

Shag Contest, Queen's Coronation, and Variety Show are among the other events put on by the Festival. Wilmingtonians have long worked to organize this legendary festival so that Americans might come from near and far to enjoy its distinctive charm.

Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to speak about one of North Carolina's most treasured events. I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of the North Carolina Azalea Festival as a great American tradition.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS  
TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and contributions of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. STEPHANIE was a good friend of mine, and I am still in shock by her sudden passing. She brought energy and enthusiasm, brilliance and dedication to this Congress, and her presence is already sorely missed.

In the weeks since her passing, I have been reflecting on her many contributions to her constituents, her state, and her country, not only most recently in the House of Representatives but also in a lifetime of service. She broke barriers, and in the process elevated the lives of those she touched, both professionally and personally. The first African-American woman elected to Congress from the state of Ohio, STEPHANIE has set the bar incredibly high with her dedication and devotion, and paved the way for future generations to follow. As an attorney, judge, and Member of Congress, she worked tirelessly on behalf of reducing poverty, ensuring access to education and affordable health care, and advocating for the rights of minorities nationwide. STEPHANIE and I saw eye-to-eye on many important issues, whether it was fighting to ensure affordable housing, or for greater protection for Haitian and other refugees, or for the simple notion that every vote should be counted. In the 110th Congress alone STEPHANIE introduced legislation to revitalize low-income communities, protect and ensure voting rights, curtail predatory lending, and provide greater resources for uterine fibroids research, a personal commitment of hers that I know she has carried for many years.

STEPHANIE and I have similar backgrounds as lawyers, judges, and of course Members of Congress, and thus I have always thought that she and I shared a kinship that went beyond just our professional responsibilities. I hold her in the highest degree of respect and admiration. Since her untimely passing, I find myself recalling her personal inspiration as she and I and so many others in this body continue to fight for a better, more equal, and more prosperous society. She is the very definition of a role model.

Mr. Speaker, STEPHANIE's presence will not be easily replaced, if it ever can. The country should value her service; and I, for one, also value her friendship.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
AMERICAN CITIZENS ABROAD

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of American Citizens Abroad, ACA. This organization deserves to be honored for promoting and protecting the rights of the global American community thereby contributing to the political, social and economic prosperity of all Americans.

Americans living abroad are a key demographic in many ways and are often overlooked in Washington. Americans living abroad continue to vote and pay taxes in the United States. Their role in extending American influence around the globe is vital to the well-being of our Nation. Moreover, they are unofficial ambassadors, often the first contact many people around the world have with America and our nation's representatives abroad.

The ACA provides reports containing important information and statistics free of charge to contribute to hearings and debates in the Congress on issues of importance to the American community abroad and to all citizens at home. These efforts are designed to help Congress and the Federal government better understand and serve the members of the American community abroad. The ACA also works hard to ensure that Americans are aware of their rights and privileges while living abroad.

The ACA was founded on July 10th, 1978 in Geneva, Switzerland. Since its inception the ACA has brought together U.S. citizens living all over the world to work together to promote and protect their rights. As a cofounder of the Americans Abroad Caucus with Rep. JOE WILSON, it gives me great pleasure to stand before this Congress and honor the 30th anniversary of this wonderful organization.

IN MEMORY OF MR. S. LEE KLING

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2008*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mr. S. Lee Kling of Country Life Acres, Missouri.

Mr. Kling was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. He attended the New York Military Academy and graduated from Washington University, St. Louis. He served in the U.S. Army from 1950 to 1952.

Mr. Kling had a commitment to political service that broke the boundaries of partisanship. He worked as finance chairman for the Democratic National Committee and served as treasurer of President Jimmy Carter's re-election campaign and treasurer of Congressman Richard Gephardt's presidential committee. He received the Democratic National Committee's Distinguished Service Award in 1982. Mr. Kling also held fundraisers for several Republican candidates, and in 2006, Governor Matt Blunt appointed him to the Missouri Veterans' Commission, as well as the Missouri Development and Finance Board in the spring of 2008.

Mr. Kling's political dedication also extended to the international level. In 1977, he represented President Carter at the funeral of the president of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios III. He co-chaired a committee for the ratification of the Panama Canal treaties. In 1979, he served as an economic adviser during the peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt. He was also a civilian aide to Secretary of the Army.

Mr. Kling was appointed by President Clinton to head the Base Realignment and Closure Commission in 1995. Three years later, Gephardt asked him to head the Amtrak Reform Council. In addition, Mr. Kling was the chairman of the board of the Bames-Jewish Hospital Foundation and chairman of the Kling Co., an insurance, consulting and investment firm.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Kling was a valuable leader, businessman, philanthropist, and public servant. I know the members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife, Rosalyn Kling; his four sons, Stephen, Lee, Allan and Frank; and his two grandchildren.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED  
SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE  
ROBERT H. OLIVER

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2008*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues from California, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. NUNES and Mr. CARDOZA to pay tribute to the distinguished public service of Judge Robert H. Oliver. After more than 15 years, Judge Oliver is stepping down as Chairman of the California State University, Fresno Board of Governors in September of this year.

During his tenure with the University, Robert worked tirelessly to improve the Foundation Board, and its service to both the school and the community by increasing the orderly annual contributions to the University Advancement Division, as well as developing a strong executive committee structure within the organization. It is because of these endeavors and others like them that Robert was able to serve the second longest term as Chairman in the 76 year history of the foundation. It goes without saying that his dedication to the community is to be commended.

Due to his vast wisdom and knack for educating others, Robert was frequently called upon to lecture on or moderate discussion of a diverse variety of issues including: domestic violence, the history of traditional jazz in America, juvenile justice, and leadership in the volunteer sector. Throughout his distinguished career, Robert has served on numerous committees, boards, and panels such as the Fresno County Interagency Council for Children and Families, the Rotary Club of Fresno, and the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California. His service and work have been recognized by countless awards and honors, not the least of which is his recognition as an "Outstanding Alumnus" from both the Craig School of Business at California State University, Fresno and Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco.