

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE
HENRY "HANQ" NEAL

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the memory of a spiritual leader and an extraordinary musical artist from Houston, Texas, the Honorable Henry "Hanq" Neal.

Mr. Neal was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana on September 4, 1956. He had a lifelong love of music, especially gospel music, singing in his youth choir at church. Mr. Neal went on to become a legendary gospel singer, musical artist, and minister of music. Throughout his career, he performed with several different gospel acts and was nominated for a Grammy for his rendition of "If You Move Yourself" with the legendary gospel group Donald Vails Choraleers in 1980.

He also inspired his community with his work as a minister of music at Windsor Village United Methodist Church and then Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in Houston. Both churches credit Mr. Neal with expanding and revolutionizing their choirs. Throughout Mr. Neal's career, he was consistently in demand for his musical talents, performing at mayoral inaugurations, for Queen Elizabeth II in 1991, and Congressman Mickey Leland's memorial service in 1989.

As we bid farewell to an exceptional talent and man of God, we acknowledge that our community has lost a resounding voice for faith. Although this is a significant loss, we must find consolation in knowing that many of our lives have been forever changed by the God-given talent of the Honorable Henry "Hanq" Neal.

IN HONOR OF IRA LOOMIS
FLOWERS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a great man and close friend, Mr. Ira Loomis Flowers. Sadly, Mr. Flowers passed away on Friday, February 28, 2014. A service celebrating his life will be held on Saturday March 8, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at First Missionary Baptist Church in Thomasville, Georgia.

Mr. Flowers was born on January 4, 1953, in Washington, DC, to Bessie Lee Flowers Moore and the late Guyte Smith, Sr. After obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in English at Stillman College, Mr. Flowers dedicated much of his life to youth development. He served in the Boys and Girls Club of Houston, Texas, before serving as a director at the YMCA in Columbus and Thomasville, Georgia, as well as the director of the Thomasville Resource Center. He worked for the Colquitt County Board of Education before retiring. He was steadfastly dedicated to furthering the success of men and women in his church, workplace, and community. He worked tirelessly to open doors and to level the playing field for at-risk youth in Southwest Georgia.

Mr. Flowers was an influential member of society and a local civil rights legend. He organized and was president of the Malcom X Liberation Front. My Brother in the Bond, Mr. Flowers was also devoted to our beloved Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and was heavily involved in fraternity activities.

Most important to Mr. Flowers was his sturdy and enduring relationship with the Lord. He was a longtime member of First Missionary Baptist Church.

Maya Angelou once said, "A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies." We are all so blessed that Mr. Flowers passed this way and during his life's journey did so much for so many for so long. He leaves behind a great legacy in service to all the children, families, and members of the community whose lives he touched.

The race of life isn't given to the swift or to the strong, but to those who endure until the end. Mr. Flowers has run the race of life with grace and dignity and God has blessed him over his lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and my wife, Vivian, in saluting Mr. Ira Loomis Flowers for his outstanding service to his community. We pray that Mr. Flowers' family, friends and loved ones will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

ANAJELY AGUILAR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Anajely Aguilar for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Anajely Aguilar is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anajely Aguilar is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Anajely Aguilar for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING THE SUMGAI
POGROMS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the Sumgait pogroms. The Sumgait pogroms consisted of the murder of hundreds of Armenians, making it a particularly atrocious event in a long history of hostility against the Armenian people. I would like to recognize the anniversary of the Sumgait pogroms and

remind all of us that it is our duty to act when a people are targeted with violence. Our commitment to remembering this injustice strengthens our determination to obtain peace.

In 1988, hundreds of Armenians were brutally murdered, some of them burned alive and thrown from windows. Women and children were raped and maimed by Azerbaijani rioters. Apartments were robbed, shops demolished, and thousands of people became refugees. Despite Sumgait's proximity to Baku, police turned a blind eye to this dire situation, allowing the pogroms to go on for three days. And since that time, authorities in Azerbaijan have sought to erase all traces of these crimes. Yet, the Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus is resolutely committed to ensure that those Armenians who lost their lives are not forgotten.

I ask my colleagues to solemnly condemn all intimidations and acts of aggression against the Armenian people. The Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus will do its very best to ensure that basic rights to life, liberty and security are not violated. I also ask my colleagues to join me in calling upon the Azerbaijani government to acknowledge Ramil Safarov as a convicted murderer and immediately take action to bring him to justice for the murder that he committed against an innocent Armenian man.

As co-chair and founder of the Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus, I will continue to promote peace and security throughout the Caucasus region. I look forward to the day when the Armenian people never have to fear such attacks.

IN HONOR OF OSCAR VILLEGAS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Oscar Villegas to recognize his numerous contributions and years of service to the people of West Sacramento. Oscar has served on the West Sacramento City Council for 14 years and was recently appointed by California Governor Jerry Brown to serve on the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.

Oscar is a homegrown public servant from the Bryte neighborhood and has proudly served his community in different capacities. He was first elected to the City Council in 2000 and then reelected in 2004 and 2008, during which time he served as Mayor Pro Tern on five occasions. Prior to his election, Oscar served on the West Sacramento Planning Commission from 1997-2000. Oscar has served on many boards and commissions, including the Sacramento-Yolo Port District Commission, the Sacramento County Regional Sanitation District Board, the Yolo County Transportation District, and the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Board. He is also Chairman of the City's Up for West Sacramento Executive Board, an early learning program.

Oscar has been a strong advocate for a number of programs that have transformed the City of West Sacramento. He played an important role in advocating for the development of Raley Field, the riverfront Bridge District, the new Arthur F. Turner Community Library, the revitalized West Capitol Avenue, the City's park system and the bicycle master plan. His