

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF REV. DR. NELSON "FUZZY"
THOMPSON

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, today I have the great pleasure of recognizing the remarkable achievements of Reverend Doctor Nelson "Fuzzy" Thompson. Rev. Thompson is a minister, community activist, humanitarian, and resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I proudly represent.

Rev. Thompson graduated from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, with a Bachelor of Science in Education, and received a Master of Divinity and Doctorate of Ministry at St. Paul School of Theology.

"Fuzzy," as he is affectionately known, has represented the Fifth District of Missouri in an exemplary manner locally and nationally. In service to our community, Fuzzy was an original Board Member of Black Adoption Program and a member of the Executive Committee of the Kansas Children's Service League, showing a commitment to our community's youth. During my term as Mayor, he also served as member and chair of the Human Rights Commission. "Fuzzy" now serves as President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Kansas City.

Politically, Rev. Thompson served as a Regional Coordinator for Rev. Jesse Jackson's Presidential Campaign in 1984 and Missouri State Coordinator for Rev. Jackson's 1988 presidential campaign. Furthermore, he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention from 1984–2000.

Reverend Thompson has also represented our nation on an international platform. At the request of Bishop Desmond Tutu, President Nelson Mandela, and the South African Council of Churches, he was one of 22 U.S. ministers that traveled to South Africa on a fact-finding educational exchange. Reverend Thompson traveled to South Africa a second time as an official observer for the first election held in South Africa granting the right to vote to all races. He called the experience humbling, as he watched people line up for blocks in order to exercise their right to vote for the first time. He was also one of three U.S. ministers to conduct Easter services for hostages being held in Tehran, Iran.

As well as a strong advocate for human rights around the globe, he is just as strong an advocate for civil rights and economic rights within our community. When South Africa was a nation which practiced apartheid, Dr. Thompson helped organize a protest against a Frank Sinatra concert. The purpose was to draw attention to American celebrities who performed in racially exclusive venues. He has organized pickets in opposition to monies from the local school district awarded to contractors who had failed to include minority contractors.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Reverend Dr. Nelson "Fuzzy" Thompson for serving the State of Missouri and our nation. He is a true role model to the citizens of our country and his successes serve as a stepping stone for many others eager to serve. I offer this small token of appreciation to an exceptional civil servant for all of the work he has done, taking strength

from the many lives he has touched throughout our community.

REMEMBERING FORMER CON-
GRESSMAN WILLIAM RATCH-
FORD

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Congressman William Ratchford who passed away on Sunday at the age of 76. He served in this body for three terms from 1979 to 1985 representing Connecticut's fifth congressional district. Bill was born in Danbury, Connecticut in 1934 and led a remarkable life that was most notable for putting public service first. His father was a hat-factory worker and Bill went on to graduate from the University of Connecticut and then to Georgetown University Law School. After graduating from law school, he became a lawyer in Danbury and served in the Connecticut National Guard. He was first elected to office in 1962 as a representative in the Connecticut General Assembly where he served for six terms and rose to the position of Speaker of the House during his last four years. While in the State House, he became involved in the issue of aging, which came to define his legacy. He made a tremendous contribution to the state as chairman of the Governors' Blue Ribbon Committee on Nursing Homes, and in 1977 he was tapped by Governor Ella Grasso to become the state commissioner on aging.

In 1979, Bill won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in the Fifth Congressional District in Northwestern Connecticut. During his three terms in Congress, he served on the committees on appropriations, transportation, education and labor, and interior. Bill continued to have an active career after leaving Congress, remaining involved in government and teaching at Georgetown University. He was appointed by President Clinton to be assistant administrator at the General Services Administration where he served until 2001.

Bill Ratchford was an honest public servant who cared deeply about making the world around him a better place and advocating for the issues that he passionately cared about. He will always be remembered for his focus on senior citizens and children and will be missed by all who knew him. I offer my deep condolences to his wife Barbara of 53 years, his three sons, and to his family and friends.

CONGRATULATING JEAN HARPER
ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jean Harper on the occasion of her 90th birthday. Jean was born on January 14, 1921 to David and Alda Sims Hart in Avondale, North Carolina. At a young age, Jean relocated to her home of Washington, District of Columbia.

