

Three staff members working in our office now or who have recently retired from federal service—Judy Counce, Shirlene Mercer and Lou Anne White—started working for the 8th district when Betty Ann and I came to Congress, and we are fortunate that they remained with us.

Six others began their service to the 8th district before that, working alongside my predecessor, Congressman Ed Jones. This truly extraordinary team includes Kathy Becker, Margaret Black Matilla and Betty Hardin, all of whom still work in the 8th district offices today; and Joe Hill, Doug Thompson and Vickie Walling, all of whom recently retired from federal service.

Brad Thompson and Tom Turner are also longtime staff members who have given a great deal of time and energy to our district.

Others on the 8th district team for the 111th Congress include Mary Kate Allen, Mary Arnold, Elizabeth Brown, Christy Bugg, Carling Dinkier IV, Randy Ford, Jon Merlis, Beth Ann Saracco, Debbie Shires, Marilyn Simpson and George Tagg Jr.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate you and our colleagues joining me in a well-deserved expression of appreciation for the women and men who have served alongside Betty Ann and me over the past 22 years, whose selfless, tireless efforts on our behalf have led to meaningful contributions to the 8th district and our country.

COMMEMORATING TURKEY ON THEIR REPUBLIC DAY

HON. BILL DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2010

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I recently returned from the Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange's 26th TransAtlantic Conference in Ankara and Istanbul, Turkey.

Joining me for this bipartisan conference were House colleagues JEAN SCHMIDT, FRANK LUCAS, JAMES SENSENBRENNER, and JIM MORAN.

This conference brought together Turkish and European Union government officials, members of the diplomatic community, scholars, and private sector leaders, to find ways to enhance understanding of the global challenges currently facing the U.S. and Turkey. We discussed how vital the bilateral relationship has been to both countries and how the alliance has served our national interest for over 60 years.

The key to our relationship is strengthening collaboration toward shared goals. Only with a renewed sense of trust and understanding will this partnership continue to thrive in the 21st century.

In honor of the deep friendship between the U.S. and Turkey, I come to the House Floor today to congratulate the Turkish people and their government on the 87th anniversary of the founding of their nation by Mustafa Kemal on October 29, 2010.

Mustafa Kemal, who was later given the name Ataturk, meaning "father of the Turks," rejected the crumbling structures and outdated modes of empire and embraced instead a platform of reform and modernization, a legacy that continues in Turkey to this day.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to highlight some of the incredible accomplishments of one of the world's most dynamic nations. Over the past 87 years, Turkey has joined the G20, NATO and the United Nations, becoming a leader on many diplomatic issues in the Middle East, Europe and around the world. She has led humanitarian missions in Afghanistan and Iraq, and taken the lead in the United Nations relating to Somali pirates and North Korea.

Turkey has followed President Ataturk's vision by partnering with the West, and also by building relationships with its neighbors to help stabilize the region.

I speak for the American people in extending our wishes for the continued strength and success of the Republic of Turkey.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANCES LOUISE LASTER HAYES

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Frances Louise Laster Hayes, the owner of T.H. Hayes and Sons Funeral Home in Memphis, Tennessee. She was born to Robert Laster and Maude Blair Laster in Fort Smith, Arkansas on January 9, 1907. Due to her mother's death, Frances and her three siblings, Mary, Clifford and Walter were raised by her father and aunt, Callie.

Frances Laster attended Lemoyne Normal school, now Lemoyne College, in the 1920s. She studied commerce and earned a Bachelor's degree in business administration. After graduation, Frances took a position at her family's lucrative business in Spring Lake, New Jersey. She worked there 8 years before returning to Memphis, where she married Taylor Hayes of Hayes Funeral home, the oldest continuing African-American-owned business in Tennessee.

When Frances Hayes married into the Hayes family at age 23, she had no experience in the funeral home industry. She started as a secretary working side-by-side with her husband and brother-in-law, learning the business of mortuary science. Earning her funeral director's license, Mrs. Hayes became one of the first licensed black female directors. Mrs. Hayes took over the Hayes funeral home with the help of family members when her husband died in 1968.

Mrs. Hayes received several awards and mentions over her lifetime. In 2002, Mrs. Hayes was awarded the President Award of Excellence from the National Funeral Director and Mortician Association Inc. and was also an honorary member of Who's Who of Black Funeral Directors. In recognition of the 100th anniversary of T.H. Hayes and Sons Funeral Home, she was honored by Grace Magazine, the Commercial Appeal and the Tri-State Defender. She was prominent in social and civic realms and was a member of the Memphis Dinner Club, once described as one of the most exclusive black social clubs in America. She was also a member of the 2nd Congregational Church in Memphis, Tennessee.

At 103 years old, Frances Hayes was the epitome of a family matriarch. Her life experiences were widespread, including WWI and

WWII, Vietnam, The Gulf, The Great Depression, modernization of the auto, the assassinations of M.L. King, John F. Kennedy, and Robert Kennedy, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Birth of Blues with WC Handy. Just two years ago she said "I can't believe we have a Black president, and she's such a beautiful First Lady."

Frances Hayes passed away Sunday, November 21, 2010 at the age of 103 at Methodist University Hospital. Mrs. Hayes' legacy lives on through her nephew Powers Thornton, Jr., her brother-in-law's daughter, Tommye Kay Armstrong and her Godsons, Antonio Benson, Eddie Brooks, Elbert Webster and her dozens of nieces and nephews. We are honored for her dedication to Memphis, Tennessee and her contributions to the Memphis community. Hers was a life well lived.

HONORING TYLER WHITLEY FOR HIS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2010

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tyler Whitley for his 50 years of service at the Richmond Times-Dispatch and the Richmond News Leader.

After graduating from Hampden-Sydney College, Tyler Whitley began his career with the Richmond News Leader as an obituary writer and then served as business editor for about six years before becoming a political reporter in 1980. He continued covering Virginia politics for the Richmond Times-Dispatch when the papers merged in 1992. A constituent of Virginia's Seventh District and a veteran journalist, Tyler Whitley has covered nine governors, 14 national political conventions and four decades of the Virginia General Assembly.

Known as the sage of the Virginia press corps, Tyler Whitley is highly respected by his colleagues for his hard work and dedication to his craft. He is a familiar face at Virginia political events and a household name to his many readers through countless bylines. He is a fair and honest reporter who I've had the pleasure to work with since my days in the Virginia House of Delegates and continue to work with today.

It is often said that reporters write the first version of history. In that case, Tyler Whitley has written more history than most. Please join me in recognizing Tyler Whitley as he marks a significant milestone in his distinguished career after 50 years of service at Richmond's paper of record.

CLAIMS RESOLUTION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4783, Claims Resolution Act, as amended by the Senate to resolve claims against the United States government