

serves the residents of the Bronx with such distinction, The Honorable Robert T. Johnson.

HONORING CLYDE W. BOWLING

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Mr. GOODLATTE, would like to honor Clyde W. Bowling, a devoted public servant to the people of Bluefield and Tazewell County, on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Mr. Bowling was born on February 26, 1912. His family moved to Graham, now known as Bluefield, where he graduated from Graham High School in 1931. From 1933 to 1934, Mr. Bowling served as a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps, working at the Beltsville, Maryland, research center and in various forestry projects.

Mr. Bowling is a proud veteran of World War II. During the War, he served with the Combat Engineers, 99th Division, and the 743rd Railroad Battalion building railroads in Germany and Belgium.

His willingness to serve extended to the Tazewell County and Bluefield communities as well. Mr. Bowling served as the leader of Boy Scout Troop 144 for over 30 years. During this time he received several awards, including the Silver Beaver Award for distinguished service to young people. He was the Treasurer of the Town of Bluefield in 1962, a member of the Tazewell County Soil and Water Conservation Board in the 1960s, and held a position as a member of the Cumberland Plateau Planning District for 13 years. He worked closely with the Tazewell County Transportation Safety Commission for 40 years to increase highway safety and support improvements. He was actively involved with American Legion Post #122, the Masonic Lodge #122, the Graham High School Athletic Booster Club, the Bluefield Business and Professional Association, and was a charter member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9696. Mr. Bowling is also a longtime member of Virginia Avenue United Methodist Church.

Through hard work and dedication, Mr. Bowling established the Mountain Dominion Resource Conservation and Development Area, RC & D. He served as chairman of this organization as well as the New River-Highlands RC & D. In addition, he served in all offices of the State Association of RC & D Councils, as second vice president of the Southeast Association of RC & D Councils, and was named to the Virginia State Association of RC & D Hall of Fame. He was also a member of Earth Team.

Currently, Mr. Bowling resides in the Virginia Veterans Care Center next to the V.A. Hospital in Salem, VA. He is the oldest veteran in the Center.

Mr. Bowling's contributions to the community are to be commended. He has impacted many lives throughout his 100 years. As a member of America's greatest generation, the young people of today have much to learn from his service and dedication. We are honored to pay tribute to this great man and this very special birthday. Happy Birthday, Mr. Bowling. Thank you for all that you have done for Southwest Virginia.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LONG ISLAND VETERAN THOMAS H. WATKINS

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Thomas H. Watkins, an American veteran from Long Island. He passed away on January 31, 2012. Now, the entire community is mourning this tremendous loss.

Before becoming a fixture in the Long Island community, Thomas played a key role in World War II honorably serving the U.S. Army. In late 1942, he was drafted and assigned to the 92nd Infantry Division part of the legendary Buffalo Soldiers. Of the 909,000 African Americans selected for duty in the Army during World War II, the men of the 92nd division were among the only African Americans to see combat in Europe, putting their lives on the line in battle against the German troops in Italy. Despite the harsh reality of racial segregation, Thomas and the Buffalo Soldiers fought valiantly to defend the country they loved. It was their courage and bravery that earned the respect of their fellow servicemen and country. For the next 4 years Thomas went on to serve in Italy and Germany before being honorably discharged.

After serving on the battlefields, Thomas continued his commitment to his country at the Northport Veteran Affairs Medical Center. He went on to work on behalf of Long Island veterans for over 20 years before finishing his career with the Town of Huntington. Not only was Thomas a great resource for Long Island veterans, he was a deeply engaged civic leader and public servant in his community.

A member of the Bethel A.M.E. Church in Huntington, Thomas worked tirelessly for the congregation he loved as Trustee Emeritus. Also, aware of the vital need for racial equality in America, Thomas held a lifetime membership to the NAACP. His devotion to his community, faith and family should be commended.

There is no question that his fellow veterans, his family and Long Islanders will miss Thomas. In the wake of his passing, we should all remember the sacrifice our veterans make to keep us safe here at home. I am forever grateful for Thomas's contributions as a serviceman and leader on Long Island. I offer my sincerest thoughts and prayers to his family.

CITY OF GOLDEN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the City of Golden Parks and Recreation Department for receiving the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce Civic Award.

The city's parks and recreation facilities, programs, activities, and services contribute greatly to the overall quality of life in Golden.

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining open spaces, for providing a quality system of parks and recreational facilities and for providing positive leisure opportunities for the community. Golden is home to many unique recreational amenities.

The American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration, in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), awarded the City of Golden the National Gold Medal Award at NRPA's Annual Congress and Exposition.

The Gold Medal Award honors communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. Each agency is judged on its ability to address the needs of those it serves.

The Golden Parks and Recreation vision is "Golden will be recognized as a national leader in the provision of high quality parks, trails and recreation facilities."

Their mission is "to promote and provide safe and comprehensive community facilities, programs and services that will enrich the quality of life for all residents and visitors."

I extend my deepest congratulations to all the employees of the City of Golden Parks and Recreation Department for this well deserved recognition by the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce.

MEMORIAM FOR FRANK CUSHING,
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
STAFF DIRECTOR

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Frank Martin Cushing, who gave more than 30 years of service to the Nation as a congressional staffer, culminating as the staff director for the House Appropriations Committee. Frank passed away on Monday, Feb. 6, 2012 at the age of 59.

Frank was a fabulous person, a true leader and someone who you could always count on to get an extremely difficult job done right—while leaving everyone feeling good about it when it was finished. He was a mentor and friend to so many of the wonderful staff who work for the Appropriations Committee, and one of the best people I ever worked with in my career in public service.

I first came to know Frank well when he came to work for me as staff director of the House Appropriations Committee on Veterans Affairs, HUD and Independent Agencies in 1994. He immediately helped craft a bill that reduced spending by several billion dollars, but at the same time won over many agency heads and executive branch officials who found him tough but fair and extremely knowledgeable about their needs.

Frank was a giant of a man. Members on both sides of the aisle—in both the House and Senate—respected him for his integrity, compassion, pragmatism and mastery of the political process. When I became Appropriations Committee chairman in 2005, there was no doubt in my mind who should be staff director