

HONORING THE TOWN OF BURLINGTON, CT ON ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Town of Burlington, Connecticut, on the occasion of its bicentennial.

The Town of Burlington emerged from its incorporation in 1806 as a dynamic community. Although the young town relied heavily on agriculture through its small farms, it was also home to several mills and factories, producing goods ranging from muskets to mantel clocks to cider brandy. Today, as many small businesses continue to grow and prosper in Burlington, I would like to commend the many generations of hard-working people who have helped to set such high standards of entrepreneurship and initiative throughout the town's history.

Many outstanding individuals have hailed from Burlington over the past two centuries. Among them were Samuel Monce, inventor of the glass cutter; Colonel Ralph L. Gezelman, who was responsible for organizing the supply shipments for the D-Day invasion; and Herman Humphrey; whose leadership at Amherst College helped transform that school into the fine institution that it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this fine community for its innumerable accomplishments over the course of its first 200 years. As one of the fastest growing towns in Connecticut, Burlington not only has a rich history behind it, but a promising future as well.

TRIBUTE TO ST. MARY'S LAW SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of an institution that prides itself on excellence, distinction and integrity—my alma mater St. Mary's Law School.

Located in San Antonio, Texas, St. Mary's Law School is a community of faith and an independent Catholic institution that instills in its students a commitment to public service, and a profound moral and intellectual obligation to the public that its students will someday serve.

I am proud to say that I graduated from St. Mary's Law School in 1987, and the great education of the law and public service that I received there built the foundation for my career as a Member of Congress.

Recently, St. Mary's Law School dedicated their new Center for Terrorism Law. The St. Mary's Center for Terrorism Law is committed to the study of the legal issues associated with both antiterrorism and counterterrorism, with a particular emphasis on cyberterrorism and information assurance technologies.

Through its exceptional curriculum, the Center for Terrorism Law is dedicated to increasing the professional and public understanding of terrorism law, and the balance between en-

suring global security and protecting the civil liberties of all Americans.

As a Member of the Homeland Security Committee and a St. Mary's alumnus, I am encouraged by their commitment to these complex and crucial issues that are at the foundation of America's national security. The education they are providing their students, and the work they are doing in the field of terrorism law will make America a safer place.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST
IGNACIO RAMIREZ

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of United States Army Specialist Ignacio Ramirez, who was killed on August 9, 2006, in Ramadi, Iraq while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ignacio "Nacho" Ramirez was born in Los Angeles on August 23, 1983. He spent the majority of his youth in Henderson, Nevada. He was involved in athletics throughout his youth, playing youth baseball and high school football. He graduated from Basic High School in 2002, and joined the United States Army shortly after graduation.

Specialist Ramirez was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division of the United States Army based out of Friedberg, Germany. He lost his life when a roadside bomb exploded near his vehicle.

Specialist Ramirez was a hero whose desire to serve his country will forever make an impact on his family, his community and his country. He joined the Army to help the United States fight the Global War on Terror and he will not only be remembered for his sacrifice and willing service, but for the extraordinary person that he was.

Ignacio's warmth and optimism brightened the lives of his family and friends. He is survived by his loving parents, Marina and Robert Vance; and six siblings, Ofelia Espinoza, Sidney Jimenez, Ivan and Jasmine Ramirez, and James and Tia Vance.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of United States Army Specialist Ignacio Ramirez. Specialist Ramirez made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while defending democracy and freedom. He was a true patriot who served the United States of America with valor and courage. I am saddened by his loss and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

TRIBUTE TO VIETNAM WAR VETERAN WILLIAM REES, JR. OF LEVY COUNTY, FL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Rees, Jr. of Williston, Florida, a purple heart Veteran from the Vietnam war.

Mr. Rees was wounded in action in April of 1968 when a mine exploded near his station.

As part of the 3rd Squadron, 11th armored cavalry regiment, Mr. Rees and his fellow soldiers faced the enemy in battle many times throughout that fateful month.

During April, his squadron destroyed seven hundred and twenty-five enemy bunkers and recorded forty-nine vietnamese soldiers killed in action. Additionally, Mr. Rees and his fellow troops confiscated significant weapons caches, numerous documents, utensils, food, and medical supplies.

