

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Taylor Hall for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CLAUDE G.
PERKINS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Claude G. Perkins for his long and distinguished career in teaching, program development, and educational leadership, and commend him on having a school named after him within the Clark County School District in his honor.

Claude is a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University, where he received his bachelor of arts in political science. He also earned a master's degree in teaching economics from the Krannert School of Management at Purdue University and his Ph.D. in instructional supervision from the Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. In 1978, Claude was appointed to be the superintendent of the Clark County School District, where he served as the first African-American superintendent for 12 years.

During his time as superintendent, there was an increase in students' performance results with standardized testing; an increase in the percentage of women hired as administrators and department heads, and expansion of various vocational programs within the school district.

After his time spent as superintendent, Claude became a tenured professor at Clarion University of Pennsylvania and the founding director of the Center for Educational Leadership at Clarion University. Following his time at Clarion, Dr. Perkins came to Albany State University as a professor and dean of the College of Education in 1997. Three years later he was promoted to associate vice president for academic affairs, and dean of the Graduate School. During his time spent as the dean of the Graduate School, graduate enrollment reached its highest level, new graduate faculty criteria were implemented, and most graduate programs were nationally accredited. Faculty scholarships and research interest were supported, more on-line classes were developed, and the post-tenure review process became well established at the university. He also established five international partnership agreements to promote expanded international opportunity for students and faculty members.

Claude has been the recipient of many awards, including the Medal of Merit Award from the Ohio University in 1982, the City of Richmond, Virginia Resolution in Recognition of Educational Leadership in 1997, the James Herbert White Preeminence Award for Education and Academics in 2002, and the Nevada State Senate Resolution of Educational Achievement in 2005. He presently serves as a professor of educational leadership, chair of the College Education Committee on graduate education and is the team leader for the African Educational Research Network, USA.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the accomplishments of Claude G. Perkins as an

experienced educator. I would also like to congratulate him on having an elementary school named in his honor by the Clark County School District.

HONORING BYRON JANIS: MUSI-
CIAN, DIPLOMAT, AND INSPIRA-
TION

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Byron Janis, internationally recognized as one of the world's greatest pianists. The story of his life is one of immense talent, dedication and perseverance which has captivated audiences and inspired others across America and around the world.

Byron Janis was born in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, in 1928. At the age of 15, Mr. Janis made his orchestral debut, and by age 20, had made his Carnegie Hall debut in front of a sold-out audience. Later, Mr. Janis was selected to be the first American performer to participate in a cultural exchange between the United States and the Soviet Union in 1960. On November 2, 1960, the New York Times wrote, "If music could replace international politics, Byron Janis could consider himself an ambassador". So successful was Mr. Janis' performance that the Soviet government invited him back just two years later for a six-week tour of the country. Since that time, Mr. Janis has performed for American Presidents and received acclaim around the world. Mr. Janis has been honored both in America and abroad with such distinctions as the Distinguished Pennsylvania Artists Award, the Gold Medal from the French Society for the Encouragement of Progress, and the Harriet Cohen International Music Award. He has also appeared on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson, Good Morning America, 20/20 with Barbara Walters, and CNN.

Perhaps Mr. Janis' greatest contribution to America lies not in his graceful work at the piano, but rather the tremendous perseverance and unbreakable spirit he has shown in the face of significant adversity. In 1973, he was diagnosed with arthritis in both his hands and wrists, an affliction which seriously threatened his ability to continue practicing the craft he loved. Reflecting his will and determination to rise above the obstacle which was placed in his path, Mr. Janis once said, "I have arthritis—it doesn't have me." For 12 years, Mr. Janis continued performing, often in great pain, while keeping his condition a closely held secret.

While announcing his affliction at the White House in 1985, Mr. Janis also declared he was assuming the role of Ambassador for the Arts for the Arthritis foundation. Through his music, he has raised a significant amount of money for the Foundation's work and research. More importantly, however, his story of determination is one which serves as an inspiration and makes Mr. Janis a role model for Americans with disabilities. In spite of his condition, to this day, Mr. Janis is still performing before admiring audiences. Mr. Janis is living proof that the American spirit can and will prevail in the face of challenges large and small.

2008 marks Mr. Janis' 80 birthday as well as the 60th anniversary of his first perform-

ance at Carnegie Hall. Each year, Congress honors individuals who have distinguished themselves with acts of courage and determination which capture the essence of the American spirit and serve as an inspiration to those around them. The life and accomplishments of Byron

Janis—as a musician, ambassador, and role model—embody the best in American culture and values. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Janis on the occasion of these two noteworthy anniversaries.

TRIBUTE TO CHAIRMAN DANIEL
O'CONNELL AND THE SENIOR
CITIZENS LEAGUE BOARD OF
TRUSTEES

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am here to congratulate the Board of Trustees of The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) that works to educate the public about issues important to older Americans. The Senior Citizens League represents over 1 million members nationwide and over 2,500 in my congressional district.

Five retired enlisted association men work tirelessly as non-paid volunteers to help the plight of our most elderly and low income seniors: The Senior Citizens League Chairman Daniel O'Connell, Vice Chairman Nash Mines, Treasurer Marvin Stout, Secretary Thomas O'Connell, and PAC Treasurer Larry Hyland.

Chairman Daniel O'Connell spent a distinguished 29-year career in the U.S. Air Force including service as the Training NCO for the Queens College ROTC Program. Subsequently he served in protocol at the Air Force Space Command in Colorado Springs where he retired as Director of Protocol, an attribute that has come in handy when the chairman meets with dignitaries on Capitol Hill.

Vice Chairman Mines had a 23-year military career concluded by service as the Training NCO for Oklahoma State University's ROTC Program. Later, he worked as general services manager for a Colorado brokerage firm and for a Denver-based retirement investment company. His military experience as a senior master sergeant gave him the calm reasoned approach to problem-solving on the TSCL Board.

Treasurer Marvin Stout had a 26-year military career that concluded with medals for meritorious service. He has also worked as an owner of an income tax consultant firm bringing his expertise to use for the TSCL Board finances.

Secretary Thomas O'Connell served in the U.S. Army including service as Division Logistics NCO. And his experiences as a former high school teacher and librarian have facilitated his work as TSCL Secretary.

TSCL PAC Treasurer Larry Hyland retired from the U.S. Air Force as a senior master sergeant before launching a small business. He also re-entered the civil service overseas before returning to the states.

The organization's objectives are to encourage Congress to protect earned benefits of seniors (i.e., Social Security and Medicare), and to cosponsor bills that secure these promises to seniors and improve the quality of life for older Americans.