

PRINCE WILLIAM NAACP "SALUTE
TO VETERANS"

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Prince William County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and its 2011 "Salute to Veterans" Freedom Fund Banquet. U.S. Army Major General (Retired) Robert C. Gaskill and U.S. Marine Corps Master Gunnery Sergeant (Retired) John W. Jones Jr. will receive special recognition at the banquet for their service to our nation.

The NAACP was established in 1909 to eliminate racial prejudice and remove barriers of racial discrimination that prevent equal opportunity for all members of society. The Prince William County Chapter seeks to implement outreach initiatives, educational programs and victim services that address issues of discrimination in the local community. The local chapter hosts an annual Freedom Fund Banquet to raise funds to support the chapter's activities. This year, the program will honor veterans of the United States armed forces.

It is my honor to join the Prince William County Chapter of the NAACP in giving special recognition to two veterans and residents of Prince William County, Major General Gaskill and Master Gunnery Sergeant Jones.

General Gaskill was born in Yonkers, N.Y., on April 12, 1931, to John and Armania Gaskill. The Gaskill family later moved to Arlington, Va. General Gaskill completed Reserve Officer Training as a Distinguished Military Graduate, and received a bachelor of science in business administration from Howard University in 1952. He was commissioned into one of the last all-black battalions in the United States Army. General Gaskill had a distinguished and decorated career in the Army before his retirement in 1981, to which he credits the support of his late wife Erotida Gaskill. General Gaskill is a Life Member of the NAACP, member of Unity in the Community, and an elder at his church.

Sergeant Jones was born in Memphis, Tenn., on September 3, 1930, to Mattie and John W. Jones, Sr. Sergeant Jones' mother passed away when he was nine, and he was raised by Laura Belle Jones, his father's second wife. In 1956, Sergeant Jones joined the United States Marine Corps. While in the Marine Corps, Sergeant Jones went to night school to complete his high school degree and enrolled in college courses. His service in the Corps included tours in the 1958 Lebanon Crisis and the Vietnam War. Sergeant Jones is married to the former Anne Tankins of Quantico. He is active in the NAACP and volunteers in his church, First Mount Zion Baptist Church, where he serves as Deacon Emeritus and sings in the choir.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Prince William County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and its 2011 "Salute to Veterans" Freedom Fund Banquet. I extend my personal appreciation to Major General U.S.A. (Retired) Robert C. Gaskill and Master Gunnery Sergeant U.S.M.C. (Retired) John W. Jones, Jr. for their service and sacrifice on behalf of our country.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY FLYING TEAM

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the exceptional accomplishments of the Flying Salukis, the flying team at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. Under the direction of Coach Nathan Lincoln, on May 21, 2011, the Flying Salukis won the 2011 National Intercollegiate Flying Association championship, concluding a weeklong competition at the Ohio State University Airport. The Flying Salukis edged out 26 teams from across the Nation to capture the championship title, which is the eighth in the history of Southern Illinois University's aviation program, and the first since 1985.

With 10 team members scoring a total of 414 points, the Flying Salukis won the title by nine points over the University of North Dakota, a two-time defending champion. The team placed in all 11 events, demonstrating a very well-rounded lineup in both flight and ground events at the competition. Michael Carroll, from Normal, Ill., and one of three team captains, gave a truly exceptional performance, scoring 121 points to become the top-scoring pilot in the Nation and finishing second for the national top pilot award.

In addition, the team won three individual titles. Taylor Bream, from Lake Villa, Ill., won the short-field approach and landing; Ryan Veldman, from Lexington, Ky., won the power-off landing event; and co-captain Daniel Harrington, from Monee, Ill., won the SCAN title. Other team members who scored in events were Scott Blair, from Bloomington, Ill.; David Brown, from Chicago, Ill.; Ryan Buttney, from Lemont, Ill.; Daniel McMahan, from Edina, Mo.; Joshua Mech, from Sheboygan, Wis.; and Samuel Oas, from Villa Park, Ill.

Additional members of the Flying Salukis for the 2011 spring semester include: Courtney Copping, from St. Charles, Ill.; Kyle Hayes, from Bourbonnais, Ill.; Justin Lopez, also from Bourbonnais; Michael Szemplinski, from Geneva, Ill.; and George "Rusty" Wharton, III, from Goodfield.

