

PAYING TRIBUTE TO AMBER
CORNELIUS DRABANT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Amber Cornelius Drabant for her long and distinguished service to the Clark County School District.

Amber was educated in the Clark County School District where she attended Twin Lakes Elementary School, R.O. Gibson Junior High School and graduated from Western High School. In 1976, Mrs. Drabant returned to Western High School to teach courses in Biology, Botany, Welding, and Environmental Horticulture. In 1993 Mrs. Drabant began teaching Environmental Horticulture at the Area Technical Trade Center. During her tenure at the Trade Center, Amber sought to provide her students with the opportunities to participate in various internships where they gain real-world experiences which prepare them for positions in the horticulture industry and post-secondary school education.

Amber has received both state and local recognition for her many years as a skilled educator. In 1979, she was named as Nevada's Vocational Teacher of the Year and in 1993-94 and 1995-96 Mrs. Drabant was honored as the Kiwanis Teacher of the Year. Finally, as a direct result of Amber's efforts, Area Technical Trade Center and Moapa Valley High School received a \$37,000 grant to establish a hydroponics program.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mrs. Amber Cornelius Drabant. Her many years of dedicated service to the Clark County School District are to be commended and I wish her the best of luck in her retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS MR. STEVE
KANDRA

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, today, the great State of Oregon turns 148 years old. Tomorrow will mark an occasion nearly as momentous when a highly-respected community leader in Oregon, Mr. Steve Kandra, steps down as the president of the Klamath Water Users Association (KWUA). I would like to draw my colleagues' attention to the numerous contributions Steve has made to his community and his industry, for without them hundreds of farmers and ranchers in southern Oregon and northern California would have found the past two years a much greater challenge.

As many of us know, most folks would probably be surprised at what life as president of an organization is really like. Often, one is drafted into the position by colleagues to pick up heavy loads, to donate countless hours of time away from family and business, and to forge common ground on difficult issues. Being the president of KWUA is a particularly tough job; Steve heeded the call of his fellow farmers and ranchers for two full terms. As Steve's infectious sense of humor would lead

him to say, "If you don't get it right the first time, try, try again."

His fellow members at KWUA would tell you that they pleaded with him to lead the association because he is extremely smart, dedicated, experienced, respected, and sincere. That's an impressive combination of personal qualities, and they sum Steve Kandra up well.

The farmers and ranchers of the Klamath Basin are no strangers to serious challenges. When the federal government unjustly shut off their water from the Klamath Project in 2001, over 1,000 farming and ranching families' livelihoods, and the community that depends on their well-being, faced disaster. The climb back for the agriculture community is by no means complete and has demanded smart and dedicated leadership. Steve Kandra provided just that. Steve spent countless hours attending meetings and hearings, leading tours of the Klamath Basin, granting interviews, and delivering compelling presentations. His duties as president often took precedence over family affairs and the demands of farming. Anyone who knows Steve knows he is a hands-on guy who will not be deterred when the tough issues require significant personal involvement, a substantial knowledge base, and a broad range of relationships.

The "Just Say No" campaign clearly did not resonate with Steve. He is also a past president of Tulelake Rotary, Klamath County Farm Bureau, Oregon Hay & Forage Association, Klamath Basin Hay Growers, Klamath County Chamber of Commerce, and Klamath Irrigation District. Steve is a board member of Klamath Basin Ecosystem Foundation and Shaw Historical Library Board of Governors, and an elder at Merrill First Presbyterian Church. Lest my colleagues think that is all Steve has managed to occupy his time with, amazingly there's more. He has also been a board member of the Klamath County Economic Development Association, Upper Klamath Basin Working Group, Klamath Irrigation District, and Oregon Water Resources Congress, just to name a few volunteer activities. I suppose the saying is true: If you need something done, ask a busy man.

While Steve and his lovely wife, Nancy, will both remain very engaged in the struggle to provide stability for agriculture in the Klamath Basin, I suspect that Nancy will be popping a bottle of champagne tomorrow night in celebration of Steve's retirement as president of KWUA. Together they have successfully navigated a long and winding road, and a celebration of achievement is certainly in order.

