

performs annually on tour throughout the United States, Europe and Africa and on campus. In May, 2005 Professor Hines arranged for the choir to travel to Nigeria, West Africa for a 15-day tour of seven cities. Its eclectic musical taste and resplendent audience appeal thrilled the standing-room only audiences everywhere they performed.

Madam Speaker, also in 2005, I am proud to announce that the University Choir was featured at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference Gospel Extravaganza under the inspiring directorship of Professor Hines. The performance was amazingly captivating.

In 1985, Professor Hines took advantage of an opportunity for his Choir to tour the Grand Bahamas Islands. Enthusiastic audiences received them everywhere they sang. In 1980, Governor James B. Hunt invited the University Choir to perform for his historic second consecutive inauguration as Governor of North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, although Professor Hines is a native of Alabama, North Carolina has adopted him as their own. He is an accomplished baritone soloist, a skilled adjudicator, clinician, and conductor. In past years he has conducted the Wayne County North Carolina School Spring Music Festival, the Junior High Honors Chorus as well as the Senior High Women's Chorus at the Summer Music Camp of the University of Wisconsin. Professor Hines has left lasting impressions with his outstanding performances with the North Carolina Junior High All-State Chorus, and with his contribution to the Edgecombe County Choral Festival.

Locally, Professor Hines has directed the Evelyn A. Johnson Community Singers for the past 25 years. The Singers are especially known for their annual rendering of Handel's Messiah, a free performance held for the public at various sites. For over 10 years Professor Hines has been invited to conduct a week-long workshop and concert of the Interstate Church Musicians and Choir Guild. Over 80 church musicians from throughout the Roanoke-Chowan area participate each year.

Madam Speaker, Professor Hines' accomplishments are limitless and I value this rare opportunity to share this abbreviated account with my Colleagues. On behalf of my Colleagues and the great state of North Carolina, I wish Professor Hines God's blessings as he continues to share his extraordinary talents with our great Nation.

A TRIBUTE TO POLICE OFFICER
ANTHONY SAUNDERS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Officer Anthony Saunders of the 79th Precinct. Officer Saunders was born in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn and is the second of 4 children. Officer Saunders has been married for 13 years to his wife Michelle, and from that union they have 3 beautiful children.

Officer Saunders was appointed to the New York City Police Department on July 5, 1989. He was assigned to the field training unit in

South East Queens where he performed foot patrol duties within the confines of the 100th, 101st, 105th, 106th, and 113th Precincts. In October of 1991, he was transferred to the 45th Precinct in the Bronx where he served as a patrolman on the midnight shift for approximately 2 years with "above standards" evaluations. In 1993, Officer Saunders was transferred back home to the 79th Precinct where he has performed numerous duties to include the Conditions Unit, the Grand Larceny Auto Unit, the Domestic Violence Unit, and the Street Narcotics and Anti-Crime Units.

After 12 years on patrol in the heart of Bedford Stuyvesant, Officer Saunders was assigned to the Community Affairs Unit and for the past 3 years his experience and expertise has resulted in improving community relations by helping to encourage and foster a strong partnership between the community and the 79th Precinct. Officer Saunders collaborates with local officials; community-based organizations, schools, and houses of worship in Bedford Stuyvesant. He plays an active role in organizing parades, demonstrations, rallies, and various community events.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to recognize that Officer Saunders has been instrumental in closing the gap between the community and the New York City Police Department.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this outstanding officer of the New York City Police Department.

A TRIBUTE TO AARON S. BELL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Aaron S. Bell, a recent high-school graduate, and role model. He graduated from Springfield Gardens High School in Springfield Gardens, Queens, New York in 2006, with honors. He was on the Principal's Honor Roll for 4 consecutive years. He was also selected for the Principal's Leadership Program. Mr. Bell served as a Peer-Regents Tutor. He was a 2-year 3rd Grade Teacher for a day, under the Junior Achievement Program, and was a major contributor to the formation of the SAT Prep and Peer Math Clubs. He considers his greatest high school achievement was graduating with a "Regents-Advanced Diploma."

Mr. Bell was born on December 22, 1988 at Long Island Hospital College in Brooklyn, New York, to proud parents, Steven and Robin Bell. He is their third child, and the sibling of Steven L. Bell Jr., and Shakima M. Bell.

