

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,