

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to take a hard look at where we are today in Iraq, and vote for legislation that will provide the funding our troops badly need and accountability for success and results in Iraq.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANK J. FERTITTA AND LORENZO J. FERTITTA

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friends Frank J. Fertitta, Chairman of the Board and C.E.O. of Station Casino and Lorenzo J. Fertitta, Vice Chairman of the Board and President of Station Casino as well as the entire Fertitta family.

Through the consistent efforts of Frank and Lorenzo Fertitta, Station Casino was recently recognized by Fortune magazine as one of the top 100 companies to work for nationwide. The management of Station Casino, which has received this recognition for 3 consecutive years, has enacted several policies aimed at bettering the quality of life for its team members. One such program, initiated by Frank and Lorenzo, provides team members with assistance becoming homeowners. Another program offers assistance to team members seeking to become U.S. Citizens; this program offers assistance such as citizenship application classes, study material for the citizenship examination, and payroll advances for citizenship application. As a result of this program, in 2006, 28 Station team members gained U.S. citizenship and currently 260 more team members are attending citizenship classes.

In addition to implementing programs to enhance certain aspects of their employees' lives, Frank and Lorenzo Fertitta have cultivated a working environment founded upon ideals of camaraderie, respect and fairness.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friends Frank Fertitta, Lorenzo Fertitta and the entire Fertitta family. Their dedication to their employees is commendable and I wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO JOYCE McDONALD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn resident Joyce McDonald. Joyce McDonald was born to parents Willie and Florence McDonald and raised in Brooklyn's Faragut Houses. Joyce is the third eldest of seven children. She was reared in a household where unconditional love was practiced and family values were instilled.

Joyce attended P.S. 287, Sands JHS 265 as well as Fashion Industry High School. Her love and compassion for people led her to become a volunteer at Cumberland Hospital as a Junior Nurse's Aide at 16-years-old for the terminally ill. Joyce's teenaged years were not always so hopeful.

During her teen years into adulthood, Joyce made many bad choices. Thirty years after-

ward, she changed direction. Joyce has survived various forms of mental and physical abuses which include rape, attempted suicide, depression and a 25-year heroin addiction. In 1995, Joyce tested positive for HIV and was later diagnosed with AIDS.

Despite her diagnosis, Joyce continued to share her life's story and artistic talents with the world.

Without any formal art training, Joyce McDonald is currently a world renowned artist. Her work has been exhibited in galleries, schools, universities, shelters, nursing homes and hospitals. Her testimony and art has been shared throughout the country via the media.

Joyce has received numerous awards, including: the 2002 Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Award, the 2003 Church of the Open Door Woman of the Year Award, the 2004 Isler's Award from the Women's Empowerment Movement, and the 2004 Governor's Citation from Maryland. In 2005, Joyce was one of nine Magnificent Women of Brooklyn honored by Senator Velmanette Montgomery and received a citation from the New York Assembly. She has also received the Dr. Martin Luther King Award from Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Joyce McDonald's talents include being an artist, sculptress, designer, writer, singer, poet and motivational speaker. These are talents she attributes to her family, including her Dad who is now deceased, her Mother, her two married daughters and their spouses and her six grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive achievements of this extraordinary individual, who through her own pain found it within herself to help others.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful person and her creative works.

GULF COAST HURRICANE HOUSING RECOVERY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1227) to assist in the provision of affordable housing to low-income families affected by Hurricane Katrina:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on the amendment offered by Mrs. BIGGERT. The region affected by Hurricane Katrina could use additional affordable housing units beyond those occupied at the time of the hurricane. However, this is a problem that exists for many communities across the country and should be addressed in a comprehensive manner by adequately funding the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In the 4th Congressional District of Minnesota, the average wait time for public housing is over 5 years, and most waiting lists are closed. There is a deficit of 12,635 affordable housing units for very low-income families. It is a serious problem when too many families do not have safe, stable housing.

The Administration's response to this problem was to flat fund the Section 8 program, ensuring that our communities cannot address

the waiting lists that currently exist, and to propose significant cuts to Community Development Block Grants.

We need a comprehensive solution to affordable housing needs—both in the Gulf Coast Region and across the country. I strongly support the Gulf Coast Hurricane Recovery Act, and will support efforts to increase access to safe affordable housing for all Americans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE INY FAMILY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Iny Family for their numerous contributions to the Jewish Community of Las Vegas and for their many contributions to provide the Las Vegas Valley with a new community center and synagogue.

The Iny Family, principals of Great American Capital, a real estate development company found in Las Vegas, have been leaders in the development, acquisition, operation and management of high quality commercial and residential real estate projects in Nevada and Southern California. As a result of their civic generosity, the construction of the Beit Allon Chabad of Summerlin Community Center and Synagogue was completed and opened in April of 2006. This facility has emerged as one of the most magnificent synagogues in Las Vegas and includes the finest, up-to-date facilities for education, socializing, and catering affairs. For their humanitarian efforts and community service, the Iny Family is being recognized as inaugural recipients of the Chabad of Summerlin Founder's Award.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Iny Family. Their commitment to the Jewish Community is commendable and I congratulate them on their much deserved recognition. I thank them for their dedication and loyalty and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO EUGENIA "GENIE" SWINSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Eugenia Elizabeth Swinson. Eugenia Swinson, or "Genie," was born in Savannah, GA, to Eugene and Carrie Swinson. She was raised on Long Island's South Shore Bay in New York. Genie and her 9 siblings are products of the Bay Shore Public School District. After graduation, all of them attended college. Genie decided upon C.W. Post College with a major of vocal music.

During her studies at Post, she toured Europe her freshman year with the Chamber and Madrigal Ensembles. Upon returning from the tour, she decided to move to California to launch a professional singing career. This turned out to be a wise decision because once there she had an opportunity to work with