As of December 22nd, Mr. Bell will hit the 19-year mark, as a member of the New Canaan Baptist Church. He has served on the Junior Usher Board/Usher Board #2, and as a student of the Christian Education Ministry. He has also been a faithful member of the Sunbeam, Junior Male Chorus, RJL Youth choirs, and the Youth Praise Team.

Mr. Bell has participated in and remains active as a member of the All Starts Project, Inc. He began as a student in the Development School for Youth sector, a corporate business training program, which provides corporate hands-on-training by business executives and professionals.

After graduating in the Fall of 2005, from the Development School for Youth, Mr. Bell became an active volunteer and participant in many corporate-sponsored luncheons, galas and conferences, as a host to some of New York's Top Corporation executives, such as Ernst & Young, Credit Suisse, Merrill Lynch, Winston & Strawn LLP, Latham & Watkins LLP, and many others. Currently, he is a new staff member of the Productions Team for the All Stars Project, Inc.'s Talent Show Network.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Aaron S. Bell for his achievement as a young scholar, and dedicated community youth leader.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this very industrious individual.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. W. RUTH
WHITNEY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the very distinguished, Dr. W. Ruth Whitney. Dr. Whitney is married to the Reverend Dr. Curtis L. Whitney, and is the First Lady of the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York. She is also a proud mother and grandmother.

Dr. Whitney received her Bachelor of Science Degree from the New York State University at Old Westbury. She earned her Masters Degree in Social Work from Adelphi University, located in Garden City, Long Island.

Dr. Whitney is an active community servant in the borough of Brooklyn, where she resides. Dr. Whitney's outstanding leadership propelled her to the forefront of movements that promote positive change and development to enhance the quality of life in many diverse communities throughout the Nation. New York Newsday named her "Outstanding Personality of the Week" in 1992. She received the "Woman of Distinction Award", presented to her by New York State Senator Velmanette Montgomery in 2001. She establishes programs for Christian education and Christian leadership throughout the Nation.

Dr. Whitney is the Assistant Dean of the Interdenominational Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows; Vice-President (Kings County), Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows Fellowship of Eastern Baptist Association; First-Vice President, New York State Interdenominational Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows; Vice President, Empire State Convention Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows; Member of the National Black Alcoholism Council, Inc.; Member of Lefferts Gardens Civic Association of Brooklyn, NY, Inc; and Co-Instructor for class: "Marriage & Family for Couples", at the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. Dr. Whitney is also Dean, Empire Baptist State Convention Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows; President, Eastern Baptist Association of Ministers' Wives & Widows, Fellowship of New York; President, Baptist Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows of Greater New York & Vicinity; Assistant Secretary, Empire State Convention Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows; Founder, New Members Ministry, Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY;

and Advisory Council Member, New York Organ Donor Network—Saving lives through organ and tissue donation.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive achievements of Dr. Whitney for her contribution to the betterment of communities throughout Brooklyn, New York.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the very distinguished Dr. W. Ruth Whitney.

TRIBUTE TO CUB SCOUT PACK 203

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cub Scout Pack 203 of Clear Lake and Ventura in North Central Iowa on their 50th Anniversary.

Chartered in December of 1955, Cub Scout Pack 203 provides teaching, service and leadership opportunities to approximately 50 boys in first through fifth grades. Aided by the participation of their families and adult leaders, each member practices Cub Scouting's Twelve Core Values that include citizenship, compassion, cooperation, courage, faith, health and fitness, honesty, perseverance, positive attitude, resourcefulness, respect and responsibility. Pack 203 participates in many service activities such as Earth Day events, collecting uniforms and supplies for stricken Gulf Coast scout units, and sending care packages to our military overseas.

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is "to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law." For 50 years Pack 203 has instilled these respected values in young men, preparing them to be productive and honorable citizens in their communities.

I congratulate Cub Scout Pack 203 of Clear Lake and Ventura, Iowa, on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to represent each member of this remarkable Pack in Congress, and I wish them continued success.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. SAMMIE DAVIS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable gentleman, Reverend Dr. Sammie Davis in the celebration of his 80th birthday on November 27, 2007.

