

RECOGNIZING MR. JOHN JACKSON FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor entrepreneur and faithful exponent of his community, Mr. John Jackson. Mr. Jackson has owned and operated his own farm in Leake County, Mississippi for the past twenty years.

Mr. Jackson comes from a long line of entrepreneurs and community servicemen. He is the son of a blacksmith and grandson and son-in-law of farmers. Even after years of witnessing his family undergo oppression, Mr. Jackson still rose to become one of Leake County's leading servicemen.

He served as president of the Thomastown Attendance Center Booster Club for four years; trustee on the Leake Memorial Hospital Board for two years; and is an active member of the Leake County Voters League. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in recognizing Mr. John Jackson for his dedication to serving the Leake County community.

HONORING DR. EDWARD WAITE MILLER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in sadness today to honor my friend, Dr. Edward Waite Miller, who passed away October 27, 2012, at the age of 92. He was a prominent surgeon and writer in Marin County, California, as well as a loving family man.

Born in Oyster Bay, New York, in 1919, Dr. Miller studied at Union College in Schenectady and at Cornell Medical School with an internship at Boston City Hospital. He then served at the US Naval Hospital in Corpus Christi and in the South Pacific during WWII. He was awarded the American Theatre, Asiatic-Pacific, and Victory Medals. Reactivated in 1953, his service varied from making training films in the California desert to witnessing nuclear testing at the Bikini Atoll. He then received the Korean Service, United Nations, and National Defense Medals.

Dr. Miller also had a distinguished medical career. While working as a research fellow at the Cleveland Clinic with Dr. Willem Koff in the 1950s, he published some seminal studies on the angiography of the heart that led to research in the new practice of coronary bypass surgery. He later worked as a surgeon in Marin General Hospital in Greenbrae, CA, and Children's Hospital in San Francisco, CA, and as a physician at Novato Community Hospital in Novato, CA.

In retirement Dr. Miller became well known in the community and around the world for his writing in the Coastal Post newspaper, a Marin County publication that gave him free rein to speak out on issues he was passionate about. From advocacy for peace and human rights to his sometimes controversial pro-Palestinian

stance, he penned opinion pieces that reflected his deeply held beliefs and his great knowledge of world events.

I had many conversations with Ed Miller about these issues, and, although I sometimes didn't agree with him, I always enjoyed our time together and appreciated his commitment and his compassion. He loved discussing everything from politics to poetry (which he quoted from memory) with friends and family.

A long-time resident of the Lucas Valley area, Dr. Miller enjoyed landscaping his yard, and he was a board member and President of the Lucas Valley Homeowners' Association.

Dr. Miller is survived by his wife Fusae Ito Miller; his children and stepchildren, Trudy Vriethoff, Susan Ray, Lori Callahan, Jeffrey Miller, Grace Bransford, and Robert Fleming and their spouses; and 5 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I always looked forward to seeing Ed Miller and will miss our lively discussions. Please join me in offering condolences to his family and friends.

HONORING MARY LEE SPENCER

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, reaching the age of 93 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Mary Lee Spencer was born on August 28, 1918 and is celebrating that milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Spencer has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Spencer is celebrating her 93rd Birthday with her family members, church members and friends here in DeKalb County, Georgia on August 28, 2011; and

Whereas, the Lord has been her Shepherd throughout her life and she prays daily and is leading by example a blessed life; and

Whereas, we are honored that she is celebrating the milestone of her 93rd birthday in the 4th District of Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Mary Lee Spencer for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all,

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim August 28, 2011 as Mrs. Mary Lee Spencer in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 28th day of August, 2011.

TERMINATING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUND AND ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed H.R. 3463, a bill terminating the Election Assistance Commission and the

Presidential Election Campaign Fund. I voted "no".

I also opposed the House-passed legislation in January to eliminate the Presidential Election Campaign Fund (H.R. 359), as well as the previously unsuccessful attempt in June to pass a bill eliminating the Election Assistance Commission (H.R. 672). H.R. 3463 combined these previously considered bills to pay for the cost of the two bills the House considered yesterday and today (H.R. 527 and H.R. 3010). I also voted against those bills because they reduce the ability of federal agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to implement regulations to protect public health, workers, and the environment.

