

The birth of his first child in 1999 helped him mature as a young man and he obtained a fulltime job as a dietary worker at the senior citizens center where he had been employed for almost ten years.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Colome for his extraordinary accomplishments and spirit which reflect the best our nation has to offer.

#### HONORING THE MERLO STATION HIGH SCHOOL GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE

#### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 22, 2011*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to take a moment to honor the incredible work of the Merlo Station High School Gay Straight Alliance. I had the opportunity to present these aspiring young citizens with the Portland Pride Youth Award and want to share with my colleagues how inspired I am by their dedication and accomplishments.

After organizing just last year, the student-led force has been instrumental in addressing homophobia at Merlo Station High School, in the Beaverton School District and in the broader community. Among many other examples of outreach, the Gay Straight Alliance has organized student groups to march in last year's Pride Parade and AIDS Walk, created a 2-day all-school event for National Coming Out Day, and encouraged students to take ownership of their language by developing a "No Bigoted Speech" pledge.

As we continue to debate many of the current GLBT-related pieces of legislation facing the 112th Congress, from the Student and Employee Non Discrimination Acts to the Safe Schools Improvement Act, I encourage my colleagues to remember these passionate students at Merlo Station High School.

I am inspired by this on-the-ground student organizing and will continue championing legislation to advocate for full equality for everyone, regardless of their gender expression or sexual orientation, because it is the right thing to do.

#### AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2112) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I rise to strongly object to the Republican majority's mean-spirited \$650 million cut to vulnerable

women, infants and children. The Republican's Fiscal Year 2012 Agriculture Appropriations legislation, H.R. 2112, chooses to make this drastic reduction to the Women, Infants and Children, WIC, program at a time of economic crisis for millions of American families. WIC is a proven strategy to guarantee that lower-income expectant and breastfeeding mothers and their children up to 5 years of age receive nutritious food. In Minnesota alone, 137,000 children rely on WIC benefits to keep them healthy and help them grow strong.

The federal budget is in crisis and Congress must take serious and immediate steps to tackle rising federal deficits. Members of Congress have a choice about how to reduce the deficit and a choice about who in our society will be asked to make the sacrifices. In Fiscal Year 2012, the Republicans are proposing uneven sacrifices. The Republican majority is choosing to cut \$650 million from the women, infants and children in our communities who most need assistance while choosing to protect nearly \$4 billion in taxpayer subsidies for Exxon and other large oil companies at a time of record-high gas prices. Up to 350,000 eligible women and children across the country will be denied access to basic nutrition under H.R. 2112.

I urge my colleagues to reject the cuts to WIC in H.R. 2112.

#### HONORING R.G. SHIPLEY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 99TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 22, 2011*

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great North Carolinian, farmer and agricultural expert, Mr. R.G. Shipley, on the occasion of his 99th Birthday.

Mr. Shipley is a standard-bearer for agriculture in the High Country of North Carolina and has for years served faithfully on the Watauga County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

Of course, when we say, "served for years," most people assume five or maybe ten years. In fact, Mr. Shipley has faithfully worked with the Watauga County Farm Bureau since its inception in the 1930's. That is a remarkable testament to his dedication to furthering the cause of local agriculture.

R.G. Shipley also taught agriculture as a local high school teacher at Cove Creek High School for many years. During his many years instructing students in agricultural studies he touched countless young lives. Among them was my husband, Tom Foxx, who sat under Mr. Shipley's tutelage as a high school student.

He is truly a remarkable member of the Watauga County community. Even as he approaches his centennial birthday, R.G. Shipley remains active in the agricultural community. In honor of his long agricultural service to the area, an endowment fund has been established in his family's name to support local agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent constituents like Mr. Shipley in Congress. As he turns 99 years old in the coming week I want to wish him many more years of vibrant life and thank him for his tireless community involvement over the past many decades.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MARTIN STROMAN

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 22, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Martin Stroman.

Elder Martin Stroman has been a member of the St. Paul Community Baptist Church since November 1997. He joined after being convicted by the revolutionary and biblical based theology of the Rev. Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood.

He has been active in a host of ministries. He has been working in the field of addiction treatment for the past nineteen years. He has been exposed to various treatment modalities. Some of them had a religious perspective, others have been spiritually based and many are clinically driven.

