

years ago," wrote Mr. Ritchie in a 1979 column in the Democrat. "No other industry could stay in business under these circumstances, and farmers cannot be expected to, either."

In later years, Mr. Ritchie became a driving force behind Fauquier County's purchase of development rights program.

However, it was a different crisis, far from Fauquier, that put Mr. Ritchie on a new path that would make a lasting difference for hundreds of people.

In the wake of the disaster in South Carolina caused by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, Mr. Ritchie and several of his friends founded People Helping People of Fauquier County, Inc., a nonprofit corporation for the sole purpose of helping people struggling against natural disasters, illness or sudden financial hardship.

EDUCATION ADVOCATE

In the early 1990s—after a school bond referendum held to provide funding for a second high school failed—Mr. Ritchie became active in yet another arena.

Determined to see a second high school in southern Fauquier, Mr. Ritchie persistently lobbied the School Board and pushed for the needed school bond referendum. When Liberty High School at Bealeton opened in 1994—without the funding for a football stadium—he was at the forefront of the campaign, soliciting donations and selling raffle tickets to raise the money to get the stadium built.

After Mr. Ritchie and his friends on the Principal's Advisory Committee at Liberty raised \$100,000 for the stadium lights, the Board of Supervisors, then under the late Dave Mangum (Lee District), came up with the remaining \$250,000 to build it.

Due to Mr. Ritchie's efforts and his growing, positive influence in Fauquier County, he was recognized as the Fauquier Times-Democrat's Citizen of the Year for 1994.

His influence continued throughout his final years, and he often spoke out on issues that were important to him. A frequent contributor to the Democrat's opinion pages, Mr. Ritchie's last letter was published here on Jan. 25, 2006.

In it, he urged the Board of Supervisors to consider giving tax money to parents who wished to opt-out of the public schools and send their children to private or Christian schools.

"The movement would be so great that I doubt that we would have to build any more new public schools," he said. "The good news is that everyone wins."

Mr. Ritchie was a longtime, active member of Mount Carmel Baptist Church near Morrisville, where he served on the Building and Grounds Committee, as well as videographer for worship services.

According to his family, one of the highlights of Boots' life was being chosen to carry the Olympic Torch.

Mr. Ritchie is survived by his wife, Gail R. Ritchie; his sons, and Glenn C. Ritchie, all of Bealeton; and his daughters, Jennifer R. Krick of Bealeton and Helen R. Ritchie of Strasburg.

Also surviving are his step-sons, Edward C. Lynskey of Annandale and William E. Lynskey of Midland; and his stepdaughters, Linda L. Ashby and Karen L. Hughes, both of Bealeton; and his sisters, Hazel R. Bell of Drayden, Md., Jennalee R. McNally, Marie R. Lee and Peggy R. Dahany, all of Fredericksburg; 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilbur Early Ritchie and Ethel Barker Ritchie; a son, Jeff A. Ritchie; and his brothers, C. Hunter Ritchie, Claude Ritchie, and Charles Dwight Ritchie.

Funeral services and interment will be private. A public memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 4 at 2 p.m. at the Liberty High School auditorium.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, P.O. Box 1095, Warrenton, VA 20188; People Helping People, P.O. Box 3108, Warrenton, VA 20188; or to Mount Carmel Baptist Church, 12714 Elk Run Road, Midland, VA 22728.

Online condolences may be made at <http://www.moserfuneralhome.com>.

HONORING JUSTICE CORNELIA CLARK

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I want to take a moment to recognize and honor Justice Cornelia Clark.

Justice Clark has been selected for a seat on the Tennessee Supreme Court where she will be only the 4th woman ever to serve. Her wealth of experience and insight will serve her well in this important role and we honor her for such a wonderful achievement.

Justice Clark's professional accomplishments are proof of her dedication to the judiciary. Since her graduation from Vanderbilt Law School in 1979, Justice Clark devoted herself to the law as a litigation attorney and later as an attorney for the city of Franklin. For 10 years, Justice Clark served as a Circuit Court Judge and most recently as the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Cornelia has shown a remarkable inquisitiveness and dedication to lifelong learning throughout her career. Prior to law school she earned her Master of Arts in Teaching from Harvard University and worked as an educator. She served 10 years as an adjunct professor at the Vanderbilt University School of Law. Countless women have been inspired by her example and we all thank her for her work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Justice Clark and welcoming her to the bench of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA OLYMPIANS

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, the nation watched with pride and admiration as the United States Men's and Women's Olympic Curling teams competed at the XX Olympic Winter Games in Turin, Italy. I am proud to point out that both teams hail from Bemidji, Minnesota in the 7th Congressional District.