The Election Assistance Commission was established in 2002 as part of the Help America Vote Act. That legislation was enacted because of the widespread irregularities and controversy surrounding the 2000 presidential elections. The commission's immediate role was to oversee payments to states to help them replace punch card and lever voting systems and to develop statewide voter databases. The commission also operates a federal voting system testing and certification program and maintains an election administration information clearinghouse. State and local governments rely on the services provided by the Commission. One year before another presidential election, now is not the time to eliminate the Commission.

The Presidential Campaign Fund was created to establish a system and spending limits for publicly financed presidential elections, providing opportunities for greater competition and transparency. The law that created the Fund in 1972 clearly needs some updating, but it should not be repealed.

THE DAVIS FAMILY GOES THE EXTRA MILE IN HONORING OUR NATION'S WOUNDED HEROES

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Dano Davis, the rest of the Davis Family, and the staff and volunteers of the D-Dot Ranch in Jacksonville, Florida. For the past five years, the D-Dot Ranch has semi-annually hosted four wounded military returnees from Iraq, Afghanistan and other conflicts, for a three-day respite at the D-Dot Ranch.

This respite has included food and lodging in their spectacular bunk house lodge and a one of a kind special Florida outdoor experience. Participants have included heroes who have lost eyes, arms and legs, as well as other physical and mental impairments.

These respite visits have helped many highly-deserving individuals to realize they can still enjoy the great outdoors in spite of their impairment challenges. Personnel at Walter Reed, Bethesda and other military healthcare facilities have reported significant therapeutic benefit for these participants.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues join me in saying thank you to the Davis Family and the staff at the D-Dot Ranch for a job well done. America owes our wounded heroes a debt of gratitude that we can

repay and this is one way that we can show our appreciation and admiration for their service.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE
INAUGURAL CONGRESSIONAL
VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR
THE THIRD DISTRICT OF
TEXAS—ROBERT “BOB” KINNE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to announce before my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the names of eleven distinguished military veterans and community servants who call the Third District of Texas home. For their selfless service and dedication to their neighbors and nation, the following individuals have been selected as recipients of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Robert “Bob” Kinne retired as a United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel in 1973 after 21 years of honorable service. A distinguished fighter pilot of exceptional skill, Kinne flew numerous combat missions over Vietnam.

During one run in 1966, he was involved in a midair collision over Hanoi. When several surface to air missiles were launched at Kinne and his wingman, the wingman lost sight of Kinne’s F-4 and collided with him at 8,000 feet. The plane was heavily damaged, but Kinne was able to recover after falling to about 2,000 feet. Against all odds, he made it back to Da Nang Air Base safely. For these and other missions Kinne has received three Distinguished Flying Crosses, eight Air Medals, a Bronze Star, and two Meritorious Service Medals.

Upon his retirement in 1973, Kinne joined the business jet community working his way up to head of aviation for the Associates First Capital Corporation. He flew around the world many times, and enjoyed transporting dignitaries including President George H.W. Bush.

Kinne now resides in McKinney, Texas. A member of the Red River Valley Fighter Association, National Air and Space Society, and Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Kinne contributes to our community by sharing his love of aircraft and flying with the next generation. He also assists numerous Boy Scouts with their badges, Eagle Scout projects, and those with plans for future military service.

It is my pleasure to name Bob Kinne a recipient of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
EDDIE CHARLES BROWN, JR.
HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND
WORLD CITIZEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Eddie Charles

Brown Jr., a consummate organizer, community activist and civil rights advocate. Mr. Eddie Brown Jr. began working in the areas of human and civil rights in the 1960s. Often working on behalf of others, Mr. Brown devoted his life to making a difference in society.

A native of Louisiana, Eddie Brown Jr. was born on August 19, 1941, in New Orleans and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to Thelma Warren and Eddie Charles Brown, Sr. He is survived by his wife, Valinda, and three sons.

Mr. Brown’s historical efforts to fight segregation and all forms of oppression as well as to empower Black people started in 1960 as a student at Louisiana’s Southern University. He and 16 other classmates confronted the University and staged a sit-in to protest the prevalent racial segregation that existed in Louisiana. After he and the others were arrested, expelled and banned from enrolling in any university in Louisiana, Eddie Brown’s life would be defined by his fight for justice, equality and human dignity on behalf of politically and socio-economically oppressed communities.