Elder Stroman's professional profile is as follows: educator, trainer, motivator, administrator, program developer, advisor, adjunct professor, entrepreneur and twenty year background in chemical dependency and substance abuse treatment.

Elder Stroman has a Bachelors of Science Degree in Human Services along with many Certificates and Citations relating to his field of work. He is affiliated with the Bedford-Stuyvesant Alcoholism Treatment Center Community Advisory Board as well as Kingsborough.

With the joint 350 CASAC Certificate Program the mission statement reads: "Educated communities, save communities. Our commitment is to provide education and training to improve the quality of life in our community and the world. Educated providers, empower educated clients. We are dedicated to changing client thinking and believing."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Stroman for his extraordinary accomplishments and spirit which reflect the best our nation has to offer.

#### HONORING LANCE CORPORAL NICHOLAS "NIC" S. O'BRIEN

#### HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 22, 2011*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following poem in honor of Lance Corporal Nicholas "Nic" O'Brien.

#### OUR BLESSED SON

In honor of Lance Corporal Nicholas "Nic" S. O'Brien, an American hero, who gave that last full measure. The United States Marines 1st Bat., 5th Marine Reg., 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

On June 9, 2011, in Afghanistan, Lance Corporal Nicholas "Nic" S. O'Brien of Gaston County gave that last full measure in devotion to his country. As we lay his fine body down to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, our prayers and thoughts go out to him and his loved ones. May God Bless them all. I ask that this poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

#### OUR BLESSED SON

Nic, You . . .  
You, Our Blessed Son . . .  
Nic, America's bravest of all ones!

Rest now, as thy will be done!  
 As your fine soul, as up to heaven has so  
 flown . . .  
 As up to our Lord, as an Angel . . . as now  
 where you so belong!  
 All In The Army of Our Lord, who has now  
 come home!  
 To fight the darkness, as over our world you  
 so watch . . . so roam . . .  
 To watch over us, as thy will be done . . .  
 And as we lay your most sacred body down  
 to rest . . .  
 You Nic, are but one of America's very best!  
 Her Blessed Son!  
 Your loving parents' and family's, divine  
 one!  
 As a brave heart who once stood!  
 All in his most magnificent shades of green,  
 turning evil into good!  
 As a United States Marine, all in your most  
 golden sheen with all you could!  
 Of selfless sacrifice, you most brilliant . . .  
 most brilliant of all lights!  
 As an American Treasure, who but gave That  
 Last Full Measure!  
 All for what is true and what is right, all for  
 that old Red, White, and Blue . . .  
 As now our tears roll down our trembling  
 cheeks, when thinking of you we so  
 weep . . .  
 Our Most Blessed Son, this most beautiful of  
 all ones . . . as for you our heart's ache  
 so deep!  
 Hooo . . . rah! You United States Marine, as  
 up in Heaven you are now so seen!  
 All for your loss, all in our pain we now so  
 weep . . . at but the cost to freedom to  
 so keep!  
 And at night, as you lay your head down to  
 sleep . . .  
 Across North Carolina, but comes a gentle  
 rain so very deep . . .  
 Are but our Lord's tears, from up in Heaven  
 . . . for all of your souls to so keep . . .  
 To ease your pain, now so carried within you  
 so very deep . . .  
 Until, up in Heaven once again you all shall  
 meet . . .  
 As our Lord weeps, knowing of your fine  
 son's life . . . as for what he did so for-  
 sake!  
 But, for the greater good . . . in all that he  
 so could, take this with you as you  
 wake!  
 Moments, are all we have!  
 To grab hearts! To turn the good into the  
 bad!  
 To make a difference with in all! As your  
 fine Son had!  
 To Heaven to seek!  
 Rest my Son!  
 You most beautiful Irish one, Lance Corporal  
 O'Brien!  
 As when we think of you, Irish eyes are smil-  
 ing!  
 For we will hear you on the wind . . . your  
 footsteps up in Heaven time and  
 again . . .  
 And feel you next to us as we sleep . . .  
 Until, one fine day . . . all up in Heaven,  
 once again we shall all so meet!  
 And we won't have to cry anymore . . .  
 You, Our Most Blessed of All Son's!  
 Your Family's, and America's Most Heroic of  
 All Ones!  
 As we lay your fine body down to rest!  
 Lord, take America's son . . . her very Best  
 . . . he's your's!  
 Amen!

