

and three grandchildren. They are members of the Marion Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, on November 21, 2005 I will sponsor a luncheon in Mayor Bobby Gerald's honor to say thanks for his many years of public service and personal friendship, and I ask you and my colleagues to join me in commending this longtime friend for his business acumen and dedicated commitment to public service. He is a natural leader, who has made extraordinary contributions to the City of Marion and the State of South Carolina.

A PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING DR. WILLIAM C. LOFTY UPON HIS POSTHUMOUS RECOGNITION AS A GREAT PHILANTHROPIST

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Dr. William Lofty was nominated by Donnie Loubiere of the Belpre Area Community Development Foundation; and

Whereas, Dr. William Lofty was a man dedicated to his community, his church and his God; and

Whereas, Dr. William Lofty selflessly gave of himself to provide scholarship aid to local students and gave them an inspiring figure to look up to.

Therefore, I join with family, friends and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Dr. William Lofty and thanking him for his generosity to the community.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. NANCY DORAN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to Ms. Nancy Doran who was awarded the 2005 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the Second Congressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Group.

It is with great pleasure that I bring before you a woman who has selflessly committed herself to helping lift the spirits of United States Veterans.

On Tuesday evenings for the past 3½ years, Ms. Doran and her dog Duffy perform voluntary pet therapy services at the Baltimore Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation and Extended Care Center.

Ms. Doran and her dog have made approximately one hundred eighty-eight visits so far, and stay for about 90 minutes each time; which is a tremendous act of kindness.

As a result of Duffy's presence, typically non-verbal veterans speak to Duffy while petting him and giving him treats. Duffy allows them to reminisce about their own dogs and gives them an opportunity to experience a pleasant evening of memories, friendship, and fellowship.

I believe this country should honor the service and sacrifices of those who place themselves in harms-way to protect the freedoms of the American citizens. The Veterans Advisory Group provides an excellent opportunity

for me to share pending legislation with people who have done just that, as well as, gain their perspective on specialized issues.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me, and the Veterans Advisory Group to commend Ms. Nancy Doran for her efforts to visit with and care for the United States Veterans. She has gone above and beyond to aid those who have dedicated their lives to service our great country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 571 on H.R. 1973, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, November 3, 2005 I was unavoidably detained thus missed rollcall vote No. 568.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 568, in support of H.R. 4128, the "Private Property Rights Protection Act"—legislation that I voted in support of in the House Judiciary Committee.

A PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING MRS. VERDA C. JONES UPON HER RECOGNITION AS A GREAT PHILANTHROPIST

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Verda Jones was nominated by Ms. Susan Urano of the Athens Foundation; and

Whereas, Verda Jones saw what the potential of the goodwill from a few dedicated citizens could lead to; and

Whereas, Verda Jones inspired many to contribute to what would eventually become the Athens Foundation, an endowment for the benefit of Athens.

Therefore, I join with family, friends and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Mrs. Verda C. Jones and thanking her for her generosity to the Athens community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 7, 2005, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 570, 571, and 572.

The votes I missed included a motion to suspend the rules and agree to Recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religious, Nostra Aetate, and the continuing need for mutual interreligious respect and dialogue; a motion to suspend the rules and agree to the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act; and a motion to suspend the rules and agree to Supporting the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes Nos. 570, 571, and 572.

TRIBUTE TO LT. COLONEL ALBERT B. GUESS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a decorated war veteran and committed community activist. Lt. Colonel Albert B. Guess says his greatest ambition is "the utilization of his resources, knowledge and experiences to promote the well being and welfare of others." I believe he has achieved this goal in every facet of his life.

Albert B. Guess was born in Santee, South Carolina to farming parents. As a young man, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943, serving for 3 years until his discharge as a Corporal. Colonel Guess used the G.I. Bill to attend South Carolina State University, and joined the college's ROTC program. His early life on the farm led him to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture, and upon graduation he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant.

After college, Colonel Guess taught agriculture, mathematics and science at Barr Street High School in Lancaster, South Carolina. At the same time, he served as the Director of the area veterans and adult farm program that taught hands-on farming practices and management.

Colonel Guess was recalled to the Army in May 1951, where he served another 20 years. His military career took him to New Guinea, the Phillipine Islands, Japan, Korea, Alaska, and he served 2 tours in Vietnam. He earned many awards and decorations for meritorious actions and service including the Combat Infantryman's Badge. Colonel officially retired from active duty in June 1971 as a Lt. Colonel.

After leaving the military, Colonel Guess returned to South Carolina and his wife's hometown of Marion. There he became very active in the community, and that is how I first met him. He served as President of the Marion County Branch of the NAACP, and was instrumental in negotiating the majority-minority single member districts for the Marion City Council and the Marion County Council. He also led numerous voter registration and voter participation drives.

Colonel Guess has also been very active in Marion School District One. He has served as a hearing officer helping to represent the interest of parents and children in the district. He has been deeply involved in ensuring that the

schools in the district are top quality, and was instrumental in the building of the new Marion High School. Colonel Guess served on the steering committee for a bond referendum to pay for the construction of a new intermediate school and additions to Easterling Primary and Johnakin Middle School.

He has still found time to serve on the Marion County Economic Development Board, the Marion County United Way, and to direct the Marion-Dillon County Mental Retardation Program. Colonel Guess is currently the Chairman of the Marion County Red Cross.

He and his wife, the former Reba General are members of St. Phillips United Methodist Church. The couple has 2 children, Ronald Richardson of Marion and Rita James of Charlotte, North Carolina, and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on November 21, 2005 I will sponsor a Luncheon in honor of Lt. Colonel Albert Guess and I ask you and my colleagues to join me in commending this long-time friend and mentor for exceeding his life's ambition to serve others. He has served his family, his community, and his country with extraordinary dedication, and has been a positive impact on countless lives along the way.

A PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING MR. STEVE VINCENT UPON HIS RECOGNITION AS A GREAT PHILANTHROPIST

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Steve Vincent was nominated by Dr. David Mitzel; and

Whereas, Steve Vincent had an experience on Christmas morning in 1989 that touched him so deeply he helped establish the ABC Wilson Fund in memory of 3 children whose lives were senselessly lost; and

Whereas, Steve Vincent has worked diligently with the help of others to make the ABC Wilson Fund an endowment that is saving lives across Muskingum County by providing smoke detectors to all in need.

Therefore, I join with family, friends and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Steve Vincent and thanking him for his generosity to the people of Muskingum County.

RELIGIOUS SPEECH LIMITATIONS IN SWEDEN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief is a fundamental element of international human rights norms. It is inextricably intertwined with other fundamental rights, including the rights to freedom of speech, freedom of association and freedom of assembly. Considering this, I am increasingly concerned by European trends to place limitations on religious speech under the guise of preventing offense or limiting hate speech. One such case con-

cerns Ake Green, the pastor of a Pentecostal church in Kalmar, Sweden, who was sentenced to 1 month in prison for "inciting hatred" against homosexuals.

Pastor Green's troubles began on July 20, 2003, when he expressed his disapproval of homosexuality in a sermon, founded upon his understanding of the Bible. He did not incite nor encourage his congregation on the small southeastern island of Oland to violence. He did, however, express his personal opinion of homosexuality and made a personal moral judgment that the lifestyle was sinful. He later circulated the sermon text to media outlets in an attempt to insert an alternative view into Sweden's "marketplace of ideas."

When prosecutors saw the sermon printed, they brought charges against Pastor Green for "inciting hate" toward homosexuals. A district court agreed in June 2004, finding his sermon to be criminal. One particularly alarming quote from the district court's decision stated, "It is forbidden to use the Bible or similar material to threaten or express disrespect for homosexuals as a group." Mr. Speaker, should pastors really be sent to jail for sermons that a court deems "disrespectful" or "offensive"? Should the state really dictate how a religious leader interprets the Bible, the Torah, or other religious texts? The district court's ruling raises the question of whether ministers and priests in Sweden are really free to preach their beliefs.

I recognize that the right to freedom of expression is not absolute and not all speech is protected. After 9/11 and the Madrid and London bombings, we have all seen how criminals abuse religion to preach violence and lead others in criminal deeds. Authorities are within their rights to take legal action to curtail the speech when it rises to the level of posing an imminent threat of actual criminal action. The international community and the European Court of Human Rights have recognized this high threshold for limiting speech activity. Yet we must be careful to not limit religious liberties and speech rights.

Thankfully, Pastor Green has not spent a night in jail while his case is on appeal. Also encouraging was the February decision by an appellate court to overturn the conviction, saying it is not illegal to preach a personal interpretation of the Bible. However, Sweden's chief prosecutor, Fredrik Wersaell, appealed to the Supreme Court, contending that Green violated Sweden's 2003 hate crimes law. The Supreme Court will hear the appeal on November 9th.

Undoubtedly, Swedes enjoy tremendous religious freedoms and generally Sweden is a staunch defender of human rights. However, in this case, the government has sought to limit basic religious teachings. I believe the criminalization of the use of the Bible to express beliefs, if not overturned, will have frighteningly broad ramifications for the free practice of religion in Sweden and beyond.

ACWA BLUEPRINT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, this year the water districts of my State worked together

to create a water planning document to address my State's core water infrastructure needs for decades into the future.

This document, released by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), is called, "No Time to Waste: A Blueprint for California's Water." It lays out a diverse mix of actions and investments designed to help California meet its water supply needs in the coming decades.

The ACWA Blueprint is intended to serve as a roadmap for State and Federal leaders to follow to ensure that California has the water supply system it will need to support people, jobs and ecosystems in the future.

It breaks down into 12 recommendations for each region of the State. These include investments to improve water supplies, water use efficiency, water quality and environmental health. The recommended actions are designed to address short and long-term statewide water needs, complement and build on local efforts, and promote integrated regional water management plans that will play a critical role in California's future.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS IN ACWA'S BLUEPRINT

Improve the existing Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta water conveyance system to increase flexibility and enhance water supply, water quality, levee stability and environmental protection in the near term.

Evaluate long-term threats to the Delta levee and conveyance system and pursue actions to reduce risks to the state's water supply and the environment.

Ensure delivery of adequate Colorado River supplies for Southern California and defend California's rights on the Colorado River.

Implement and fund the Sacramento Valley Water Management Program.

Develop additional groundwater and surface water storage, including proposed surface storage projects now under study if they are determined to be feasible.

Support and fund local efforts to expand recycled water use and implement best management practices for urban and agricultural water use efficiency.

Improve the quality of California's drinking water supplies to safeguard public health and enhance water quality for agriculture and the environment.

Work with local agencies to overcome constraints to developing seawater and brackish groundwater desalination.

Modernize the Federal Endangered Species Act and other laws and regulations to allow water infrastructure projects, water supply and water quality activities to proceed while protecting species and habitats.

Expedite the approval process for voluntary water transfers.

Clarify and expand the State's role in flood control and promote multi-benefit flood control projects.

Support integrated regional water management plans.

Mr. Speaker, this document represents the first time California water users have produced something this comprehensive, based around a consensus approach and done under their own initiative. Water will be a central resource challenge confronting economic growth and environmental sustainability in California and the West. As the House Water and Power Subcommittee completes its agenda for 2005 and sets new objectives for 2006, I commend to interested observers ACWA's "No Time to Waste: A Blueprint for California's Water".