

Though we developed this bill in a highly collaborative and deliberative manner, I do not want to suggest that it is a "perfect" solution. Thus, I remain open to suggestions for amending the language to improve its efficacy or rectify any unintended consequences.

As I have said previously, "The bottom line is this: there should be no question that the U.S. patent system produces high quality patents. Since questions have been raised about whether this is the case, the responsibility of Congress is to take a close look at the functioning of the patent system." High patent quality is essential to continued innovation. Litigation abuses, especially those which thrive on low quality patents, impede the promotion of the progress of science and the useful arts. Thus, we must act quickly during the 109th Congress to maintain the integrity of the patent system.

HONORING GREENVILLE'S FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN POLICE OFFICER, WILLIE CARSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an African American pioneer, Willie Carson, Greenville's first African-American police officer. I submit the following article by Bill Johnson of the Delta Democrat Times.

GREENVILLE—ANOTHER DELTA PIONEER HAS PASSED

Willie Carson, the first African-American police officer in Greenville, died Friday evening. He was 86 years old.

Carson forged the way for other black law enforcement officers to follow in the early 1950s, working as a beat officer on Nelson Street.

"Those were some really rough days back then," said his wife of 20 years, Delilah Carson. She recalled some of the many stories told by her husband of his early experiences in uniform from their Fairview Extended home.

"At that particular time, a lot of blacks were killing each other on Nelson. Back then, it was not so much with guns but knives and their fists," she said. "It was a real war zone out there at the time."

"C.A. Hollinsworth was the chief at that time. And he knew that changes were coming and a new day was ahead," she reflected.

"Winchester Davis was very instrumental in helping Willie get on the force. Willie played guitar for Davis' band, and they traveled a lot. He knew Willie had a family with children and needed a good job with benefits, and made a way for him."

Carson took his oath to uphold the law, and he made sure that everyone on his beat abided by the law.

He was smooth and quiet in manner but when necessary made a firm stand.

"A lot of people have come up to him over the years and thanked him for changing their lives," Carson said. "If need be, he could get down and dirty right along with them. And sometimes it was necessary."

While rumors abounded about the reasons Carson was given the Nelson Street beat, she was told by Willie that it was a matter of support.

"Hollinsworth knew that if anything went down on the Nelson Street beat, someone would speak up for Willie and give support

for him. But remember, this was the early '50s still, and not many whites were going to go against another white person's word if they were arrested by a colored officer. So it was the best choice for the times," Carson said.

Willie Carson was also really good friends with former police chief and mayor, William Burnley. They spent a lot of time together and even called each other brother.

"They had a very unique relationship," Delilah recalled.

Joe Tinsley, a long-time Nelson Street business owner, also recalled Carson's tenure on the beat. "He was a true pioneer in police work, being a black man back in those days," Tinsley said from his barber shop on the corner of Nelson and Edison. "And boy what a heck of a guitar player."

Tinsley recalled Carson as a hard-working man who always had several jobs along with playing his guitar for a variety of bands, including Ike Turner, Winchester Davis, Big Joe, and others.

"He had a rocky road those early years, with the name calling and all. But he broke through the ice and opened the door for all black law enforcement officers to follow," Tinsley said. "And as time went on, Carson was very much respected. They wouldn't raise any hell or cuss around Officer Carson. It was tough on him, but he was the right man for the job and he made it work."

Carson is remembered by his family as a good husband, father and provider who loved his family and children; a man who believed in being in line with the law.

He was the type of fellow who was known for a good joke and appreciated a better one. He was the go-to guy during the boycotts at Mississippi Valley State College in 1969, where he served as chief of campus police, telling his men, "We are here to protect these students and the faculty. And that's what I expect you to do."

There were no major injuries on his watch, even when meeting face to face and at odds with members of the Black Panthers organization.

Carson was also the first black housing inspector in Greenville, and served as the grand marshal of the 2003 Christmas Parade.

In later years, Carson served with the Washington County Sheriffs Department from 1989 until his retirement in 2000.

He was never a bitter man and was considered rather jolly and outgoing.

"He tried to find the best in even a bad situation," Delilah said, adding that he would often tell his children, "Sometimes you can't get around a problem, but you can always make good choices."

Officer Willie Carson's career and faithful service to the community is a testament to his character. Carson's first probably will not be noted in history books, but it is his service and men and women of similar character that has paved the way for other outstanding African Americans to outfit our public services. It is with great honor, I recognize Officer Willie Carson, a true pioneer.

A TRIBUTE TO FLOR MARINA PRIETO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Flor Marina Prieto and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this outstanding member of the community.