THE LINKS INCORPORATED'S  
 DADE COUNTY CHAPTER 25TH  
 ANNIVERSARY

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of The Links Incorporated's Dade County Chapter. On June 18, 2011, The Links Incorporated will celebrate its 25th anniversary at the InterContinental Hotel in Miami, Florida.

A group of trailblazers seeking to better their community came together on a beautiful Sunday on June 1, 1986, at Miami's Pavilion Hotel, now the Intercontinental Hotel, to launch their beloved Chapter, officially. The Dade County Chapter has continued to fulfill its mission and has grown tremendously.

The Links, Incorporated is an organization of accomplished, dedicated women who are active in the community. The Links members are newsmakers, role models, mentors, activists and volunteers who work toward the realization of making the name "Links" not only a chain of friendship, but also a chain of purposeful service.

Among its many accomplishments, the Dade County Chapter has established many programs accessible to all the members in its community. In addition, it has managed to serve and empower Miami-Dade's most underserved, women and children, with unprecedented dedication. Impressively, The Dade County Chapter of Links Inc. has amassed over 100,000 hours of community service.

Spanning the last 25 years, The Links of Miami-Dade has provided educational assistance to students at middle school, high school, and collegiate levels in all areas of study including the arts.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me as I honor The Dade County Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Today I pay tribute to The Link's History and applaud their current undertaking to secure a bright and prosperous future for African-Americans of Miami-Dade county, the nation, and the world.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING  
 THE LIFE OF VINCENT LEO  
 DIANA, SR.

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Vincent Leo Diana, Sr., an accomplished attorney, loving husband, veteran, and dear friend. Vincent, a resident of Manchester, Connecticut, passed away on May 27 at the age of 81.

Vinny was a proud Connecticut resident with deep roots in the community. Born in Manchester in 1930, he went to the Nathan Hale School, graduated from Manchester High in 1948, and from Hartford's Trinity College in 1952. After Trinity, he went on to attend law school and was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1955. For the next two years, Vinny was on active duty in the U.S. Air Force, entering as a Second Lieutenant. He served his

country and as a Judge Advocate, spending most of his time in Tokyo, Japan. When Vinny left the Air Force as a Captain, he returned to practicing law.

A talented and accomplished attorney, Vinny was a man of character and one who used his skills for good outside of his law office at Diana, Conti, & Tunila. Vinny served as a Master and Trial Referee for the Superior Court and was a member of Hartford County's Legal Aid Board. He was also active in the Hartford Country Bar Association, where he was a Director for 25 years. In 2005, Vinny was honored by the Manchester and Hartford Bar Associations for his 50 years of service in the region. On this point I can personally attest to his finely honed legal skills, diligent representation of his clients, and his ethical standards. As a young attorney years ago, I watched Vinny in court handle his advocacy with skill and compassion. He was one of the giants of the Bar in Hartford and Tolland Counties in Connecticut.

Vinny cared very much about his friends and colleagues in Manchester, demonstrating this commitment through leadership of important causes and organizations in town. He was Chairman of the Board for Dyslexic Children, a director of the Girl Scout Committee, and an instrumental player in getting fluoride added to the Manchester water system. He helped young people learn practical management skills as President of the Manchester Jaycees, ensured opportunity for local students as a founding member of his town's Scholarship Foundation, and even chaired the reunion committee for Manchester High's Class of 1948. He was a lifelong Republican and member of Manchester's Republican Town Committee for 50 years.

Vinny was also a spiritual man who, as one might expect, put in many years of faithful service to his parish. In 2009, Hartford's Archbishop, Henry J. Mansell, awarded him the St. Joseph Archdiocesan Medal of Appreciation for his work.

With all the dedication and devotion Vinny put into each aspect of his life, he saved most of it for his loving wife Gloria, his seven children, and 22 grandchildren. I know of few men who gave as much to their country, profession, congregation, community and family as Vinny did. His lifetime of service will live on for generations in the countless people he helped along the way. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss and celebrating the life of Vincent Leo Diana, Sr.

A TRIBUTE TO NORMA BANG

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Norma Bang.

Norma is a native New Yorker, born and raised in Red Hook, Brooklyn. She graduated from John Jay High School in Park Slope Brooklyn, New York in 1978.

Norma has worked in various positions throughout her career including seven years working in New York's Garment center, two years working on Wall Street in Bank Operations, and twelve years as a Facilities Manager for a large non-profit organization, Homes for the Homeless.