

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL DIS-
ASTER INSURANCE PROTECTION
ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the District of Columbia National Disaster Insurance Protection Act. The bill would exempt from federal income taxation catastrophic insurance reserves held by insurance companies in the District of Columbia. Under current federal law, catastrophic insurance reserves are subject to federal income taxation, which has led insurers to hold these funds in offshore jurisdictions, such as the Cayman Islands and Bermuda, where they are not subject to U.S. income taxation.

The bill would serve important national purposes by protecting individuals and businesses across the country from unpaid insurance claims in the event of a natural catastrophe, as well as U.S. taxpayers. Today, if a natural catastrophe occurred in the U.S., and offshore insurance companies did not pay claims, the U.S. government might need to step in and taxpayers could be on the hook for the claims. Indeed, after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the U.S. government had to establish a federal backstop for losses due to terrorist attacks, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, which is still in place today. As the recent financial crisis showed, the U.S. government has a strong interest in preventing systemic financial risks. However, U.S. individuals and businesses now rely on offshore jurisdictions to preserve and protect catastrophic insurance reserves.

Rather than leaving little alternative to locating these vital catastrophic insurance reserves offshore, it makes sense for the funds to be held in the nation's capital, the most protected and secure city in the U.S., to eliminate an existing but overlooked vulnerability in the financial system. My bill is particularly timely considering that the president issued a record number of Major Disaster Declarations in 2010 (81) and has issued 87 so far this year.

MR. FRANK CIAMPI, JR.

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Frank Ciampi, Jr., an outstanding Italian-American, for his 56 years of dedicated service in UNICO, the Italian-American service organization. Born and raised in West Pittston, Luzerne County, Mr. Ciampi moved to Hazleton to begin his career as president/owner of International Printing Company. Prior to this, Mr. Ciampi served his country in the Korean Conflict from 1950 to 1953. In 2006, he had retired after serving as president/owner of his company for 50 years.

Mr. Ciampi has been active in many organizations. Since 1958, he was a proud member of the Hazleton chapter of UNICO. During his many years in the Italian-American organization, he has served as its president as head

of the "Lick-A-Pop" committee. He played an instrumental role in raising money for the first dialysis machine in Hazleton and for the Salvation Army. Mr. Ciampi was recently named the recipient of the prestigious Presidential Citation from UNICO President Andre DiMino. He was also honored by the Italian American Association of Luzerne County with the Career Achievement Award for his efforts to improve his community.

Mr. Ciampi is not new to lasting relationships. In addition to his 56 years as part of UNICO, he recently celebrated 58 years with his wife, Ann Marie. His efforts and contributions coincide with his reputation as a family man; he has four children and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Frank Ciampi, Jr., has contributed much to the community and to UNICO in time, effort, and financial support over the course of his long and dedicated membership. He is to be commended, and his legacy should not be forgotten.

HONORING U.S. NAVY CAPTAIN
CHARLES LASOTA

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Navy Captain Charles LaSota.

Captain LaSota took command at Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center in 2008 and today is his retirement ceremony.

I would like to congratulate Captain LaSota for a distinguished career. His many achievements in academics and the Navy have made him an officer that all sailors and citizens should emulate. His dedication to our nation has spanned many decades and many posts and for that I would like to thank Captain LaSota.

At Crane, Captain LaSota not only added more than 800 personnel during his command, but he also made sure to give back to the community that supports the base through organizations such as the Boy Scouts, American Red Cross, Ride to Recovery, and the Crane Learning and Employment Center for Veteran's with Disabilities.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND DR. J.H.
FLAKES, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Man of God who has been a long-standing source of personal inspiration, spiritual guidance and moral leadership to me and the Columbus, Georgia community at-large, the Reverend Dr. Johnny H. Flakes, Jr. Later this year, Dr. Flakes will celebrate his fiftieth anniversary as the distinguished pastor of the Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus. What makes this extraordinary feat even more remarkable is that his fifty years of accomplished service at Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church runs concurrently with his fifty-

two years of service as the senior pastor of Good Hope Baptist Church in Phenix City, Alabama.

Dr. Flakes' dynamic ability to successfully multitask the management of two flourishing churches, in two different states, over the last fifty years, is a monumental accomplishment that highlights his passion to reflect Christ through his thought-provoking sermons, pastoral leadership, unyielding love for the members of his congregations and his deep and abiding faith.

Despite the numerous challenges he has encountered along his life's journey, Dr. Flakes has not relented nor retreated in the face of insurmountable hardships. While his rebellious early life was filled with challenges—being a high school drop-out and suffering with both alcohol and gambling addictions—he surrendered his life to the calling of God through Christ Jesus and was transformed. He was called to pastor Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church and Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church and while pastoring both churches full-time, drove from Columbus, Georgia to Nashville, Tennessee and back each week over four years to earn his GED and Bachelor of Arts degree from American Baptist College.

He later would go on to serve as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for American Baptist College and recently the administration building on the school's campus was named in his honor.

Always pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, to better improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, he became a catalytic leader in the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, for many years served as President of the Congress of Christian Education for the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia and ultimately served on the Executive Committee Board of the National Baptist Convention. Dr. Flakes has also received honorary doctorate degrees from A.B. Lee Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Florida and his beloved alma mater, American Baptist College.

Throughout his pastoral career, Dr. Flakes has played a leading role in several other religious-affiliated and community-based organizations. He served courageously as President of the Columbus branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for several years; is the President and Founder of "A Call To Talk" (ACTT); Chairman of One Columbus; and Chartering Pastor of the General Missionary Baptist Church Convention of West Germany.

Reverend Flakes has been repeatedly acknowledged for his outstanding achievements, service and public distinction. He is the recipient of the Outstanding Personality of the South Award; Ten Outstanding Ministers in the State of Georgia Award; Alpha Phi Alpha Martin Luther King, Jr. Award; Operation PUSH Martin Luther King, Jr. Award; and the Knight-hood Award from the Congress of Christian Education.

Dr. Flakes has achieved numerous successes in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God and his loving wife of more than fifty-seven years, Robena Gaines Flakes. Dr. and Mrs. Flakes are the parents of three children—Sincera, Johnny and Merle—and the proud grandparents of three granddaughters.