A pastor for over 52 years and the only preacher at Fellowship Baptist Church for 44 years, Reverend Davis is a true pillar of the Dallas community.

A graduate of Dallas Independent School District, Reverend Davis continued to pursue his educational goals, attending Bishop College, Southern Methodist University, UCLA and earning a doctorate from the University of Aswan in Egypt.

Extending his love of family beyond his own fifteen children, Reverend Davis has worked

tirelessly to improve the lives of children and youth in his community. Whether shelter, food or simple guidance was needed, Reverend Davis could always be counted on to extend a helping hand. As Founder and Executive Director of Fellowship War on Drugs Program in Dallas, he also fought to redirect the lives of those affected by drug abuse in southern Dallas.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Reverend Sammie Davis on reaching the milestone year of 80, and I wish him many future years of happiness and enjoyment in his personal and professional endeavors.

FAIR TAXES FOR SENIORS!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention H.R. 4254, the Fair Taxes for Seniors Act, a bill I have just introduced that would provide financial relief to our Nation's senior citizens.

The Fair Taxes for Seniors Act would provide a one-time increase in the capital gains tax exemption on the sale of a home for citizens who are 50 or older. While home prices have decreased from their all-time high, the tax burden is still there for senior citizens who have lived in their home for many years. Passing this bill would give many seniors the additional money they need for nursing home care, medical costs, and other retirement expenses.

The current capital gains tax exemption works well for younger people who often move from job to job, selling their homes. The current exemption works well for people who live in areas where housing prices are below average. But it is not working for individuals who have lived in one home for 20 to 50 years and have a capital gain that is much larger than the present exemption. In other words, it is not working for seniors who live in areas with higher housing prices who end up paying thousands in capital gains taxes.

My bill would provide a one-time increase to \$500,000 for a single person and \$1 million for a couple in the amount that can be excluded from the sale of a principal residence for taxpayers who have reached the age of 50. Let us help our citizens over age 50 who have lived in one home for many years and who need the proceeds from the sale of their home for retirement and health care costs. An added benefit is that family members and perhaps the government will be relieved of the burden of caring for these individuals as they grow older.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 19th Anniversary of World AIDS Day.

This past Friday, December 1, was World AIDS Day, a day where we pause to once

again focus our attention on this deadly disease that has proved to be so devastating to so many throughout the world. Since the first diagnosis in 1981, approximately 65 million people have been infected with the HIV virus, while more than 25 million people have died of AIDS worldwide. In 2007 alone, The United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) estimated that AIDS had killed 2.1 million people while 33.2 million people were living with HIV worldwide and of whom 2.5 million people were newly infected.

An estimated one million people are currently living with HIV in the United States, with approximately 40,000 new infections occurring each year—70 percent of these new infections occur in men and 30 percent occur in women. African Americans make up only 13 percent of the population, yet now account for 54 percent of all AIDS cases in the United States. Additionally, 64 percent of the new infections in women occur in African American women.

In order to combat this problem we must begin to educate people across this country about avoiding risky behavior and the importance of protecting yourself when engaging in sexual intercourse, but first you must know your status.

We must pay particular attention to the education of our young people with regard to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Since the introduction of abstinence-only education 10 years ago, sexually transmitted disease rates are up. I would like to applaud the Governor of my home State of Ohio, Ted Strickland's efforts to implement a comprehensive sex education program in our schools that focuses on both abstinence and contraception. It is my hope that this is something that is implemented on a national level.

Last year I issued a challenge to all Americans, and specifically African American women who are the fastest growing segment of the population to be infected by HIV/AIDS, to get tested and know their status. Today I reissue that challenge, and I will keep pressing this issue until we are able to find a cure and bring an end to this disease.

COMMEMORATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate two centuries of service by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), for NOAA's continued efforts to improve our understanding of the environment and for its dedicated stewardship of the Nation's coast, waterways and wildlife.

Originally founded in 1807 to survey the early American coast, the predecessor of today's NOAA marked the creation of the Nation's first science agency. From its humble beginnings, NOAA's contribution to American history evolved to reflect the needs and expectations of a growing Nation. Even a brief selection from the catalogue of NOAA's contribution to the American experience offers an illustration of the impressive contribution NOAA and its predecessor agencies have made to American history over the years.