

future of the peace process. We must stand with Israel and veto this resolution in the United Nations Security Council.

CONGRATULATING KIRK WHALUM FOR RECEIVING THE 2011 GRAMMY AWARD FOR BEST GOSPEL SONG

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2011*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate jazz saxophonist Kirk Whalum for receiving the 2011 Grammy Award from The Recording Academy for Best Gospel Song. The award winning song, "It's What I Do," is from his album, *The Gospel According to Jazz Chapter III*. Kirk Whalum, a Memphian, is the son of the late Reverend Kenneth Whalum, Sr., and Dr. Rosie Whalum. The Whalum family is known for their musical, spiritual and community involvement in the Memphis area. In addition to receiving the Grammy Award, Mr. Whalum was named the President and Chief Financial Officer of the Memphis-based Soulsville Foundation in April of 2010.

Mr. Whalum has been part of the music community for many years, and it is great to see him be recognized for his tremendous talents. Over the years, he has received multiple Grammy nominations and has won many other awards. He has received two Dove Award nominations, a NAACP Image Awards nomination and has won two Stellar Awards. In addition to his awards, Mr. Whalum has worked with impressive musical artists including Barbara Streisand, Al Jarreau, Luther Vandross, Larry Carlton, Quincy Jones and Whitney Houston.

Kirk Whalum and the Whalum family are no strangers when it comes to community service and musical talent. His father was a prominent minister at Memphis's Olivet Baptist Church and also served two terms on the Memphis City Council. Kirk Whalum's brother, Reverend Kenneth Whalum, Jr., took over their father's post at the Memphis church and is also the father of recognized saxophonist, Kenneth T. Whalum III. Kevin Whalum, the third Whalum brother, is known for his talents as a jazz vocalist. Kirk Whalum's uncle, Hugh "Peanuts" Whalum, is a recognized singer, composer and multi-instrumentalist.

Kirk Whalum is a true ambassador of the city of Memphis. He is doing great things with his new post at the Soulsville Foundation, which oversees the Stax Museum of American Soul Music, the Stax Music Academy and The Soulsville Charter School. Through the Soulsville Foundation, he is able to further enrich the musical talents of the youth in Memphis and serve as a mentor to budding musicians. His dedication to music and musical talent has led him to receive not only many awards but has earned him much deserved accolades from the music community. Mister Speaker, I ask the House to join me in congratulating Kirk Whalum for receiving the 2011 Grammy Award for Best Gospel Song.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2011*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on February 16, 2011. If I were present, I would have voted for the following: Lummis (WY) amendment (No. 193)—rollcall No. 61: no; Moran (VA) amendment (No. 338)—rollcall No. 62: no; Flake (AZ) amendment (No. 376)—rollcall No. 63: no; Pompeo (KS) amendment (No. 376)—rollcall No. 64: no; Reed (NY) amendment (No. 379)—rollcall No. 65: no.

HONORING ROBERT "BOB" WOODSON

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, Robert "Bob" Woodson, the eighth of nine children, was born in Carroll County, Mississippi, to the late Mamie Dixon Woodson and John Woodson.

During his infant years, Bob's family relocated to Yazoo County, Mississippi. His dad being a sharecropper, Bob was raised on a plantation.

Bob attended a one-room country school from first through eighth grade, then was bused more than 70 miles, one way, to attend high school in Yazoo City. Although a high school was closer to where he lived, busing was used to maintain segregation. After graduating from high school in 1956, Bob was ordered to report for induction into the United States Armed Forces. However, being the only son at home to assist his dad with farming, the plantation owner was able to secure a permanent deferment.

Because of Bob's father's failing health, the family gave up farming to relocate to Jackson in the late 50's. Migrating from an agricultural to an industrial society, his first work experience was a carpenter's helper. Being impatient and discontent, Bob shortly thereafter obtained a job with Swift & Company, where he got his first exposure to the labor movement when he joined the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workers, AFL-CIO.

Because of seasonal work, in July 1959, Bob became employed at Mississippi Products, a furniture manufacture facility, as a finish sprayer. At the time of employment, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners (UBCJ of A) of the AFL-CIO was in its initial stages of trying to implement a union organizing campaign. Due to the vicious anti-union climate, Bob became quietly involved trying to convince his fellow workers of the advantages of labor unions.

After 3 years of much agony and frustration to overcome racial hatred promoted by company management, and then Mississippi's Governor Ross Barnett and the entire business community to keep the work force divided; finally in 1963, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America won an election at Mississippi Products and was certified as bargaining agent for the plant by the National Labor Relations Board, NLRB.

After negotiating a contract, workers were afraid to become union members. Due to the lack of participation within the union by employees, in September of 1965, Bob became employed full-time for the Union for the sole purpose of recruiting workers to become union members. During the first year of his activity, door to door soliciting increased the membership from 20 percent to over 60 percent. For the next 17 years, Bob held the combined positions of vice-president and business agent; and president and business agent of the Local Union. This was the beginning of many firsts for Bob Woodson.

In 1966, Bob was the first black elected to the executive board of the Mississippi AFL-CIO. He participated in civil rights marches, "not out front," but concentrating more on voter registration.

In 1968, Bob was a "Loyalist" delegate to the Democratic National Convention. In 1972, Bob organized the Mississippi A. Philip Randolph Institute, and was named chairman. In 1974, Bob was a delegate to the Historical National Democratic Charter Convention in Kansas City, Kansas. In 1975, Bob was the first black named to the "Regular" Hinds County Democratic Executive Committee. In May 1983, Bob continued his services as an International Representative traveling many thousands of miles on job assignments in several states, including: DC, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Illinois, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

During Bob's career of more than 30 years as a full-time Union Representative, he received many hours of specialized academic training provided by the National Labor Relations Board in the George Meany Center for Labor Studies, in the area of contract negotiations, grievance and arbitrations, handling unfair labor practice proceedings and many other labor management relations.

Some of Bob's experiences include: Head Negotiator, Administrator, Fiscal Officer, Labor Management Specialist, OIC Board Chairman, Director of Minority Affairs of Mississippi AFL-CIO for 12 years, president of Mississippi A. Philip Randolph Institute 1972-1979 Program and Evaluation Committee for Jackson Manpower Planning Council, and the list goes on.

Bob was very active and influential in many political campaigns; and has received certificates of appreciation and recognition and several awards for his outstanding services, leadership and contributions to help improve working conditions for all people.

Bob retired in May 1996, as a full-time Union Representative, after more than 30 years of service.

CONGRATULATING MYASIA BURNS AND CHARLES ORGBON III

**HON. ROB WOODALL**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2011*

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I proudly submit this statement congratulating two young people from my district, Miss Myasia Burns and Mr. Charles Orgbon III, who were recently chosen as being among the top youth volunteers in the State of Georgia for 2011 in the