For thirty-two years, Jean served as a diligent employee at Freedman's Hospital as a Dietitian. While working at Freedman's Hospital, Jean met the love of her life, James "Jimmy" Harper. The couple soon married and had one daughter, Barbara Jean. In 1954, Jean and Jimmy moved to Taylor Street where she currently resides. Jean is a proud member of Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church where she serves as a missionary and works actively in the Pastor's Aide Club.

In addition to working enthusiastically in her church, Jean devotes the majority of her time to her family. Invariably, she can be found with her daughter, her grandchildren, and her great grandson. Jean enjoys traveling, shopping, cooking, and socializing with friends and extended family.

For her commitment to her family, to her community, and to her Nation, it is my privilege to wish Jean Harper a very happy 90th birthday.

IN TRIBUTE TO QUEENSVIEW ON
THE OCCASION OF ITS 60TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Queensview, a cooperative apartment complex in the borough of Queens in the district that I represent. Queensview celebrated its 60th anniversary last month.

Initially organized as the Joint Queensview Housing Enterprises Inc., under the Redevelopment Companies Law of New York State, Queensview was created as a model of middle class housing. The co-op's founders were a group of public-spirited New Yorkers, including Louis H. Pink, who was then president of the New York State Housing Board and State Superintendent of Insurance, and Gerard Swope, former president of General Electric and former chairman of the New York City Housing Authority.

Queensview's first Board of Directors included Mr. Pink (who was President of Queensview), Mr. Swope (Chairman of the board of Queensview), and such prominent citizens as Henry Morgenthau, Jr., former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury; David Sarnoff, chairman of the board of RCA; Mary K. Simkhovitch, director emeritus of Greenwich House; Thomas J. Watson, vice-president of IBM; Howard S. Cullman, chairman of the New York Port Authority; Bernard Gimble, president of Gimble Brothers; Howard C. Shepard, president of National City Bank (now Citibank); the Very Reverend E. Roberts Moore, formerly of the New York City Housing Authority; Mrs. Yorke Allen of the Citizens Housing and Planning Council; Albert Lasker of the Lasker Foundation; Beardsley Ruml, chairman of the Board of Macy's; and G. Howland Shaw, president of the Welfare Council of New York.

The complex, which opened its doors on November 14, 1950, is comprised of 14 buildings, with 52 apartments per building (726 apartments in all). Each building has 4 apartments per floor, meaning that every tenant can enjoy a corner apartment, with views in two directions. The buildings are situated on 9

acres of land. The apartment buildings themselves occupy only 14% of the property, leaving the rest available as open space. There are two playgrounds (which are used by the entire community), large lawns and beautiful landscaping. Some of the land has been made available for on-site parking, an amenity that is a great convenience for residents. Several buildings have community or club rooms that are used by a variety of local groups. As a mark of gratitude, the cooperators dedicated the community rooms in Buildings 7 and 14 to Queensview's founders, Mr. Pink and Mr. Swope.

In 1987, Queensview paid off its initial mortgage. In 1989, Queensview reconstituted as a private corporation known as Queensview, Inc., but since it is a limited equity corporation, prices remain affordable. As a cooperative, Queensview is a self-governing organization, overseen by the Queensview Council. The Council consists of two representatives and an alternate elected by each building. Residents make decisions about management of the building, including the nature of the amenities, upkeep of the building, staffing and security. As a result of their diligence and conscientiousness, Queensview is impeccably maintained and is a wonderful place to live.

Queensview is a naturally-occurring retirement community (NORC), meaning that a significant number of residents are seniors. The NORC program, operated by Selfhelp Community Services, provides residents with a wide range of on-site services including health and wellness, case management, counseling, social, recreational, educational, home care, technology, transportation, community trips and volunteer opportunities.

Since 1951, the Queensview Nursery School & Kindergarten has provided day care and early education. Currently serving children aged 2.9–5, the Queensview Nursery School & Kindergarten gives parents peace of mind by providing a caring and nurturing environment for their children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the success of Queensview, a warm, welcoming and gracious community and a terrific place to live.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 4 I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

A TRIBUTE TO SUSAN PETERS, CARMICHAEL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 2011 PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Susan Peters, who on January 7, 2011, the

Carmichael Chamber of Commerce honored as its 2011 Person of the Year.

Susan Peters is currently serving her second term on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors representing the third district, which includes the community of Carmichael. Susan was first elected in 2004, re-elected in 2008, and chosen by her colleagues to be chair in 2009.