Flor Marina Prieto was born in Bogota, Colombia, into a typical middle class Colombian family. Ms. Prieto's father was Captain of the National Police and her mother worked, mainly at home, as an art decorator making very beautiful artificial and natural flower arrangements. Ms. Prieto's mother chose Flor Marina's name because of her love for flowers and her father's passion for the sea. Ms. Prieto's was comprised of school and home surrounded with plenty of love.

Ms. Prieto graduated as a secretary in Bogota, Colombia and soon after came to the United States. As a hobby, she attended ballet classes and had the opportunity to perform as an amateur ballerina. Soon after taking her marriage vows, Ms. Prieto's had her best treasure, her lovely daughter Jacqueline.

Ms. Prieto foresaw the importance and impact of computers in education. In order to learn about this and to earn some money so that she could pay for her college career, she worked as representative of a Colombian Computer Company in the United States. She traveled several times to Europe searching for specialized software to be sold in South America.

Later, she created her own small company M&B Computer Export because at the time it was a good business to sell computers and peripherals outside the United States. Several years later, she decided she was ready to start college to study Psychology. Ms. Prieto studied at St. John's University and graduated in May of 1996 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Ms. Prieto was so enthralled with this field that she decided to continue her studies in graduate school. She studied at St. John's University as well for a graduate degree in Bilingual School Counseling. Ms. Prieto graduated in June of 2000 with a Master of Science in Education. In addition, upon graduation, she was awarded with honors, the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence.

Ms. Prieto is currently working as a Bilingual Counselor at Eastwood School, P.S. 95. She is very pleased and fulfilled with her role as a counselor. She is very happy to work with children. Ms. Prieto feels her job is very rewarding because she is able to witness how a child's life can change or improve with her help. It is very satisfying to know that one can make a difference in a child's life. Ms. Prieto's main objective was to graduate as a counselor and then use this knowledge to help educate special children. This dream is now a beautiful reality.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this body, in recognition of her life and efforts, should pay tribute to Ms. Flor Marina Prieto.

RECOGNIZING MASTER SAM HYATT AS BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION KIDS' CAUCUS ESSAY FINALIST

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise before you today to recognize a sixth grade boy in the Second Congressional District of Maryland, Master Sam Hyatt. He was named as a finalist in the Box Tops for Education Kids' Caucus Essay contest. Sam

wrote an essay for the General Mills sponsored organization on parental involvement in schools. His school, Baltimore Hebrew Congregation Day School in Lutherville, MD, was awarded a grant of one thousand dollars because of his achievement.

By using the topic provided, Sam carefully crafted an essay to explain how he would improve parental involvement in schools if he were principal for a day. He recommends parents volunteer their time by speaking to the students about their area of expertise. For example, he mentions how someone in the health profession came to the school and taught the students a lesson in that subject. He also suggests parents come into the classroom to relate their personal experiences to whatever subject is being taught that day.

Sam's essay is extremely motivational. It proves that school-aged children are interested in their families, and would like more opportunities to learn from them. He suggests teachers assign activities that involve parents, making learning fun for both the student and the parent. Sam provides an example of the previous year when he was given an assignment to learn about rocks. He was only able to find a small variety of rocks in his neighborhood so, as a result, his parents needed to take him to other locations to complete the task. I believe that education is one of the most important gifts we can give our children and it must begin in the home.

It is critical to arm our children with the best skills possible to ensure their success in life. They acquire these skills through practice both in the home and at school. It is very important to keep the lines of communication open between parents and school officials. Sam offers an idea of "Principal Coffees" where parents and administrators are given the opportunity to discuss what is happening in the school. He also recommends administrator and parent meetings via chat room discussions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to recognize the achievement of essay winner Master Sam Hyatt. He should be commended for his outstanding efforts.

IN HONOR OF THE GREGORY FAMILY AS THEY RECEIVE THE TREE OF LIFE AWARD

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Gregory Family as they receive the Tree of Life humanitarian award on April 30th, 2006 from the Jewish National Fund.

The Jewish National Fund has bestowed its prestigious Tree of Life award annually since 1981. Recipients of this honor are chosen on the basis of outstanding community involvement, professional leadership and humanitarian service.

The Tree of Life award was named to symbolize the Jewish National Fund's efforts to reclaim and develop the land of Israel from barren and uninhabitable land into a land of lush green forests and fields, productive farmlands and varied tourism and recreation facilities.

