

I am sure Dad and the Lord are having some serious conversations. A few days ago one of the nurses commented on what a good job the Lord had done with him. He quickly corrected her by saying the Lord and me—don't give the Lord all the credit.

Dad was often difficult and he knew it. He gave Mom a plaque of appreciation on their 55th anniversary to honor her for putting up with him for 55 years. He was resentful for what his cancer had done to him. Many of you, in recent months, tried unsuccessfully to see him. Your attempts were appreciated even when unsuccessful.

We thank each one of you here for being a part of his incredible life. We hope you will find guidance in so many of the things he stood for and we hope you will go from this place loving your family and committed to making this world a better place for future generations.

THE PASSING OF EUGENE A.  
GILMER

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 18, 2003*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, with great sorrow, I call to the attention of the House, the passing of one of Michigan's great educators, Eugene A. Gilmer. His family has lost a loving, devoted husband, and father; I have lost a dear friend and constant inspiration; Detroit has lost a giant.

Eugene Gilmer left us on June 13, 2003, at the age of 79. He had compiled an outstanding career as an educator and community activist. After serving with great distinction overseas in the Army during World War II, he graduated from Wayne State University. Determined to overcome racial bias in hiring educators, Eugene drove a bus until he won a teaching position. After that, there was no holding back his talent, his dedication and his spirited drive.

In addition to his commitment to educating Detroit's youth, Eugene was equally dedicated to the preservation and appreciation of African American history. While serving as principal at the Sampson Elementary and Fitzgerald Elementary Schools, he played a key role in the founding and funding of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and then served on its Board of Directors. Over the years, the Wright Museum became one of the Nation's leading institutions preserving an appreciation of the tribulations, as well as the contributions of African Americans.

It is now commonplace for public officials to pledge allegiance to slogans like "quality education for all" and "no child left behind." Decades before these principles became popular sound bites, however, they were the cornerstones of Eugene's educational philosophy and his professional goals.

Eugene never lowered his standards of excellence, nor accepted excuses for students who failed to achieve their potential. At the same time, he knew better than most that education was the essential ladder of higher aspirations. He firmly held that ladder and showed generations of students how to climb it.

His wisdom, guidance and leadership enriched the lives not only of thousands of students, but also of countless Michigan teachers

and educational administrators. While Eugene would not compromise the principles that informed his career, he applied them with compassion and gentleness, in equal measure.

Eugene's total commitment to the improvement of education in Metropolitan Detroit flourished against the larger landscape of his social activism, and participation in the political process. He regarded both as the higher calling of a citizen and thought of neither as a nuisance or as simply an avenue for self-promotion. Detroit residents from all walks of life knew this about Eugene, and loved him for it.

Our thoughts are with his family: with Margaret Gilmer, his beloved wife of 56 years; his daughter, Crystal; his son, Eugene; his eight grandchildren, and his three great-grandchildren.

Eugene Gilmer contributed immeasurably to his fellow human beings. He will be sorely missed. I salute his memory.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 18, 2003*

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 17, 2003. I missed three votes due to my sons high school graduation. Had I been present I would have voted YES on:

Roll Call Vote #279—H. Res. 276—Ordering the previous question on waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany S. 342 to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to make improvements to and reauthorize programs under the Act, and for other purposes.

Roll Call Vote #280—H. Res. 171—Commending the University of Minnesota Duluth Bulldogs for winning the NCAA 2003 National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship.

Roll Call Vote #281—H.R. 658—The Accountant, Compliance, and Enforcement Act.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL  
RANDY TIESZEN, USA

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 18, 2003*

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to pay tribute today to an outstanding Army officer who is retiring this month. Brigadier General Randy Tieszen has served in various positions of responsibility throughout his 31 years of service in the United States military culminating as the Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker, Alabama, in my congressional district.

Upon his arrival at Fort Rucker on August 7, 2001, Brigadier General Tieszen immediately immersed himself in planning, developing and resourcing Flight School XXI, the keystone of Army Aviation transformation and divestiture of legacy aircraft.

The Flight School XXI program will send more qualified aviators to the field units to form their war-time mission, enhancing the effectiveness of our nation's defense and the

ability of the Army to act as the vanguard of freedom. His actions have ensured that Army Aviation is ready to meet any challenges laid before it.

Brigadier General Tieszen and his wife, Kathy, have been active and highly regarded members of the local community who are leaving a lasting legacy of civic involvement and a wide circle of friends who will miss them both.