Madam Speaker and my fellow House members, please join me in congratulating Steve Kandra, an outstanding community leader and family man who I am proud to call my friend.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLOR BROWN

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Willor Brown of Ypsilanti, Michigan. This April, Mr. Brown along with the other members of the renowned Tuskegee Airmen, will be honored with the Congressional

Gold Medal. This great recognition comes after the Tuskegee Airmen overcame discrimination, prejudice and institutional segregation bring about the full integration of the Armed Forces.

During World War II Mr. Brown served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. As a fighter pilot, his mission was to ensure the safety of American bombers as they came back to base from missions over Germany and Italy. Mr. Brown and the other members of the Tuskegee Airmen performed this job with both bravery and great success, as evidence by the fact that not a single bomber was lost to enemy fire during the Tuskegee Airmen's service. This service was even more remarkable given that fact that they continually faced the humiliation of segregation, even as they excelled beyond the expectations of any unit.

After seeing an article about aviation at Tuskegee, Alabama, Mr. Brown used his skill in math to pass the Army's program tests. He arrived in Alabama in December 1942, in time to have the great honor of meeting Tuskegee University's founder George Washington Carver. Mr. Brown studied at Tuskegee for nearly a year before he had the opportunity to serve overseas in Europe.

Although Willor Brown and the rest of the Tuskegee Airmen served our Nation bravely in combat during World War II, they also helped to bring about the necessary integration of our Armed Forces. The Tuskegee Airmen wore our Nation's uniform without the honor given to other service members. However, with tremendous success, remarkable service and amazing accomplishments, the Tuskegee Airmen shattered the notions of inferiority and opened up the opportunities the following generations of minority service members have had access to. The social injustice and setbacks they faced at home could not stop the Airmen from fulfilling their mission and their service abroad changed the perceptions of their place at home.

The Congressional Gold Medal is a great honor; Mr. Brown along with the other members of the Tuskegee Airmen have certainly earned this distinction. I honor Willor Brown for his bravery in battle; his determination to succeed even with great barriers before him; and for the example he has set not just for African American or minority members, but for all of the men and women who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. I join with a grateful Nation to thank Mr. Brown for his service to this country.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH
BONAVENTURE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Joseph Bonaventure, for his years of dedicated public service to the Las Vegas community.

Judge Bonaventure began his legal career as an attorney in Las Vegas over three decades ago. Joseph then felt that his calling was public service and began a 28-year tenure on the bench. He is known as one of the most colorful judges in the history of Southern Nevada and easily the most well known judge

the District Court bench has seen. Joseph has presided over many of the region's most high-profile trials. From 1998 until 2001 he oversaw at least 10 high profile cases including the infamous case of Rick Tabish, Sandy Murphy, Margaret Rudin, Timmy "T.J." Weber, and Jeremy Strohmeier. He has also presided over the murder trial of Tony Amati who was once on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted List. His contributions to the jurisprudence and law and order have greatly enhanced the lives of countless citizens of Southern Nevada.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Judge Joseph Bonaventure. His long and distinguished career on the District Court is admirable and his expertise will be greatly missed. I wish him the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN HAAS

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. HASTERT. Madam Speaker I would like to mark Karen L. Haas' last day as Clerk of the House with a word of personal thanks.

When I asked Karen to be Clerk in the fall of 2005 she wasn't sure she could do the job or even wanted it. I never doubted her talents and her ability to do the job, nor did anyone who knew her. Luckily for us, she agreed to my request, and the House wisely elected her to the position of Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives.

I knew Karen would bring intelligence and integrity to the position, and she has. She brought her perfectionist work ethics to the job, working the long hours even after the House had adjourned and everyone else had gone home. When there were difficulties to face, Karen did it with a level head, common sense, and the best interest of this institution as her guide.

Karen's love for this institution would permeate in everything she did in office and influenced those having the privilege to work beside her. My only regret is that her tenure was too short.

Before she was named as Clerk of the House, Karen ably served the Speaker's staff as a floor assistant. She made sure the right people were in the Speaker's chair each day and for every debate. She assisted me with our committee assignments and always had a ready answer for any question. Karen was also responsible for my appointments to boards and commissions, and she helped recruit some fine public servants to serve in those positions.

Before working in my office, she worked for my friend and mentor from Illinois, Bob Michel. She had good teachers there, and it was there that she developed the talents that would serve her and this House so well in the future.

