

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, on March 30th, I was detained in my district and therefore missed the three rollcall votes of the day. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 163 on the Motion to Table the Privileged Resolution. Had I been present I would have also voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 164 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 20—Melanie Blocker Stokes Mom's Opportunity to Access Health, Education, Research, and Support for Postpartum Depression Act. Lastly, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 165 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 479—Wakefield Act.

## HONORING HANK PITTMAN

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hank Pittman upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. Mr. Pittman was honored on Saturday, January 31, 2009.

Mr. Pittman was born in Madera, California in September 1947. He was raised in Chowchilla, graduated from Chowchilla High School in 1965 and immediately enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He completed Navy boot camp in San Diego and was designated as a shipfitter. He was assigned to the USS *Long Beach*, a guided missile cruiser, and in 1966 was deployed to the Western Pacific. The cruiser served in the Gulf of Tonkin to detect enemy aircraft attempting to evade identification by hiding among U.S. aircraft returning from missions over North Vietnam. The USS *Long Beach* also provided support for Search and Rescue helicopter units that rescued downed fliers. During this tour, the ship was responsible for downing Soviet-made North Vietnamese An-2 planes attempting to fire on South Vietnamese Navy units. In July 1967 the USS *Long Beach* was re-deployed to the Gulf of Tonkin and shot down two MiG fighters with RIM-8 Talos missiles. Crew members were awarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation for these actions.

Upon returning to the U.S., Mr. Pittman was selected for a two month training course at the Navy Divers' School in San Diego. When he completed the course he was designated as a Hull Maintenance Technician (Diver). His next duty station was with the USS *Simon Lake*, a submarine tender in Holy Loch, Scotland. During the next eighteen years he completed more courses and steadily progressed in rank while serving on a number of ships, naval air stations and bases.

In 1976, while serving aboard the USS *Holland*, Mr. Pittman received a letter of commendation for superior performance in critical operations repairing the hull of the USS *Battfish*, a nuclear-powered attack submarine. Two years later he successfully completed a

seventeen week Deep Sea Diving and Salvage Course at the Washington Navy Yard. Mr. Pittman was promoted to Chief. Throughout his career he served on many ships and at many stations around the U.S., Southeast Pacific, Europe, the Indian Ocean, Australia, the North Atlantic, Africa, Panama and the Caribbean. Chief Pittman retired in February 1987. For his service he was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, three Meritorious Unit Commendations, four awards for the Good Conduct Medal, the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the M-14 Rifle Ribbon, the .45 Pistol Ribbon and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

After retiring from the Navy, Mr. Pittman worked as a security officer, forklift operator and wood cutter. He is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896, where he served six years as Post Commander and attends the Church of Latter Day Saints. He has three children and three grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Hank Pittman upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Pittman many years of continued success.

## REMEMBERING BILL TATUM IN THE PAGES OF THE NEW YORK CARIB NEWS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit a New York CARIB News tribute to the late Wilbert Bill Tatum, honoring the journalistic heavyweight for his commitment to his craft, his community, and to social justice and equality. He passed away in late February, ending a decades-long tenure as the owner, chairman, and publisher of the Amsterdam News—a premier and pioneering Black newspaper in the heart of Harlem. He wielded his pen as a sword, holding public servants' feet to the fire and rarely mincing his words in pursuit of truth. A philanthropist of formidable character and impassioned conviction, Tatum lent a powerful voice to the African American community through his words and his inspiration. The following article—"Wilbert Tatum Remembered," published on March 17 and written by Victoria Horsford—details the legacy of the great Bill Tatum.

## WILBERT TATUM REMEMBERED

Wilbert Bill Tatum, Amsterdam News Chairman/CEO and publisher emeritus died, a long way from home, on February 26 in Croatia. The ultimate Fourth Estater, Bill Tatum was equal parts race relations maven, humanist, entrepreneur, and warrior. He left a legacy of integrity and passion in journalism.

Tatum was a face in the proactive Harlem crowd for almost four decades, which predates the \$2.3 million purchase of the Amsterdam News in 1971, by him, Percy Sutton and other business associates. In 1983, Tatum assumes full control of the paper. By 1996, Tatum bought out all of his AmNews partners, became the sole owner and Begins the Tatum Era. Founded on December 4, 1909, the Amsterdam News emerged as one of the

most important Black newspapers in the U.S. on par with the Pittsburgh Courier, The Afro-American, and The Chicago Defender. Tatum kept burnishing the paper's image while keeping a watchful eye as events unfolded of special interest to the Amsterdam News readers.

Tatum's editorials railed against inequities vis-à-vis the Black community re: housing, employment, term limits, the NYPD, immigration. No one nor organizations was off limits to the acidic Tatum editorial. He relished a good fight taking on mayors and local corrupt community leaders, businessmen and untoward clergy. For years, he ran acid-tinged "Mayor Ed Koch must go" editorials. In the 90s, he began a long run of "Mayor Rudy Giuliani must go" editorials. He allocated equal editorial space to unsung community heroes and contributed regularly to scores of charities.

Tatum was one of a few publishers who believed in the innocence of the young Black men convicted in the racially marred Central Park jogger rape case. He was best when he was opinionated and tapping into instincts. The AmNews had taken on a new life during his watch. It was the World According to Bill Tatum. And what a delightfully, crazy, unpredictable, diabolical, lovable, plot-rich moral world it was. He ceded control of the paper to his daughter Elinor in 1997. Last Friday, 2/27 during a NY1 TV interview, Elinor said "My dad loved the Amsterdam News," she added. "He was born in North Carolina, was one of 13 children, a descendant of sharecroppers whose granddad started a newspaper. He wanted to make this world a better place for people who looked like him." A Lincoln University and Occidental College alum, Tatum had a master's degree in Urban Studies.

The following are remembrances of Bill Tatum. Governor David Paterson reflects on Tatum "as a decent person who stood out amongst the giants of NYC for his commitment to justice and social equality." Mayor Michael Bloomberg intones. "The paper was really heard across the city...and on many occasions, around the world. He covered issues of concern to African Americans in ways that other media opportunities they might not otherwise have had. He was a real character in the nicest sense of the word!" NYC Comptroller Bill Thompson says. "Bill was a pioneer in publishing...who always stood up for causes he believed in and spoke out against injustice and highlighted issues too often forgotten and ignored. Bill always let you know when he disagreed with you in a genuine forthrightness." Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer says. "NY lost one of our great citizens. . . . Bill wore many hats at the Amsterdam and its success is due to his dedication and vision."

Reverend Al Sharpton remembers. "Bill Tatum was an iconic and vitally important figure in both journalism and civil rights. We have lost a great advocate, a penetrating writer and unmatched institution builder and for me a great friend and father figure."

Survived by his wife Susan and his daughter Elinor, Bill Tatum's wake was held on Thursday, March 5, at the Provenzano Lanzo Funeral Home at 43 Second Avenue. His funeral was held Friday, March 6 at 10 am at Harlem's Riverside Church at 490 RSD, near 120 Street.

The family requests that you make donations to the Amsterdam News Educational Foundation, 34 East Third Street, NYC 10003.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, March 26, 2009, during the debate on the FLAME ACT, I inadvertently voted "aye" on rollcall 161, the Rep. Goodlatte Amendment. I meant to vote "no."

## IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID WARREN

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, when David Warren came to the Richland County Public Library (RCPL) in Columbia, S.C., in 1979, he brought leadership and vision that would expand and transform the library and reintroduce it to the Richland community. Since that time, the RCPL has grown in size and scope—including the construction of a 242,000-square-foot Main Library, the expansion of five and the construction of 2 new branches, an increase in the circulation of materials to 3.3 million and the library's collection to over 1.3 million pieces.

As executive director of the Richland County Public Library, Warren has been recognized across the country and internationally for his leadership and strength in library management. His reputation as an innovator has led to numerous appointments with local, state, and national organizations. Under Warren's leadership, RCPL was named the National Library of the Year in 2001, bringing positive national attention to the Midlands and South Carolina. His vision and ability to think outside the box has enabled RCPL to set a new standard for public library systems in South Carolina and the Southeast.

Named Librarian of the Year by the South Carolina Library Association in 1991 and Public Administrator of the Year by the South Carolina Chapter of the American Society for Public Administrators for 1992/1993, Warren's leadership and commitment to his community has justly earned him this recognition and much appreciation from those who have benefited from his tremendous efforts.

I congratulate David Warren on his retirement and wish him many more years of success and service.