I am pleased to count myself as one of Brigadier General Tieszen's friends and, on behalf of the Congress of the United States and the people of Alabama, wish him well in the next stage of life's journey.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF  
MOUNT VERNON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 18, 2003*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Mount Vernon, which officially started as a village in 1853 made up from five farms, but grew into perhaps the most densely populated city in the State of New York.

It started as a fulfillment of that most typical of American dreams: home ownership. John Stevens, a merchant tailor from New York City, formed the Industrial Home Association to become the Village of Mount Vernon. When the IHA membership reached 1,000 dues payers, 1,017 to be exact, they bought the land of five farms consisting of some 369 acres at about \$205 dollars an acre.

Originally a part of the Town of Eastchester, the Village of Mount Vernon grew over the next four decades and in 1892 was chartered under the laws of the State of New York as an incorporated city.

It grew by welcoming Baptists, Methodists, Dutch Reformed, and Catholic groups, as well as any others willing to settle there and contribute to the community. It has become a thriving community growing and flourishing in the shadow of New York City.

John Stevens helped to initiate the dream that Mount Vernon has become and one that will continue to develop and prosper through the industry and vision of the people who inhabit this charming and wonderful city.

RECOGNITION OF WORLD REFUGEE  
DAY

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 18, 2003*

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize World Refugee Day, declared on June 20, 2000 and every year thereafter by a special UN General Assembly Resolution. Whereas it is unquestionable that the new democratically-elected government in Kenya is a positive step forward for Africa, I want to also affirm the generosity of Kenya toward refugees and asylum-seekers. Statistics show that approximately 20,000 new refugees and asylum-seekers fled to Kenya during 2002 from Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia,

Somaliland, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Djibouti. While we recognize that there are ongoing peace efforts in a number of these countries that will hopefully allow these refugees to repatriate in safety and dignity—the resolution of all the conflicts that have driven these refugees to flee may not be resolved in the near future, and Kenya may continue to be called upon to assist. We in the Congress acknowledge this generosity and sacrifice, and commend the Kenyan people for their efforts to help those in need.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH  
BIRTHDAY OF ELSIE BOYD

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 18, 2003*

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, in 1903, the first airplane took flight at Kitty Hawk in North Carolina. In that same year, the life of a constituent in my congressional district, Elsie Boyd, also took flight—and is still going strong a full 100 years later.

I proudly rise to join with the many people from my district who will help celebrate Elsie's 100th birthday on June 24.

Friends and family who know and love Elsie understand what keeps her going strong—and I do mean strong.

Elsie owns and lives in her own condominium.

She is active with the Methodist Church women and helps with neighborhood rummage sales.

She drives herself around town in a 1988 Chevy Nova and reads at least two hours each night—I hear she loves English history and any and every biography about Queen Victoria and Great Britain's royal families.

Simply put, Elsie is one of those people who lives life to the fullest, always views the glass as half full and turns the tables on the most difficult trials life has to offer.

According to her daughter Edie Boyd, "mom always looks at the positive side of life. That is why she is so successful and independent."

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I find to be the most inspiring about her life is the path she took to achieve professional success. After her paternal grandmother pulled the plug on high school and declared that her help was needed around the house, Elsie decided to earn her diploma by taking night courses—no small task for a young woman in the early part of the 20th century.

Fluent in German, Elsie moved on to spend many years as a legal secretary, including some time spent abroad and working on the private legal affairs of Judge Henry Homer, who later became Governor of Illinois.

Next week, Elsie will celebrate 100 years of life with an immediate family that includes three daughters, six grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. Needless to say, the family cherishes each and every moment of time spent with her.

Orville and Wilbur Wright set the stage for 100 years of aviation breakthroughs. In her own way, Elsie spent much the same amount of time accomplishing great things and inspiring others by always concentrating on the sunny side of life. Congratulations Elsie—you

are a wonderful example and a wonderful person.

PRAISING SOUTH CAROLINA  
BLACK HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 18, 2003*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this Friday I will have the distinct privilege of attending the 13th Annual South Carolina Black Hall of Fame induction ceremony in Columbia, SC. Ten South Carolinians will be inducted this year. Below is a list of the inductees:

The late Ethel Martin Bolden, a pioneer librarian; retired U.S. Army Col. John Theodore Bowden, Jr., a former professor of military science at South Carolina State University; Dr. Agnes Hildebrand Wilson Burgess, a distinguished Sumter educator; Dr. Alma Wallace Byrd, Benedict College professor and former state legislator; Charlie Mae Cromartie, former health care professional and businesswoman; Jim French, editor of *The Charleston Chronicle*; Lottie Gibson, a Greenville civil rights activist; the late Esau Jenkins, a John's Island civil right's activist; the late Rev. Dr. Westerberry Homer Neal, Sr., pastor of seven Midlands area churches; and Geraldine Pierce Zimmerman, 92-year-old Orangeburg community activist.

