

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

passion, his vision and his dedication to scripture and service, not just with his church but with the entire community.

Pastor Francis was born in Nassau, Bahamas, and moved to the United States in 1971. After earning a Bachelor of Theology and Bachelor of Arts Degrees from American Baptist College of American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee and an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Selma University, in Selma, Alabama, Pastor Francis began his ministry in Smyrna, Tennessee and later Franklin, Kentucky.

On May 3, 1992, Pastor Francis was installed as pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church. In his two and a half decades of service, Pastor Francis has become known as an incisive teacher of the Scripture, a dedicated minister to his congregation, and an upstanding leader in his community. In addition to his Christian ministry, Pastor Francis gives back through his service on the Waukegan Civil Service Commission and as a volunteer Chaplain at Victory Memorial Hospital and the Lake County Jail.

Pastor Francis has been blessed with more than forty years of marriage to Mrs. Angela Rene Otey William. Their loving family includes grown children and grandchildren, including children who came to the family as foster children. I am also honored to celebrate their commitment to foster care.

Illinois's Tenth District and the Waukegan community is lucky for Pastor Francis's leadership. On this moment of anniversary, I wish him, his family, and the entire Shiloh Baptist Church community all the best in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER
CONGRESSMAN EARL E. HILLIARD

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, former Congressman Earl Hilliard, who will celebrate his 75th birthday this weekend, at a gathering of his family and friends in Birmingham, Alabama.

While a Member of this body, Earl and I worked very closely together, preserving the integrity of historically black colleges and universities and supporting the preservation and restoration of historic sites and buildings. At his weekend gathering they will establish a scholarship in his honor in order to help more rural Alabama young men and women have opportunities to further their education.

I want to congratulate my friend for reaching this milestone in his life, a place I got to more than a year ago, and wish him a happy birthday and further success in establishing more benefits for young men and women throughout Alabama.

Family: Former Congressman Earl Frederick Hilliard was born in Birmingham, Alabama on April 9, 1942 to Iola Frazier and William Hill-

iard. In 1967, Earl Hilliard married Mary Franklin. Both were the first person on both sides of their families to attend and graduate from college. They have two children: Alesia Hilliard-Smith (R. J. Smith) and Earl Hilliard, Jr. (Janine Hunt-Hilliard) and four grandchildren: Roderick Smith, Jr., Reginald Smith, Earl Hilliard, III and Nya Hilliard. In June 2016, the couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Education: Earl graduated from Western-Olin High School in 1960. Because of his experiences growing up in segregated Birmingham, he chose to attend historically black colleges and universities. He received a B.A. from Morehouse College in 1964, a J.D. from Howard University School of Law in 1967, and an M.B.A. in 1970 from Atlanta University (now Clark-Atlanta University) School of Business. He was awarded an Honorary Degree—Doctor of Humane Letters—in 2000 from Talladega College.

Civil Rights/Black History: While a student at Morehouse College, in Atlanta, Georgia, Hilliard met Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The meeting had a powerful effect on him, and he became “one of King’s foot soldiers in the war for racial equality. He worked with voter-registration drives and participated in many protest marches. He continued his work when he was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives where he chaired the first Alabama Black Legislative Caucus.

Political Career: In 1974, Earl F. Hilliard was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives where he chaired the Alabama Black Legislative Caucus. In 1980, he was elected to the Alabama State Senate and chaired the Alabama State Judiciary, Commerce, Transportation and Utility Committees. His Senate career focused on helping the urban poor, who constituted the bulk of his Birmingham-area constituents. He earned a reputation as a hard-fighting, tactical legislator.

In 1992, Hilliard won a seat in the U.S. Congress, becoming the first black Representative from Alabama since Jeremiah Haralson left office after Reconstruction. “We have not had a voice in 117 years,” Hilliard declared upon his first election. “I will be able to articulate the views and opinions of a group that hasn’t had representation in a very long time. His district included three major cities—Selma, Montgomery, and Birmingham—all of which were battlegrounds at the heart of the 1960s civil rights movement.

Hilliard’s initial focus in Congress was creating economic opportunity for his constituents. He supported legislation that would help Alabama’s urban poor. He called for a Southern Rural Development Commission, modeled after the Appalachian Regional Commission to assist economic development in rural communities in ten southern states. Congressman Hilliard reestablished Gees Bend Ferry. He attempted to protect and expand the Alabama military installations used by the U.S. Army and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He worked to protect a Tuscaloosa-area airport that was difficult to sustain because of the region’s sparse population. “Tuscaloosa and the surrounding communities

would suffer terribly without local air service, and this travel option will become increasingly important as industrial development continues in the area,” he wrote to a colleague. Due in large part to Congressman Hilliard’s lobbying, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees diverted limited funding to Tuscaloosa in the Essential Air Service legislation. He successfully pushed funding to support Alabama’s historically black colleges and universities and provided scholarship money for minority students. Hilliard was also crucial in convincing a Korean-based car manufacturer to open a plant outside Montgomery. While in Congress, he served on the Agriculture, Small Business, International Relations and Foreign Affairs Committees. An active member of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressman Hilliard was elected vice chairman of the organization for the 105th Congress (1997 through 1999).

Academic Career: Earl F. Hilliard began his career as a teacher at Miles College (1967 through 1968) and later was an assistant to the president of Alabama State University (1968 through 1970). While in Congress, he didn’t forget what he’d learned and the importance of procuring funding to support Alabama’s historically black colleges and universities and to provide scholarship money for minority students. Over the years, he has helped countless relatives, friends, and constituents achieve their educational goals by providing financial support to students who desired to pursue advanced degrees, but were financially unable to do so. He has mentored an innumerable amount of people, from high school and college students to seasoned professionals.

Awards/Honors: In 1974, Earl F. Hilliard received Omega Psi Phi’s Businessman of the Year Award and he was given Delta Sigma Theta’s Distinguished Service and Achievement Award in 1975. He was awarded the Outstanding Alumnus Award, in 2010, from Morehouse College National Alumni Association. In 2011, Earl F. Hilliard received an Outstanding Alumnus Award from National Alumni Council of the United Negro College Fund and in 2015, he was one of the recipients of an Alabama Majesty Award from Miles College.

Community Involvement and Associations: Earl Hilliard holds Life Memberships in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He also holds or has held memberships in the National Bar Association, the Alabama State Bar Association, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Alabama Lawyers Association, the Morehouse College Alumni Association, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Morehouse Athletic Foundation, Inc., of which he was one of the incorporators. He has served as Trustee of both Miles College Law School and Tuskegee University. He currently serves as a Deacon, Elder and a Sunday school teacher for the Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church of North Pratt and previously served as Chairman of both the Deacon and Trustee Boards.