## IN MEMORY OF JOHN WOODWARD, JR.

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of John Woodward, Jr., whose very life proved that one could be gentle, kind, civil and honest—and financially successful.

John Woodward became an entrepreneur relatively late in life. After serving in Guam and Okinawa with the U.S. Army during World

War II, John was drafted by Chrysler Corporation while he was still a business major at the University of Southern California.

He spent the next few decades working his way up the auto industry corporate ladder, including about a decade traveling around the country establishing dealership franchises. Then, in 1976, John and his wife, Nada, who he had met during World War II when she was an Army nurse, moved their family to Thousand Oaks, California, where he opened Westoaks Chrysler Dodge.

The dealership's motto was, "Where People Care." By all accounts, John made sure the dealership lived up to that motto right up until he sold it last year.

In addition to opening his own dealership, John also was instrumental in starting the Thousand Oaks Auto Mall. As an active member of the Thousand Oaks-Westlake Village Regional Chamber of Commerce, John led the fundraising drive for the Chamber's first building.

But John's civic mindedness did not end with business promotion. He believed in his community and worked tirelessly on its behalf. John was a key donor to the Community Conscience of Conejo Valley and supported a multitude of children's sports teams, civic groups and charitable organizations. Among his many accolades was being named the Chamber's Man of the Year.

My wife, Janice, and I were privileged to call him our friend.

Madam Speaker, John's wife of nearly sixty years died four years ago. Many were touched by their legacy of honesty and civility, but none more than their three children, Ginny, Nancy and John III; and their four grandchildren. I know my colleagues will join Janice and me in offering our condolences to John's family and all who knew him and called him a friend.

Godspeed, John.

## HONORING ALLEN BUSHMAN

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Allen Bushman upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. Mr. Bushman was honored on Saturday, January 31, 2009.

Allen Bushman was born in March 1930 in Fairview, Utah, and at age eighteen he enlisted in the newly formed United States Air Force. He completed his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. He went on to serve in a variety of assignments, including an aircraft engineering mechanic for the B-29 and B-36 bombers and the KC-97 Stratotanker. These aircrafts were instrumental during the Korean War, completing missions from Japan and Okinawa to bomb targets in North Korea. After the war, Mr. Bushman completed Aircraft Maintenance Technician School and qualified as an Inflight Air Refueling Boom Operator. The Stratotanker was an aerial refueling tanker; it was vital to the Air Force as the B-47 became the primary bomber for world-wide strategic operations.

During the 1960s, Mr. Bushman completed courses at the USAF Advanced Flying School

and was selected for advanced training for the KC-135 and completed the Combat Crew Training Squadron Course. He also completed the Management Course for Air Force Supervisors and the Special Vehicle Repairman Course. Mr. Bushman was assigned as the boom operator on the KC-135 where he flew on missions from Okinawa and Guam, refueling the B-52 and other aircraft flying to and returning from missions over North Vietnam. During his twenty-two years of service he served with a number of wings and squadrons including 22nd Bomb Wing, 98th Bomb Wing, 111th Bomb Wing, 95th Bomb Wing, 90th Air Refueling Squadron, 99th Air Refueling Squadron and 924th Air Refueling Training Squadron.

Master Sergeant Bushman retired from the Air Force at Castle Air Force Base on February 28, 1970. He was awarded with the Air Force Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service, the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal and the Air Force Longevity Service Award for his service during the Korean War, Vietnam War and the Cold War. Upon his retirement, he completed a two year business management course at Merced College and became a fence contractor. He is a life member of Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896, and a member of the Church of Latter Day Saints. He and his wife, Carla Gene, continue to live in Chowchilla, California; they have nine children, twenty-seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Allen Bushman upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Bushman many years of continued success.

## SPREAD THE WORD TO END THE WORD CAMPAIGN

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize and commend the efforts of the Spread the Word to End the Word Campaign; a grassroots organization founded by college and high school students toward promoting greater awareness and respect for people with intellectual disabilities.

Created by young people with and without intellectual disabilities, Spread the Word to End the Word promotes the undeniable truth that everyone matters, everyone is accepted and, most importantly, everyone is valued. Today, young activists across the country are leading local efforts to raise awareness and collect pledges from peers and the community to vow not to use the "R-word" and recognize March 31, 2009 as a national awareness day for The Spread the Word to End the Word campaign.

In 1966, speaking at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, my uncle, Robert Kennedy said, "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a