I also want to recognize the Flying Salukis' assistant coaches: senior lecturer Bryan Harrison, assistant instructors Jeffrey Jaynes, Kevin Krongos and Sabrina Zweggo, and also Kim Carter, a senior lecturer and academic adviser. In addition to teaching as faculty members in the aviation flight program, these individuals dedicate a great deal of time after classes to assist Coach Lincoln and the team members, and we appreciate their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, Southern Illinois University has a proud tradition in teaching, research and public service, and it is also very well known for its nationally competitive athletic and extracurricular teams. The Flying Salukis have once again demonstrated exactly why this university's aviation program continually ranks as one of the best in the nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Flying Salukis and their coaches, as well as the faculty and students at Southern Illinois University for their continuing commitment to excellence.

RECOGNIZING RECIPIENTS OF THE
2011 BEAT THE ODDS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2011 Beat the Odds Awards. These awards are sponsored by the Prince William County Bar Foundation and are presented to extraordinary youth who have exhibited exceptional determination to overcome adversity and lead full, productive lives.

The narrative of these awards is truly compelling; to qualify for a Beat the Odds award, a youth must have come into contact with the juvenile justice system. Despite this potential obstacle, Beat the Odds Award recipients have overcome abuse, neglect or juvenile delinquency with an earnest effort to realize a successful future.

It is my great honor to commend the following individuals who have risen above substantial negative influences and are now being recognized as community success stories:

Recipients of the 2010 Beat the Odds Phoenix Award: Victoria Rose, Jacob Whitfield, Martha Vasquez-Quintanilla, Benjamin Dinarte, Eduardo Silva Ostos, Shahnewaz Bhuiyan, Mark Johnson, Jr., and Curtis Moore, Jr.

Recipients of the 2010 Beat the Odds Scholarship Award: Mariam Sankoh, Vanessa Monserrat Rodriguez, Tanya Donangmaye, Anthony Harris, Taylor Katherine Peevy, Indiana Sommer Anderson, Kelly Renee Teboe, Jennifer Salas, Maria Sisson, and Caleb Daniel Foster.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these young people for the positive example they set for their peers. Our community sends a powerful message to our youth when we encourage them to triumph over setbacks and to gain strength from hardship. Beat the Odds scholarships totaling more than \$100,000 from the Prince William Bar Foundation are a resounding endorsement of that message, and I thank the Foundation for its dedication and generosity to youth in our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to state for the record that I intended to vote "aye" on rollcall vote 414 to H.R. 2055 taken on June 13, 2011. The CONGRESSIONAL RECORD currently lists me as a "nay" vote on this measure. I firmly support the prohibition on Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements for construction projects funded by the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act because this dated policy inflates the cost of construction and restricts competition that could save taxpayers billions.

COMMENDING THE HUNTERDON
CENTRAL SOFTBALL TEAM ON
THEIR CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hunterdon Central Regional High School's Softball Team on its outstanding victory this past weekend in the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association's Blue Ribbon Awards Group 4 Championship. Hunterdon Central had previously been given the state ranking of fourth by the Newark Star Ledger and earned this title after compiling an astounding 31–2 record for the season. Hunterdon Central had previously won the Group 4 championship in 1999. Hunterdon Central prides itself on fundamentals and execution and the team's skills and experience demonstrate a mastery of the sport. The hard work of the Lady Red Devils shows determination and teamwork.

I also congratulate Hunterdon Central coach Pete Fick who has now achieved a career record of 699–227–1.

I commend the entire team on its hard work and congratulate all of the players on their stellar season and well deserved championship.

I am also pleased to praise the team's accomplishments with my colleagues in the House of Representatives and with the American people.

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCE WIL-
LIAM CLEAN COMMUNITY COUN-
CIL AND ITS 2010 VOLUNTEER OF
THE YEAR

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Prince William Clean Community Council (PWCCC) and its 2010 Volunteer of the Year, Walter Skaja. With the help of dedicated volunteers like Mr. Skaja, the Council works to eliminate litter and graffiti in our Prince William neighborhoods and commercial centers.

The idea of forming an organization in Prince William County aimed at addressing environmental issues was conceived in 1982 during a spring cleanup effort led by a group of concerned local citizens. These individuals, who later became the founding members of PWCCC, immediately recognized the importance of litter prevention education as a way to long-term environmental cleanliness. In 1986, the Prince William County Litter Control Council was born. The organization later came to be known as the Clean Community Council and became an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, a nationwide non-profit that uses education and hands-on stewardship to advocate litter control, waste reduction, and community beautification.