Veterans of the Vietnam war made tremendous sacrifices in the name of freedom. More than 300,000 brave soldiers were wounded during the war, many of them disabled for life.

This level of sacrifice required a great amount of courage, strength, and devotion to the preservation of the American ideals of democracy and freedom for all. It is by remembering their sacrifices that we can celebrate the end of such a difficult conflict.

Mr. Speaker, veterans like William Rees, Jr. should be recognized for their service to our nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to have presented Mr. Rees with his long overdue purple heart. He should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. BONNIE REESE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of Mrs. Bonnie Reese. I can truly say that Bonnie is a dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizen. I have known Bonnie for many years, and she is one of the most involved citizens I have ever known, especially when it comes to her service to the community. Bonnie has served her community of Jasper County in some political capacity for 35 years, and her overall service to the community is immeasurable. For many years, Bonnie has been a constant fixture in the Jasper County Democratic Party. For her efforts, she will be honored at an event hosted by the Jasper County Democrats on Friday, September 8, 2006, at the American Legion Post #406 in Wheatfield, Indiana.

Bonnie Reese began her career with the Jasper County Democratic Party in 1971, at which time she served as the Party's Secretary. After serving 4 years in that position with unwavering professionalism and dedication, Bonnie was named to the position of Vice Chair. For over 30 years, Bonnie has maintained this post, and she has done so with complete loyalty to the Democratic Party and to the people of her community. When called upon to address the needs of the community, Bonnie has always been a willing servant. Because of her commitment and care for the citizens of Jasper County, Bonnie was also elected First District Vice Chair in 2004. In addition, she has the distinction of being the first female elected to the Jasper County Council. However, not only was Bonnie the only woman on the Council, but also the sole Democrat. Bonnie's knowledge of the government and her willingness to serve have made her very successful in all of the positions she has held.

Indisputably, Bonnie Reese has been extremely successful throughout her career in public office. However, her efforts to support and contribute to her community have extended beyond her political service. Aside from her public service, Bonnie is also known for her skills as an organist. Many people in the community know her from her service to her church, the Tefft United Methodist Church, where she serves not only as the church's organist, but also as its choir director.

When not engaged within the community, Bonnie spends her spare time with those closest to her, her family. A loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Bonnie's commitment to her community is surpassed only by her love for her family. Bonnie has been married to her husband, Roy, for 48 years. She and Roy, a retiree of U.S. Steel after 40 years of service, have four sons: Daniel, Michael, Richard, and Douglas. Roy and Bonnie are proud grandparents of 14, and they also have one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, Bonnie Reese has given her time and efforts selflessly to the people of Jasper County throughout her years of service. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending her for her lifetime of service and dedication.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF MR. FRED A. CURLS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the achievements of Mr. Fred Curls, a pioneer for civil and political rights, and a resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I am honored to represent. This week, Mr. Curls is to be inducted into the Missouri Walk of Fame during a reception as part of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, an event held to honor the achievements of African-Americans who have made significant contributions to Missouri. He is one of the original Founders of Freedom Incorporated, an African-American political organization which at one time could generate nearly 70,000 votes. Freedom Inc. was and has been very influential in delivering votes for a candidate or a cause.

The organization has been at the forefront in serving as a catalyst for change in civil rights, public accommodations, and the election of candidates at all levels of government. Its office has been visited by City Councilpersons, Mayors, Governors, Congresspersons, Senators, and persons with Presidential aspirations. For nearly forty-five years, Mr. Curls has dedicated his life to the Greater Kansas City community, promoting and improving political empowerment and civil rights of people of color. His son, State Senator Phil B. Curls, Sr. was the President of Freedom Inc. when I was Chairman. It was a period when Freedom Inc. was recognized as one of the most potent political organizations in the United States and brought about the election of the first African-American Congressman from the Fifth District of Missouri, U.S. Representative Alan Wheat.

Since the mid-1950's, Mr. Curls has been involved in real estate sales and appraisals,

most notably in the African American community of Kansas City. He fought against "restrictive covenants" whereby residential homes could not be sold in certain areas to minorities. He was part of a class action lawsuit which resulted in the United States Supreme Court outlawing such covenants.

