

HONORING THE GADSDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT MARCHING BAND, THE PRIDE OF SAN LUIS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Gadsden Elementary School District #32 Marching Band for their accomplishments as a student band and as representatives of the city of San Luis.

Gadsden Elementary School is in the San Luis, a city located in the Southwest corner of the State of Arizona on the border of San Luis Rio Colorado, Mexico. The school's marching band, the Pride of San Luis, is composed of 180 talented students and 15 dancers in grades 4–8. Director J Martin Peralta, Jr. and Music Coordinator Martin Peralta, Sr. have led this group of young men and women to countless victories, including first place awards in the Lake Havasu, Parada Del Sol Parade in Scottsdale, Arizona, the APS Phoenix Light Parade, as well as in the local Somerton Founder's Day Parade and the Yuma Lights Parade and most recently have been invited to the London Days Bridge Parade. Luis Marquez, Board President, said that "Listening to the marching band is like listening to an amazing group of professionals: they have the enthusiasm, character, and talent they need to keep making a great job everywhere they go."

The Pride of San Luis is comprised of more than just talented musicians; they are exemplary scholars. Raymond V. Aguilera, Superintendent of Schools, said that "[m]any of the band members go on to receive college credit during High School, take the ACT test and qualify for the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Program. The band's alumni have attended or will attend university programs throughout the country". This group of hard working young people brings hope and pride to local residents. As William and Ellen Kiley stated: "For those who worry about the future of our country, you have only to look at these young people to feel reassured that all will be well".

The parents, teachers, and citizens of San Luis cannot be more proud of their hometown marching band. Juan Carlos Escamilla, Mayor of the City of San Luis, declared: "It is truly an honor. I'm so very proud of every single one of our kids. I'm so proud as a parent. I know they have a very strong goal. If any organization could do it—it's this group. They will make it happen." Music Coordinator Martin Peralta Sr. articulated it best: "Esta generación de estudiantes van a hacer historia y la experiencia que van a hacer historia ya que moverá al mundo con su música donde cada uno de los ciudadanos del país se van a sentir orgullosos de ellos".

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring these bright young student musicians and the adults that empower them to succeed.

HONORING MATTHEW R. COOK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew R. Cook. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Matthew has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew R. Cook for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO EMORY CAMPBELL

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable man who has distinguished himself as a great South Carolinian and an outstanding scholar and advocate of the Gullah/Geechee culture. He has dedicated his life to preserving the culture and the community he loves, and has just ended his tenure as the first Chairman of the Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission. I commend him for his outstanding work and thank him for his long-time friendship. We could not have had a better person to get this Commission off on the right foot.

Emory Shaw Campbell was born on October 11, 1941, on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, which was at the time was an isolated Sea Island inhabited by the descendants of former slaves, not the high-end resort it has become today. He was the sixth of 12 children born to Sarah and Reginald Campbell.

While he attended elementary school on Hilton Head Island, he had to travel by boat to attend high school at Michael C. Riley High School in the mainland town of Bluffton. He graduated as valedictorian of his class in 1960. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree in biology from Savannah State College, and a master's in environmental engineering from Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts.

Following his academic training, Dr. Campbell returned home to his beloved Sea Islands. He served for ten years as the Director of Community Service Education at the Beaufort-Jasper Comprehensive Health Services in Ridgeland, South Carolina. This community health center provided quality, affordable health care to the underserved populations of the Sea Islands in the southernmost corner of the State. He also worked to protect Gullah communities that were threatened by the encroachment of resort development in the area.

In 1980, he became the Director of the Penn Community Center on St. Helena Island. This historic facility began as a school in the 1800s to educate freed slaves. It became a meeting place during the civil rights movement of the 1960s. As a student organizer at South Carolina State College, I attended meetings at Penn Center and subsequently served as a member of its Board of Trustees. Dr. Martin Luther King retreated there to plan protest strategies. Today, the center serves to protect and preserve the heritage of the island and its Gullah culture. Dr. Campbell was synonymous with these efforts, and he became a sought after expert on all things Gullah.

Most notably during his 22 years at the helm of Penn Center, Dr. Campbell led an effort to reconnect the Gullah community to its family roots in Sierra Leone, West Africa. This initiative resulted in Sierra Leone's President Joseph Momoh visiting Penn Center in 1988, and the following year Dr. Campbell was given the title of Honorary Paramount Chief when he took a group from the Gullah community to Sierra Leone for a reunion with their ancestral families. In 1990, South Carolina Educational Television produced a documentary Family Across the Sea, which chronicles these events.

Dr. Campbell has sought to preserve the heritage of his native culture through his book Gullah Cultural Legacies that includes Gullah traditions, beliefs, art and language. He also helped in the effort to translate the New Testament of the Bible into Gullah, which I used when I was sworn in as House Majority Whip in 2007. When Dr. Campbell retired from Penn Center in 2002, he began Gullah Heritage Consulting Services to continue his lifelong work and he manages the Gullah Heritage Trail Tours on Hilton Head Island.

In 2005, Dr. Campbell received the Carter F. Woodson Memorial Award from the National Education Association for his efforts to preserve the Gullah heritage and communities and to improve the quality of life for the Gullah people.

In 2008, I succeeded in getting the Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor enacted into law. The legislation included the establishment of a Commission to manage the corridor, and Dr. Campbell was fittingly chosen to Chair the inaugural Commission.

Dr. Campbell lives on Hilton Head Island with his wife, Emma. They have two adult children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Emory Campbell for his dedication to preserving, protecting and promoting the Gullah culture that is unique to the Sea Islands of the American South. He has made remarkable contributions throughout his career to bring recognition and support to Gullah communities, and he is one of their most distinguished members. His work has helped to save an entire culture that was rapidly disappearing due to encroachment and assimilation, and that is a tremendous legacy for any one individual.

HONORING KYLE A. DETERS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle A. Deters.