

REV. PATRICIA BRUGER

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the outstanding achievements of Rev. Patricia Bruger and her contributions to the Center of United Methodist Aid to the Community (CUMAC) on this special day, Thursday, April 27, 2017.

Born and raised in Washington, DC, Patricia is a graduate of the University of Maryland, where she earned her BS in Education in 1969. She worked for the Girl Scouts of America and was a public school teacher. From 1969 until 1972 she served as a high school teacher in Silver Spring, Maryland. She later moved to New Jersey, and served as a substitute teacher in Bergen County from 1985 to 1991.

She then received her Masters of Divinity at the Drew Theological Seminary in 1995 with over 25 years of experience in social and civic ministries. She is an ordained Elder of The United Methodist Church, a certified Mentor for the Board of Ordained Ministry, a certified counselor for the Clergy Partnership on Domestic Violence, and a member of the Bishop's Task Force on Urban Minorities.

Patricia is a committed social servant dedicated to the eradication of hunger and poverty through direct source and broad advocacy efforts. Patricia has been the Executive Director of CUMAC for over 26 years. She has led the organization through a tremendous period of growth from operating out of an abandoned church to purchasing its own 28,000 square foot facility and from a small food pantry to a multi-service agency serving over 40,000 people in need every year, providing food assistance, disaster relief, job training, supportive housing, and hope to a community facing pervasive poverty.

She was a founding and active member of the Emergency Food Coalition of Passaic County (newly operating as a CUMAC program), the NJ statewide Anti-Hunger Coalition, and the Paterson Alliance. Patricia has been a leading voice for her community, advocating for hunger to be addressed in the state budget, as well as rallying support for SNAP benefits and Breakfast after the Bell, to feed hungry students so they can concentrate on their education instead.

Patricia's forward-thinking and leadership abilities has encouraged and inspired staff and volunteers to partake in CUMAC's mission of taking care of others. She has raised awareness about pervasive poverty through this organization, and strives to fulfill the needs of people who do not have the adequate resources to function in their daily lives. She has worked closely with other feeding programs throughout Passaic County and northern New Jersey to bring about change in the community, and to assist in eradicating poverty.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating individuals who have dedicated their lives to serving the people. Patricia has truly left an everlasting mark on my hometown of Paterson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, family and friends, all those whose

lives she has touched, and me, in recognizing the work of Rev. Patricia Bruger and her strong desire to help those in need across the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, April 26th, I was unavoidably detained and I missed roll call votes 224 and 225.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on roll call vote 224.

Had I been present, I would have voted NO on roll call vote 225.

FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH 2017

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Co-Chair of the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus in recognition of Financial Literacy Month.

Every day, Americans are faced with financial decisions that impact their lives and their families. That is why promoting financial and economic literacy is so important and why we draw attention to it each and every April.

Financial literacy is a lifelong journey, whether writing a monthly budget, managing your credit, or saving for retirement, every American needs to understand the basic principles of planning, saving and investing for the future.

In that spirit, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor/support bipartisan House Resolution 243, which promotes the ideals and goals of Financial Literacy Month, and to also participate in tomorrow's Financial Literacy Day on the Hill.

Let's ensure more Americans can build a better financial future this Financial Literacy Month and all year round.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JACK W. SCHWARTZ

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jack W. Schwartz on his 102nd birthday.

Mr. Jack W. Schwartz is from Hanford, California. Growing up, Mr. Schwartz graduated from Hollywood High School at the age of fifteen and went on to earn both his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees in Civil Engineering from California Institute of Technology. After working in various engineering jobs, Mr. Schwartz joined the United States Navy in 1940 as a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the Civil Engineering Corps. His first Navy assignment was at Pearl Harbor, and he was later transferred to Guam in January 1941.

Barely a year later, on December 8, the Japanese Navy attacked Guam.

On December 10, 1941, Guam became the first American territory to formally surrender to an enemy in World War II. Lt. Schwartz and the sailors and Marines on the island became prisoners of war (POW) for nearly the next four years. Lt. Schwartz and the other officers were sent by boat to the Japanese port of Tadotsu on the island of Shikoku to become slave laborers for Japanese corporations. Upon arrival in mainland Japan, Mr. Schwartz was taken to the Zentsuji POW Camp nearly 400 miles west of Tokyo. While in this camp, Lt. Schwartz was beaten and denied food, water, and medical service whenever he defended and advocated for those under his command. In September 1942, he was transferred to Tokyo 2B Kawasaki and later sent to Zentsuji in August of 1944. His final transfer was in June 1945 to POW Camp 11-B Rokuroshi. This camp was located in the Japanese Alps, where food was scarce, conditions were overcrowded, and winter clothes were unavailable, leading many to believe they would not survive the harsh mountain winter. However, the camp was discovered and liberated on September 8, 1945, several days after the formal surrender of Japan on September 2. After the war, Lt. Schwartz remained in the United States Navy and later retired in 1962 as a Commander.

At the age of ninety nine, Mr. Schwartz was invited to take part in the Fifth Delegation of American Former POWs of Japan where he met with Japanese officials, students, and visited the sites of former POW camps. He felt the experience was important for remembrance and reconciliation.

Mr. Schwartz served as the Public Works Director and City Engineer for eighteen years in Hanford, California. Since his retirement in 1980, Mr. Schwartz has been active on many city and council projects including serving eight years as City Planning Commissioner and five years on the Kings County Grand Jury. The most prideful accomplishment of Mr. Schwartz's long career in public service is his work in helping to procure the funds to create and design Hidden Valley Park in Hanford.

Today, Mr. Schwartz has a son, a step-daughter, and a grandson. His favorite hobbies are woodturning and making things out of wood, reading, and writing with the Remington Ramblers, a local writing workshop.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in wishing this extraordinary American, Mr. Jack W. Schwartz, well on his 102nd birthday and thanking him for his years of military and public service.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR WALLSTONE E. FRANCIS

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an accomplished individual, a distinguished pillar of our community, and a personal friend, Pastor Wallstone E. Francis, on the occasion of his 25th anniversary as pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Waukegan, Illinois. For 25 years, Pastor Francis has shared his