I also want to thank Karen's family for sharing her with us. The night that she was elected Clerk, her family sat in the Speaker's gallery as she was sworn in. You could see in their faces how proud they were of their daughter, sister, wife and mother. Mark, her husband, and her children, Amanda and Brett, have sacrificed much in order that the House could benefit from Karen's talents. I want to acknowledge them and thank them as well for sharing with us one of the finest public serv-

ants I have ever known. Thank you, Karen, for a job well done.

HONORING AND PRAISING THE NAACP ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 98TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 44, "Honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 98th anniversary."

Coretta Scott King once said that "struggle is a never-ending process and freedom is never really won—you earn it and win it in every generation." And since 1909, generations of Americans who have fought for racial equality and the expansion of liberty have had a friend and advocate in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

While its name entails that the NAACP seeks to advance the fortunes of African Americans, I believe that its true mission is to advance the goals of all Americans—for when we move closer to becoming a beacon of hope and opportunity for all people, regardless of race or ethnicity, we all reap the benefits.

When the light of social justice is shined in the dark corners where prejudice and bigotry still exist, our nation becomes stronger. When people who had been mistreated and oppressed become empowered to take steps towards the American Dream, our nation becomes stronger. And when we take actions that elevate the things that unite us above those that drive us apart, our nation becomes stronger.

And that is what the NAACP is all about—strengthening our nation by reminding us that while we have come a long way in our struggle for freedom and equality, we are not yet perfect, and must always remain vigilant in pursuit of a world where all men and women are treated with the respect and dignity that all human beings possess.

I'm proud to be a member of the NAACP. I'm proud to be from the state that the NAACP has called home for so many years. And I'm grateful that the NAACP has provided such strong and talented partners in working for social justice both in Maryland's Fifth Congressional District and throughout our nation as a whole.

I'd like to congratulate the NAACP on 98 years of promoting what is best about America—and I look forward to continuing to work together with NAACP members toward our shared goals of equality and prosperity for all.

I urge all Members to support this important bill.

80TH BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO ROGER "BUCK" HILL

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to call attention to the lifetime of artistic achieve-

ments of tenor saxophonist Roger "Buck" Hill, an outstanding jazz musician from Washington, D.C., who celebrates his 80th birthday this week with a performance at the Smithsonian Jazz Cafe on Friday, February 16, 2007.

Buck Hill was the featured performer at the very first Congressional Black Caucus Jazz Forum and Concert that I hosted back in 1985. He was a first-call artist for me back then, and he continues to be just that, here and around the world.

Buck Hill recently released "Relax", his first recording as a band leader in nearly 15 years. It marks the reemergence of one of America's greatest national treasures onto the international jazz scene.

As he approaches his 80th birthday Hill remains a vital voice on his instrument, with a robust personal sound that reaches back to the horn's early masters like Lester Young, and onward into the glory days of bebop and beyond, recalling John Coltrane.

A lifelong resident of Washington, D.C., Hill first studied music with the same teacher who instructed a young Duke Ellington, and went on to become a member of the house band in the city's world famous Howard Theater. A fixture on the Capital jazz scene for over sixty years, Hill revealed his enormous talent to the world beginning in the late seventies with a series of excellent records for Steeplechase and Muse. Guest appearances on several of fellow D.C. legend Shirley Horn's albums brought him widespread critical and popular notice in the 1990s before he once again returned to his hometown.

Hill's most recent work proves that he's still one of the best tenor men in jazz today. The group, featuring his regular bandmates John Ozment at the Hammond organ and Jerry Jones on drums, plus Paul Pieper on guitar, offers up straight-ahead jazz on an eight song program split evenly between the leader's own original compositions and classic jazz material.

The return of Buck Hill to the world of jazz recording is indeed a momentous occasion and cause for celebration. Hill plays the tenor with the authoritative voice of experience and his well-seasoned sound is a link to the saxophone's glorious past and a lesson to those who wish to move the horn into the future. His work is a true testament not just to his longevity, but also to his continued growth as a master saxophonist, bandleader and composer.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ADAM SCHULTHEIS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Mr. Adam Schultheis, an exceptional music teacher at Boulder City High School whose work has recently earned him a student-nominated Outstanding American Teacher Honor Roll.

For more than 20 years Adam has served the students of Boulder City with his dedication and commitment to excellence in music education. Adam earned his bachelor's degree in music education and performance at the University of Arizona Tucson while studying on a full scholarship. He then went on to earn his