In all of his activities, he demonstrates his dedication and commitment to the greater good of others. He is actively involved with his high school graduating class, the "Class of 1937," which has been very close to this day. They have started the Lincoln High Alumni Association which gives scholarships to deserving young adults to go to college. He was recently honored by Jackson County, Missouri as one of its "Legacy Awardees" for its 175th anniversary as a political subdivision.

Throughout his life, he has believed in the saying "make it happen." He has put his principles to practice, and the effects of his efforts have "made it happen" throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area.

For those reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and privilege to recognize Mr. Fred Curls at the Missouri Walk of Fame reception, hosted by myself and fellow Missourian, U.S. Representative William Lacy Clay of St. Louis.

Mr. Speaker, just as this body has honored Dr. Martin Luther King as an outspoken pioneer and one of the historians of the civil rights struggle, and has honored Buck O'Neill as one of the historians for those who toiled in the Negro Leagues rather than the Major Leagues, we should now give honor to Fred Curls as one of the historians of Kansas City's African-American political struggle. He was active in promoting equality, elevating African-Americans from a second class citizenship to a first class citizenship to be recognized by all. Whatever we, as African-Americans, may attain in the political arena, Fred Curls, and those who labored to act on our behalf as political pioneers, have helped to change the course of history. In the year that this 109th Congress has approved the extension of the Voting Rights Act, it is with great pride that we honor one of our active, long-time heroes with this Missouri Walk of Fame. Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Fred Curls and his endless commitment to serving the residents of the State of Missouri. He is a true role model not just to the African-American community in Missouri, but to the entire community at large.

IN HONOR OF THE CAREER OF
COACH EDDIE JACKSON

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Coach Eddie Jackson. Coach Jackson has been a guiding light to the youth of Arkansas and Texas for more than 35 years. On July 21st he was honored with an induction into the Arkansas High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

After graduating from Fairview High School in 1963, Coach Jackson went on to receive a BSE from Southern Arkansas University and an MSE from Henderson State University. Within months of graduating college he joined the Prescott High School football and track

staffs, winning district championships in his first year. In 1973, his first year as a head football coach, Coach Jackson won the first of three state championships at Prescott. His last state championship came in 1995, his final year as head coach.

Track and field has always held a special place in Coach Jackson's heart. During his distinguished career, he has amassed numerous titles and honors. While at Prescott, Coach Jackson won 15 district titles, was state runner-up twice and won an impressive three state championships. He has also served as the state track meet director twice and was an official at the Southeastern Conference Outdoor Championships.

After leaving Prescott, Coach Jackson went on to coach one season at Hampton before moving to Texarkana and coaching one year at Texas High and two at Liberty-Eylau. In 2002, Coach Jackson became middle school athletic coordinator in Hooks, Texas while also coaching middle school football and track.

Since Prescott is my hometown, I had the privilege to see first-hand the lives this man touched not, only in sports but in the community as well. On July 21st Coach Jackson joined 10 other outstanding coaches to be inducted into the Arkansas High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

I am so pleased to have the opportunity to properly recognize Coach Eddie Jackson before the United States Congress for his outstanding contributions to the communities and youth he has touched in Arkansas and Texas. Please join me in congratulating Coach Jackson on his induction into the Arkansas High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF
THE BESLAN MASSACRE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sympathy over the terrible tragedy that took place just over two years ago in the southern Russian city of Beslan. This nightmare began on September 1, 2004, the first day of school when over 1000 students, parents, and teachers were forced by terrorists at gunpoint into a gymnasium rigged with explosives. These young students and others were held hostage for three days without access to food or water while the sick and wounded were denied access to medical treatment. In the end, nearly 400 people lost their lives, including 186 children, and over 700 people were wounded in the savage and senseless acts of violence that occurred in Beslan.

Words alone cannot adequately convey the heartache and sorrow over this barbaric act of terrorism. Having an entire Russian school taken hostage by terrorists was shocking. As the world watched, hoping against hope that this would somehow be resolved peacefully, it was horrible to learn on September 3rd that there had been massive loss of innocent lives in the early afternoon of that day.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to grieve for those children and their families and join with other Americans in solidarity with the Russian people on this somber second anniversary of the Beslan massacre.