Members of the Gregory Family receiving the award include the late Ted Gregory, his wife Matula and their children and spouses,

Tom and Pam; Dean and Hedy; Evan and Terry; and Vickie. This talented and generous family is behind one of Cincinnati's most notable treasures, The Montgomery Inn Restaurants. These award-winning restaurants are known not only in our own region, but across the nation.

Ted Gregory and his wife Matula worked hard to build their business and instill a strong work ethic and sense of charity in their children. Ted often said, "Give until it hurts, then give a little more." This belief, combined with a strong work ethic, is no doubt the recipe to the Gregory Family's success.

As the Gregory's success has steadily grown over the years, so too has their mission to give back to others. Some of their beneficiaries include the Bob Hope House, The Free Store Food Bank, The Down Syndrome Association, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, One Way Farm and countless others.

The family also established the Montgomery Inn Invitational, which has raised more than \$500,000. These funds have benefited the Jewish Federation, the Uriah P. Levy Jewish Chapel at the U.S. Naval Academy, the United Negro College Fund, the Billy Barty Foundation, and scholarships benefiting many area youth.

Today, Ted and Matula's children continue to carry on the family's charitable legacy. The four Gregory children graduated from Sycamore High School, where they recently endowed a state-of-the-art fitness center bearing the name of their parents.

The Gregory Family will donate the proceeds from this year's Tree of Life dinner to the Jewish National Fund Therapeutic Riding Consortium Endowment for Israel.

In addition to four children, Ted and Matula have eight grandchildren.

All of us in the Cincinnati area congratulate the Gregory Family on receiving the Tree of Life humanitarian award.

A TRIBUTE TO BURNETTA ROSE LEE GRAVES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Burnetta Rose Lee Graves, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn community. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her accomplishments.

Burnetta is a native of Brooklyn, New York and the daughter of Helena and the late Abel Lee Graves both of Wilmington, N.C. She attended the public schools in Brooklyn, N.Y. for her formative education and graduated from George W. Wingate H.S. After attending Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan, she embarked on an entrepreneurial career as a clothing designer for 13 years.

Burnetta is an active member of both the Brooklyn and Queens communities; her political affiliations include: Women's Caucus for Congressman EDOLPHUS "Ed" TOWNS; Guy R. Brewer United Democratic Club of St. Albans, N.Y.; and the Thomas Jefferson Democratic Club of Kings County Inc. Additionally, while working for Philip Morris USA, the company aided Burnetta's community affiliation in various areas of New York.

Burnetta has always been an active member of her church, St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Harlem USA. While there she was president of the Young Adult Club for 4 years and served as a Trustee for 3 years. In 1997, she was drawn to St. Paul Community Baptist Church in East New, Brooklyn, N.Y. because of the interactive relationship that the church has with the community. As a member of the Baby Dedication Ministry and various activities of the church, she has numerous opportunities to reach out to the community at large.

Working for the Rochdale Village Community Center in Jamaica, N.Y. enables Burnetta to teach children ages 5–12 the art of quilt making. To this day the quilts are still displayed in the front entrance of the center.

In 2002 she joined the staff of Congressman ED TOWNS as a Special Assistant and Ecumenical Liaison. In that role she deals with all faith-based organizations in the 10th Congressional District of Brooklyn, N.Y. She also assists constituents in housing concerns and other issues. Burnetta's current project is "Adopt A School" working with Health-based organizations to insure better health care standards for the community.

Mr. Speaker, Burnetta Rose Lee Graves' selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING DANIEL FIGUEROA FOR HIS RETIREMENT AFTER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Daniel Figueroa, who has set an example to all, through community involvement, selfless dedication and tireless compassion for the community.

To his community he is known as a pioneer, and as someone who never forgot his roots, to his coworkers he is known for his diligence and exemplary work ethic. Detective Sergeant Daniel Figueroa is not only an outstanding member of the department but also an outstanding member of his community.

Daniel Figueroa has been a member of the Buffalo Police Department for 35 years. It is also important to note that officer Figueroa was one of the first Hispanic-Latino officers in Buffalo, NY.

Aside from his duty in law enforcement he also served as an Army paratrooper during the Vietnam War.

Officer Figueroa has also been recognized for his service working undercover for the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

Stories and memories of his work while in the department have changed lives and inspired others. A prime example of officer Figueroa's dedicated service occurred in 1970 when on patrol at the Erie Basin Marina; he noticed a crowd of people and saw a man in the water. Without hesitation, he jumped in to rescue the drowning man. He learned later that the man he had rescued was trying to commit suicide, eventually the man contacted officer Figueroa to thank him.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and gratitude that I stand here today to recognize