The city of Bemidji sent more athletes per capita to the 2006 Winter Olympics than any other town in America. The athletes on both Olympic Curling teams call the Bemidji Curling Club their home. One of the premier curling clubs in the United States, the Bemidji Curling Club has captured more than 50 state and na-

tional titles in its outstanding 71-year history. The Club will also host the U.S. World Team Trials from March 4th through 12th. For curlers and curling fans Bemidji is the place to be.

The sport of curling dates to 16th century Scotland where games were played during winter on frozen ponds, lochs and marshes. Curling's popularity spread during the 19th century to many nations in Europe, as well as to the United States, New Zealand, and Canada. It is now played in over 35 countries throughout the world.

Both of the U.S. Olympic Curling teams from Bemidji faced tough competition from the very best teams the world has to offer. With the world watching they demonstrated their skills on one of sport's grandest stages and brought honor and praise to themselves and Members of the Women's team were Cassie Johnson, Jamie Johnson, Jessica Schultz, Maureen Brunt, Courtney George and Coach Neil Doese. The Men's team consisted of Pete Fenson, Shawn Rojeski, Joe Polo, John Shuster, Scott Baird and Coach Bob Fenson.

Both teams exhibited their skill, their mastery of strategic play and the ability to precisely execute when the pressure was on. This combination of skill and determination helped the Men's team to bring home the Bronze Medal for the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the great achievement of all these fine athletes. The commitment to excellence, sportsmanship and honor that they displayed while representing the United States will long be a source of pride for all Minnesotans, especially those who call Bemidji, Minnesota their home.

HONORING DIXON GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dixon Grove Baptist Church on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Dixon Grove Baptist Church has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to its surrounding community and the state of Georgia.

The late Reverend John Arthur Dixon founded Dixon Grove Baptist Church in 1956 and declared that the church would be built by faith. Reverend James E. Harris assumed leadership of the church in 1979. As a result of their combined leadership and vision the church rose from its humble beginnings in a schoolhouse with a congregation of fewer than 50 members to a multi-acre facility that accommodates the 600 members that attend the church today.

Reverend James E. Harris continues to uphold the vision and mission set by Reverend John Arthur Dixon of adhering to Biblical principles while improving the lives of people in the community. Reverend James E. Harris demonstrated his leadership through community, civic, and religious involvement by accepting my request to represent the 13th congressional district at the White House Conference on Aging in December of 2005.

Through faith in God and commitment to service, church ministries expanded under

Reverend James E. Harris to include: Family Counseling and a Youth Christian Basketball League to reach the youth of the Clayton County community. After the most devastating natural disaster in the history of the United States struck in 2005, Dixon Grove Baptist Church responded to the needs of evacuees by providing assistance through its Community Food and Clothing Co-operative.

Please join me in honoring Dixon Grove Baptist Church and Reverend James E. Harris for their commitment to Jesus Christ's example of faith and giving. It is my sincere hope that the ministry and work of Dixon Grove Baptist Church prospers for another 50 years.

**CAPUANO PROVIDES LEADERSHIP
ON DARFUR**

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, no crisis confronting the world is as grave as that in Darfur, Sudan, where genocide is a tragic fact. America's failure to act more vigorously in this regard is a grave error. It is true that there are other nations, including many in Africa—which bear some of the blame. But we must not let the inaction of others become a justification for our own failure to take steps that we know to be morally necessary to save lives. My colleague from Massachusetts, (Mr. CAPUANO), on his return from a trip to Darfur led by the gentlewoman from California, the Democratic Leader, wrote a forceful article in the Boston Herald for March 7th making the case for much firmer action by the U.S. and others in Darfur.

Mr. Speaker, given the moral imperative of action, I hope all of our colleagues will agree with the gentleman from Massachusetts who writes that "I urge the President to fully support the U.N. peacekeeping mission and put the full weight of the U.S. military behind it. More troops, with a mandate to protect civilians, are desperately needed. . . . If the U.N. cannot meet this timetable, we must strengthen the AU force and provide additional civilian support."

Mr. Speaker, at a time when people compete with each other to stress the importance of the moral element in politics, our colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) has struck a clear note on one of the overriding moral issues of our time, and I join him in calling on the President and the rest of us to take prompt action.

U.S. MUST WORK TO HALT DARFUR GENOCIDE
(By Michael Capuano)

We look back on the Holocaust and wonder how the world stood by while 6 million Jews were slaughtered. Never again, we pledged. Yet in 1994, 1 million Rwandans were massacred. Afterward, we declared it genocide and pledged never again. Many leaders later expressed deep regret over our inaction.

In 2003, our attention was drawn to Darfur, Sudan, where innocent civilians were being murdered, enslaved, raped and driven from their homes. We declared it genocide, but failed to act, again.