The Council's litter prevention and graffiti abatement efforts have not gone unnoticed. The Council's accolades include a 1994 Governors Award for Volunteering Excellence. The

Council was a 2000 Virginia Stewardship Award Winner in the Communication/Education Category and received the Prince William County 2001 Partners for the Potomac Environmental Patron Award, 2000 and 2002 Keep America Beautiful National Awards and a 2008 Keep America Beautiful President's Circle Recognition Award.

The Council's volunteers always have been essential to its success and the Volunteer of the Year Award is a way to recognize their invaluable support.

The 2010 recipient, Walter Skaja, has been a volunteer with PWCCC since 2009. He started working with PWCCC through its Adopt-A-Spot program, where volunteers adopt an area of Prince William County and agree to remove litter and debris throughout the year. Shortly after adopting two neighborhood parks, Walter also adopted Cedar Point Elementary School. In the past two years, Walter has not been alone in his work for a clean environment. He has had help from Cub Scout Pack 1384. Walter routinely has 100 or more scouts to help him with his beautification efforts. They have transformed Cedar Point Elementary School with landscaping improvements that have included mulching and planting trees, shrubs and flowers. In addition to his volunteer work with the Adopt-A-Spot and Adopt-A-School programs, Walter spent time during the major snow storms in 2009 and 2010 removing snow from fire hydrants and clearing snow at Cedar Point Elementary School. His tireless efforts helped students, parents, and staff make it to school safely.

Mr. Speaker, we create safer, cleaner neighborhoods when residents take ownership for their communities. The Clean Community Council asks Prince William residents to take pride in their county. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the successes of the Prince William Clean Community Council as well as in congratulating Walter Skaja on being named the recipient of the 2010 Prince William Clean Community Council Volunteer of the Year Award.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
DR. NANCY GRASMICK, SUPER-
INTENDENT OF MARYLAND PUB-
LIC SCHOOLS

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Nancy Grasmick for her years of outstanding service to the people of Maryland, including her twenty year leadership role as Superintendent of Maryland public schools, the longest serving appointed school chief in the United States. Dr. Grasmick began her career as a teacher of deaf children at William S. Baer School in Baltimore City. In her years as an educator in Maryland public schools, Dr. Grasmick has served as a resource teacher, principal, supervisor, assistant superintendent, and associate superintendent in Baltimore County. In 1989, Dr. Grasmick was appointed by Governor William Donald Schaefer to act as the Special Secretary for Children, Youth, and Families and in 1991, the Maryland State Board of Education appointed her to be the first female Maryland State Su-

perintendent of Schools. All of these achievements are the culmination of many years of hard work, strong dedication, and commitment to the people of Maryland. This commitment has been recognized many times over through many awards, including her induction into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 2004.

Dr. Nancy Grasmick has been known for her emphasis on student achievement, teacher quality, parental involvement, and early childhood education. Under her leadership, Maryland has been recognized for its achievements in education, having been named as "the most consistently high performing state" by Education Week. Dr. Grasmick has made an enormous impact on Maryland public schools and has changed the lives of countless families in the State of Maryland and beyond.

I was my special privilege to work with Dr. Grasmick for seven years as liaison to the Baltimore City Public Schools. I saw firsthand the amazing work of a leader motivated by compassion and a burning determination to give every child the chance to succeed. Dr. Grasmick's commitment to excellence is unrivaled. She is relentless in demanding the very best of those around her, while always offering the kind word and gesture. In that way and so many others, she is a natural born leader. I could not have had a better mentor or friend. My congratulations to Dr. Grasmick on a brilliant career. We look forward to her continued contributions to the State of Maryland and to our nation.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member BISHOP for agreeing to offer my amendment en bloc to H.R. 2055—Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. My amendment simply removes funding from the VA Medical Support and Compliance Account and replaces it back in the very same account. My intent in doing this is to highlight an issue for my colleagues and for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

I believe that the VA needs to comprehensively examine its wait times for processing requests for mental health services from veterans and that the VA should submit a report to Congress no later than January 1 of 2012 on changes they intend to make to ensure that veterans needing mental health services receive those services in a timely and efficacious manner.

Veterans in my district often wait years for a resolution of their cases with the VA. My office works closely with veterans, assisting