Yolo, and Placer Counties—with a reach into neighboring El Dorado County.

Back in 1910, a group of local Dixon businesspeople believed they weren't getting the kind of banking services they needed, so in the do-it-yourself tradition of an independent farming community, they voted on January 20th to open their own bank—an "enterprise with all local capital and no outside investment or affiliations."

Following a trip to San Francisco to purchase a safe and other supplies, their new bank opened for business a few days later on February 1, 1910, in a former ice cream parlor. After one month in business, the Bank had 93 accounts with deposits totaling more than \$75,000. Today, deposits have grown to more than \$650 million. Even though 100 years have passed, descendants of the Bank's founders are still shareholders and customers.