Since 2003, more than 400,000 people have been murdered in Darfur and 2 million more displaced. I just returned from Sudan, on a trip led by House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi.

In Al Fashir, Darfur, we met with relief workers, traveled to Internally Displaced Persons camps and spoke with African Union (AU) personnel. This reinforced my conviction that genocide is still occurring, the government of Sudan is responsible and not enough is being done.

We also met with Sudanese government officials who claimed the suffering in Darfur was exaggerated. There were skirmishes over water and grazing rights, they said, but nothing to concern outsiders. They admitted funding the Janjaweed, the militias who attack civilians, yet vehemently denied genocide is occurring. Everyone else we spoke with, AU personnel and relief workers, recognize they are witnessing genocide.

There are 7,700 AU personnel on the ground. However, they don't have a mandate to protect civilians and lack sufficient resources. Without a drastic troop increase and outside logistical assistance, the AU will continue struggling. AU officials told us they need more support and are planning for the involvement of a United Nations force. But the government of Sudan, the perpetrators of the genocide, rejects U.N. involvement.

I have persistently called for the protection of civilians and an end to the violence. Attempts to address this crisis legislatively have faced resistance. I have tried to introduce amendments to a State Department bill and a Foreign Operations bill, authorizing the president to use all necessary means to stop the genocide. These amendments were blocked.

President Bush and U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan recently discussed a U.N. peacekeeping force for Darfur. The president has publicly called for the doubling of peacekeepers. I urge the president to fully support a U.N. peacekeeping mission and put the full weight of the U.S. military behind it. More troops, with a mandate to protect civilians, are desperately needed and must arrive in the next couple of months. If the U.N. cannot meet this timetable, we must strengthen the AU force and provide additional civilian support.

President Bush recently said America was first to recognize the genocide in Darfur. He said, "Our country was the first country to call what was taking place a genocide, which matters—words matter."

Actions matter more. It's time to back our words up with action. Time is running out.

HONORING JOHN ROSS, DR. JENNIFER STEWART-WRIGHT, AND RAY BELL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor today to acknowledge the achievements of Tennesseans who have made a tremendous contribution to our community.

Savannah resident John Ross has committed a great deal of energy to the conservation of our state's wildlife and natural resources. In recognition of this work, he has been named 2004 Land Conservationist of the Year. John's passionate advocacy work and his effort to educate others on this issue are a great example to the community, and I want to thank him for his involvement.

Dr. Jennifer Stewart-Wright of Fairview was honored by the Harpeth River Watershed with the River Steward Award for her active work

on multiple restoration projects and her efforts as a professor at Tennessee State University. Dr. Stewart-Wright has made this a family affair with the assistance of her children, Selah and Jesse, who share their mom's passion for revitalizing and protecting our waterways.

Mr. Ray Bell of Franklin has been awarded the Lane W. Adams Quality of Life Award for his years of service to helping those diagnosed with cancer. A cancer survivor himself, Ray has dedicated countless hours not only to cancer patients but to their families as well. Ray's compassion and commitment are incredibly inspiring and a blessing for those facing this disease. We all thank him for his work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring, thanking and congratulating these outstanding Tennesseans for making a difference in their communities.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER'S CELEBRATING 20 YEARS CREATING SUCCESSFUL WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES 1986-2006 CELEBRATING THE PAST CHALLENGING THE FUTURE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the Women's Business Development Center (WBDC) is a nationally recognized nonprofit women's business assistance organization, devoted to providing services and programs that support and accelerate women's business ownership and strengthen the impact of women on the economy.

The year 2006 marks the beginning of the third decade of the WBDC's successful commitment to meeting the needs of women entrepreneurs for greater opportunities in business ownership. Founded in 1986 by S. Carol Dougal and Hedy M. Ratner, more than 50,000 women in Illinois have benefited from its programs and services including counseling, entrepreneurial training, child care business development, strengthening of emerging businesses, Latina Initiative providing business development programs in Spanish in economically disadvantaged communities, certification and business opportunities for women's business enterprises and financial assistance and loan packaging.

The WBDC has worked for 20 years to economically empower women and their families, striving to influence the larger political and economic environment in a way that encourages and supports women's economic empowerment and minority business development.

The WBDC has affected the national women's business landscape helping to establish women's business assistance centers in six states. Now there are over 10.6 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., employing over 19.1 million workers, and over 350,000 of those businesses are in Illinois. Minority-owned businesses are growing faster than all firms, and 1 in 5 women-owned firms in the U.S. is owned by a woman of color. Women-owned businesses nationally generate over \$2.46 trillion in sales.

In 2006 the Women's Business Development Center celebrates its 20th anniversary.