The expulsion from Southern University led Mr. Brown to Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1961, where he landed on the front line of the Civil Rights Movement. At Howard University, Mr. Brown became a leader and organizer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He fought to win constitutional rights for Blacks and all disenfranchised people.

Mr. Brown never held a job that was not directly concerned with human advancement. Highly regarded in white political and philanthropic circles for a selfless incorruptibility, he helped bridge the gap between both communities and was able to direct very significant financial resources into poor black communities.

As a staffer at the Citizen’s Crusade Against Poverty in Washington, D.C., in 1965, Mr. Brown developed information networks among community-based organizations to support anti-poverty legislation. In 1967, he organized efforts to improve the political and economic conditions of Blacks in the Mississippi Delta as the Executive Director and founder of the Mississippi Action for Community Education (MACE) and The Delta Foundation in Greenville, Mississippi. At MACE, he developed community-based enterprises producing Fine Vines blue jeans and establishing catfish farms in the Delta. In 1974, Mr. Brown raised funds and helped organize the Sixth Pan African Congress held at the University of Tanzania with delegates representing 52 independent states and/or liberation movements in Africa, the Caribbean, and other people of African descent.

As Executive Director of the New Orleans Area Development Project in 1976, he organized advocacy groups to work for reform by organizing communities to fight police brutality and creating parent-teacher committees for education reform. Mr. Brown went on to serve as President and CEO of the Southern Agriculture Corporation in the 1980s where he worked to organize and gain capital funding for small Black southern farmers. In the 1990s as Executive Director of the Voter Education Project in Atlanta, he continued his tireless efforts to register Blacks and poor people to vote and to fight legislation restricting poor and disenfranchised people of all color from voting.

From the 1990s through 2006, Mr. Brown shifted his focus to nations outside the United

States. As a senior consultant to the National Democratic Institute, Mr. Brown designed and implemented civic and voter education programs to prepare for national elections in Ethiopia, Namibia, Zambia, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe. As an international election observer for The Jimmy Carter Center, Eddie worked in Ghana, Zambia and The Dominican Republic. As a human rights activist in corporate board rooms, Eddie served on the World Council of Churches and Emergency Fund for Southern Africa raising funds for humanitarian relief; at the Center for National Security Studies monitoring American defense policies and budgets; and with the American Friends Service Committee, United States Department of Agriculture Citizens Advisory Committee Equal Opportunity and Atlanta Council for International Cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life and legacy of Mr. Eddie Charles Brown Jr., a global citizen and activist who found his lifework in the work that he loved.

STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO
H.R. 3463, THE TERMINATE ELEC-
TION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
CAMPAIGN FUND ACT, H.R. 3010,
THE REGULATORY ACCOUNT-
ABILITY ACT AND H.R. 527, THE
REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY IM-
PROVEMENTS ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, the current House rule provides for consideration of three separate pieces of legislation: H.R. 3463, the Terminate Election Assistance Commission and Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act, H.R. 3010, the Regulatory Accountability Act and H.R. 527, the Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act. I oppose all three ill-conceived bills, because they weaken our democracy by giving powerful special interest influence at the expense of the public. We should be focusing on legislation to create jobs today and these bills do nothing to create jobs or improve the sluggish economy.

The first bill, H.R. 3463, eliminates the Presidential Election Campaign Fund, which was established as part of landmark political reforms following the Watergate scandal. The fund is critical in ensuring that wealthy donors and corporations are not able to monopolize the political process. Critics of the Presidential Election Campaign Fund contend that it is outdated and fails to provide enough money for candidates to run modern campaigns. I recognize that the fund needs to be modernized, but strongly oppose its elimination. Instead, I introduced H.R. 414, the Presidential Funding Act, with Rep. David Price to reform the presidential public financing system and again make it an attractive and viable option for candidates. Our bill would bring available funds into line with the high cost of campaigns, enhance the role of small donors, adjust the program to today’s front-loaded primary calendar, and end the public financing of party conventions. Presidential campaigns should not be limited to candidates who can raise the most