

Force General. For his heroic act in saving the General's life, Bill was awarded the medal for extraordinary achievement in June 1945, by Brigadier General M.C. Woodley, Commanding General of the 8th Air Force's 66th Fighter Wing. During his entire service in England, Bill was awarded the Air Medal and six Oak Leaf Clusters. The Air Medal is awarded for an act of meritorious service in aerial combat. An Oak Leaf Cluster is awarded as an addition to the Air Medal and each Cluster represents an additional act of meritorious service.

I commend Captain Staggs and the many men and women of the "greatest generation" for stepping up when the people of the world needed them the most. One only wonders how the world would be today if it wasn't for those brave souls.

A TRIBUTE TO JEFF STEINBERG
ON HIS RECEIPT OF THE THOMAS
JEFFERSON AWARD FOR HIS
WORK ON SOJOURNS TO THE
PAST

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jeff Steinberg, who was recently awarded the Thomas Jefferson Award for creating Sojourns to the Past. Mr. Steinberg is a resident of Millbrae, California, which is in my Congressional District.

Mr. Steinberg has lived and worked around the Bay Area his entire life. He began his community involvement as a history teacher at Capuchino High School in San Bruno, California and has worked to make our community a better place for over a decade as an educator. In 1999, Jeff created the Sojourns to the Past as an educational tool to teach high school students about American history in the South and to promote tolerance and human rights. Since its inception, over 3000 students have participated.

Sojourns to the Past promotes a living history of the Civil Rights movement. The curriculum contains books, documentaries, audio recordings, and on-site experiences. Veterans of the movement, like my friend and colleague Congressman JOHN LEWIS, meet with the students to teach lessons of tolerance, non-violence and personal courage. The students visit eight cities in the South, starting with Atlanta and ending in Memphis. They tour landmarks of the Civil Rights era and can see firsthand the destructive effects of racism, sexism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, Sojourns to the Past has inspired thousands of students. When they return from their trip the students have a better understanding of American history and the struggle for civil rights. I have received hundreds of letters from students who share their experience with me and I know that these students return from the trip with a unique appreciation for the struggle faced by the pioneers of the civil rights movement.

Mr. Speaker, Sojourns to the Past is a truly stimulating program and Jeff Steinberg is an extraordinary person who has worked tirelessly for his students and our community. Students who participate in this program be-

come more engaged civically and are more likely to vote. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this wonderful recognition.

IN HONOR OF CALVIN D. WEST

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and someone who has served the people of Newark and my state of New Jersey nearly his entire life—Mr. Calvin D. West.

Calvin has served our state since he returned home from his time in the military more than fifty years ago. Elected to the Newark City Council in 1966, Calvin was the first African-American at-large-councilman in the city of Newark's history. His leadership and advocacy on behalf of the people of Newark and our state has been remarkable, and his more than fifty years of public service serves as an example for us all.

A true champion of the civil rights movement, Calvin helped Newark through the 1967 civil disobediences. He has continued to play a crucial role in the rebuilding of Newark and in bringing together the diverse communities that make the city so great. He has advised Presidents going back to John F. Kennedy, a long succession of New Jersey governors, including his service as Executive Director of the Governor's North Jersey Office for the past five years. Throughout his time in public service he has been a dedicated and tireless advocate for children and those in need.

On a personal level, Calvin's generosity and kindness has touched the lives of so many in Newark and across New Jersey. His work with the Boys & Girls Club of Newark, the Newark Preschools Council and other educational institutions and nonprofit organizations in the community has given countless young people the opportunity to be mentored by someone who understands their struggles.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Calvin my friend and I wish him the very best as we celebrate his fifty years of public service. The people of Newark and our state can only hope that we can continue to benefit from his service, his expertise and his good will for many years to come.

527 REFORM ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in 2002, after six years of debate, Congress passed the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act, better known as the McCain-Feingold bill.

Supporters of the bill claimed it would rectify the perception that there is too much money in politics, and that tightening reporting requirements would create full transparency in donor information.

But while their intentions were noble, 4 years later politics is more awash in money

than ever before, only thanks to McCain-Feingold, we now know less about where it's coming from.

According to the bill's proponents, the crown jewel of McCain-Feingold was a ban on large, unregulated contributions to political parties, known as "soft money."

In theory, this prohibition was supposed to prevent billionaires from donating enormous and largely unreported sums of cash to influence federal elections. In reality, it spawned a new, unaccountable funnel for millionaire money—527s.

Although 527s can run political ads, mobilize voters, donate to Federal campaigns through an affiliated PAC, and perform virtually every other function of a political party, 527s—unlike candidate campaigns, political parties, and political action committees—are not regulated by the Federal Elections Commission. Nor are 527s accountable to voters.

527s have carried their message into the homes of millions of Americans without having to adhere to the numerous regulations governing political parties and campaigns.

The bill before us today—the 527 Reform Act—will close this loophole in McCain-Feingold, preventing 527s from having an unfair financial advantage over political parties and individual candidates.

At bottom, this is simply a matter of fairness: everyone who seeks to influence a federal election should be playing by the same rules.

Mr. Speaker, when we passed the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act, the other side said millionaires were playing too big of a role in federal elections.

If they truly believe that, I challenge them to support this legislation and restore fairness to campaign finance laws.

CONGRATULATING KELLY NICOLE
BRYANT

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize and congratulate Miss Kelly Nicole Bryant for being selected to represent the State of North Carolina in the 2006 National Cherry Blossom Festival. Kelly has strong ties to North Carolina's Fifth District, as she is the granddaughter of Juanita Bryant and the late Frank Bryant of Boonville.

Kelly has already represented our state at the festival's traditional Japanese lantern lighting ceremony. She has attended several embassy parties and has toured the White House and Kennedy Center.

Tonight, I am looking forward to meeting Kelly at the National Cherry Blossom Congressional Reception. I wish her well for the remainder of her stay in Washington. On Saturday she will represent North Carolina in the National Cherry Blossom Parade.

Kelly is a junior at East Carolina University, where she is majoring in Political Science and minoring in history. She is on the Dean's List and is a Member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Kelly has made a positive difference in her community by volunteering for the Exploris Museum, Habitat for Humanity, Relay for Life and the Race for the Cure.