Susan also serves on a number of boards including the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, which she chaired in 2009, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, where she currently serves as vice chair, and the Sacramento Transportation Authority, where she served as chair in 2006.

Her career started in banking, leading her to serve as treasurer of McCuen Properties beside her late husband, Peter McCuen. Susan also served as Board Chair of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, where she was a forceful voice for business and private enterprise in the region. At the chamber, she worked to locate Raley Field in West Sacramento and was the founding chair of the Chamber's "Perspectives" program, an annual conference hosting national and world leaders discussing topical subjects.

In addition to her duties as a member of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, Susan currently serves as Board Chair of the Leland Stanford Mansion Foundation which restored the historic home of California's eighth governor.

Susan has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for the Sacramento region in both the private and public sectors. She is a true public servant who is always accessible to her constituents.

It has been my pleasure to know Susan Peters and more importantly, to call her my friend. I am pleased to congratulate her on being named the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce's 2011 Person of the Year.

"EXPERTS LETTER ON DEFENSE SPENDING"

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have been encouraged to see some signs that the mind set that would not only exclude the military budget from deficit reduction efforts but would in fact inflate an already excessive allocation has been weakening. Secretary Gates' statement on Thursday, January 6, of a recognition of many to take the deficit into account in budgeting for the Pentagon is encouraging, although he does not go far enough. I think that there is no issue more important than to recognize that reducing the extent to which America engages in an extremely expensive worldwide subsidy for many of our wealthy allies in the area of defense has contributed significantly to our deficit, and it is clear that we can substantially reduce military spending without in any way reducing the security of the United States.

In November of last year, a wide-ranging group of people very knowledgeable about national security needs met. I am encouraged that the Commission recognized the importance of including military spending restraints,

although I did not agree with their proposal to increase healthcare costs for retirees. And I believe that the thoughtful letter that they received from this wide-ranging coalition of experts on national security and military spending should be shared with our colleagues so I ask that it be printed here.

EXPERTS LETTER ON DEFENSE SPENDING TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND REFORM, NOVEMBER 18, 2010

DEAR CO-CHAIRMAN BOWLES AND CO-CHAIRMAN SIMPSON: We are writing to you as experts in national security and defense economics to convey our views on the national security implications of the Commission's work and especially the need for achieving responsible reductions in military spending. In this regard, we appreciate the initiative you have taken in your 10 November 2010 draft proposal to the Commission. It begins a necessary process of serious reflection, debate, and action.

The vitality of our economy is the cornerstone of our nation's strength. We share the Commission's desire to bring our financial house into order. Doing so is not merely a question of economics. Reducing the national debt is also a national security imperative.

To date, the Obama administration has exempted the Defense Department from any budget reductions. This is short-sighted: It makes it more difficult to accomplish the task of restoring our economic strength, which is the underpinning of our military power.

As the rest of the nation labors to reduce its debt burden, the current plan is to boost the base DOD budget by 10 percent in real terms over the next decade. This would come on top of the nearly 52 percent real increase in base military spending since 1998. (When war costs are included the increase has been much greater: 95 percent.)

We appreciate Secretary Gates' efforts to reform the Pentagon's business and acquisition practices. However, even if his reforms fulfill their promise, the current plan does not translate them into budgetary savings that contribute to solving our deficit problem. Their explicit aim is to free funds for other uses inside the Pentagon. This is not good enough.

Granting defense a special dispensation puts at risk the entire deficit reduction effort. Defense spending today constitutes over 55 percent of discretionary spending and 23 percent of the federal budget. An exemption for defense not only undermines the broader call for fiscal responsibility, but also makes overall budget restraint much harder as a practical economic and political matter.

We need not put our economic power at risk in this way. Today the United States possesses a wide margin of global military superiority. The defense budget can bear significant reduction without compromising our essential security.

We recognize that larger military adversaries may rise to face us in the future. But the best hedge against this possibility is vigilance and a vibrant economy supporting a military able to adapt to new challenges as they emerge.

We can achieve greater defense economy today in several ways, all of which we urge you to consider seriously. We need to be more realistic in the goals we set for our armed forces and more selective in our choices regarding their use abroad. We should focus our military on core security goals and on those current and emerging threats that most directly affect us.

We also need to be more judicious in our choice of security instruments when dealing