Ethel Bolden worked in Richland County public schools for 39 years and established the first black elementary school library at Waverly Elementary School. She also served at W.A. Perry Junior High School, and because of her competence and interpersonal skills, she successfully integrated the faculty at Dreher High School. She was a trustee of Richland County Public Library and worked tirelessly for construction of the modern library downtown, which opened in 1993. She passed away in October 2002.

Col. John Bowden began his military career in 1960 after completing the ROTC program at South Carolina State University. In 1983, he returned to the campus as commanding officer of the ROTC. Under his command, the unit became one of the best in the nation, supplying more commissioned officers to the U.S. Army than any other in the state or nation. He retired from the military in 1986 and since has worked in administrative positions at S.C. State, Voorhees College and Claflin University.

Dr. Agnes Burgess was the first black to be named Teacher of the Year in South Carolina and came out on top as a National Honor Roll Teacher in 1969. She taught French and journalism at Lincoln High School and served as advisor to the newspaper, which won 13 consecutive first-place ratings in the Scholastic Press Association competition. Also, she was the first black ever to be elected president of the South Carolina Education Association. In 1975, she joined the faculty at the University of South Carolina's College of Education and served as director of the Center for Community Education until her retirement in 1979.

Dr. Alma Byrd has served as a member of the Richland District #1 School Board and was a state legislator from 1991–1999. She was instrumental in placing the portraits of several

noted black South Carolinians in the State House. She was a founding member of the James R. Clark Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation and long-time president of the Columbia section of the National Council of Negro Women.

Charlie Cromartie was head evening nurse at Columbia Hospital prior to becoming owner/manager of Cromartie Enterprises. Her community service include being an advocate of Richland School District One board of Education, member of the League of Women Voters, poll manager of Ward 9, and past illustrious commandress of Cairo Temple No. 123. For more than 50 years, she has held leadership positions in Bishops Memorial A.M.E. Church.

Jim French established *The Charleston Chronicle* in 1971, six months after retiring as a U.S. Navy chief journalist with 26 years of service. He was a photo-journalist for the Navy's *All Hands* magazine. He was the first military reporter assigned to the Mekong Delta of Vietnam with the U.S. Army's 9th Infantry Division, and was station manager for radio and television stations on naval bases in Spain, Cuba and Puerto Rico. His weekly columns in *The Chronicle* challenge blacks to stand up and demand their rights as American citizens. He and his newspaper have received numerous awards from organizations in the Lowcountry.

Lottie Gibson has been a spokesperson for black and poor people in the Piedmont area for more than three decades. She is a member of Greenville County Council and was in the forefront May 17 when 5,000 supporters of the NAACP held a protest rally against the council for refusing to approve her proposal for an official paid holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Esau Jenkins was a successful farmer and businesswoman who made an indelible mark as a crusader on behalf of poor black citizens of the Sea Islands from the 1940s until his death in 1972. His first project consisted of purchasing a bus to transport island children to public schools in Charleston. In 1948, he organized the Progressive Club to help educate adults who wanted to read the Bible, newspapers and the section of the state constitution required of those who wished to register to vote. In the 1950's, he worked with noted human rights activists Septima Pointstett Clark and Bernice Robinson to establish citizenship schools on John's Island, Wadmalaw Island and Edisto Island. And during the 1960s he continued to develop social, economic and political programs under the umbrella of the Citizens Committee of Charleston.

Rev. Dr. Westerberry Neal, a Hopkins native, was a pastor for nearly 60 years and public school teacher for 35 years. He was affectionately known as "Mr. Baptist of South Carolina." He was a trustee of Morris College in Sumter for 50 years and chairman for 35 years—the longest record of any chairman of an institution of higher learning in the state and nation. Additionally, he served on the board of directors of Victory Saving Bank for 28 years and was chairman for 15 years. Dr. Neal passed away on March 4, 2003 at the age of 94.

Geraldine Zimmerman helped her hometown become a better place by serving as a volunteer with many organizations, including the United Way, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Orangeburg Literacy Association,