

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MR. RICHARD R.
BUERY, JR.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 8, 2013

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, as the Nation commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, and observes the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, I rise today to honor Mr. Richard R. Buery, Jr. The son of a retired New York City public school teacher and a retired lab manager, Richard was born and raised in the East New York section of Brooklyn, where he knew early on he wanted to level the playing field for the young men and women he played with growing up.

As a freshman at Harvard University, he began to volunteer at an after-school program at a nearby public housing complex at Roxbury, Massachusetts. It was here during this summer experience where Richard began to see the opportunity and need to develop quality youth programming for underserved communities. After attending and graduating from Yale Law School, Richard worked as a staff attorney at the Brennan Center for Justice, and later became a law clerk to Judge John M. Walker, Jr. of the Federal Court of Appeals in New York City. Even with his success as an attorney he still felt the need to serve young people in underserved communities remained.

Displeased with what was being offered as youth programming in East New York, in 2002, he co-founded and served as the Executive Director of Groundwork, Inc. His mission for the organization was clear, he wanted it to respectfully serve and support the young people in East New York in the manner that he believed his friends needed to have been supported when he was growing up. Under his leadership Groundwork grew to become a comprehensive youth development organization that served more than 3,000 youths and whose annual budget grew from \$1 million to \$6 million dollars.

His success in the youth development world led to the Children's Aid Society selecting Buery in October 2009 as its tenth President and Chief Executive Officer. He is the first African American to lead the venerable New York charitable organization, whose mission is help children in poverty succeed and thrive. As the President and CEO, Mr. Buery has used his prior experience at Groundwork to enhance the development of the Children's Aid Society's Bronx flagship program—the Next Generation Center. Located in the 15th Congressional District the Next Generation Center is a community-based service and youth development program geared to provide the necessary social support mechanisms young men and women need to transition safely to adulthood. Many of the participants are Bronx at-risk youth who have aged out of the foster care system.

The young men and women of the Bronx who participate in the programming provided at the Next Generation Center know they have an ally in Richard R. Buery, Jr. They know he will not quit on them, label them or turn them away.

Mr. Speaker, it fills me with hope as I reflect on Mr. Buery's service to the residents of New York City and to the constituents of the 15th Congressional District, that we have an enormously talented leader whose commitment to changing the lives of those young men and women has no boundaries. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the past, present and future accomplishments of Mr. Richard R. Buery, Jr.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF RITA EIKA JONES

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 8, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Northwest Florida's beloved Rita Eika Jones, who passed away on February 1, 2013. Throughout her long and distinguished career in education and civil service, Rita Eika Jones served as a mentor and an inspiration to countless individuals throughout Northwest Florida. The loss of a great woman and unparalleled public servant is felt not only here at home, but across the state of Florida.

Ms. Jones was a lifelong resident of the Panhandle and began her commitment to the Lord at twelve years of age, receiving confirmation at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church. Ms. Jones inherently understood that education is the key to success and she spent the majority of her professional career passing her knowledge on to her students. An alumnus of Booker T. Washington High School's class of 1948, Ms. Jones furthered her education by obtaining a mathematics education degree at Bethune-Cookman University. With a passion for learning and a thirst for knowledge, she continued to develop her edification by attaining advanced degrees from a myriad of universities. She earned a graduate degree from Northwestern University and Harvard University, as well as a doctorate degree from Florida State University in design and management of elementary and secondary schools. While completing the course work for her doctorate degree, Ms. Jones studied administration and supervision at Florida A&M University, community school research and small business at the University of West Florida, finance at Clyde Gore Real Estate School, and mathematics and computer technology at Case Institute of Technology.

Ms. Jones' fervor for teaching and bettering the lives of others led her to Escambia County School District, where she served with unwavering dedication as an educator, principal and supervisor for forty-one years, and as a Pen-

sacola City Councilwoman for two terms. Devoting herself wholeheartedly to her profession, she played an active role in improving the school district through staff development, student recognition and achievement, needs assessment, annual report planning and writing and several other key areas.

Northwest Florida, the Escambia County School District, and the many students whose lives were touched by Ms. Jones, mourn the loss of a kind and devoted woman. Her contributions and service to the community and this great Nation will forever be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the exemplary life of Ms. Rita Eika Jones. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers to her entire family and friends. She will be truly missed by all.

PRESERVING 6-DAY DELIVERY

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 8, 2013

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, many Americans rely on six day mail delivery for essential services. Adjusting this system by even one day could prove to be a problematic change, especially for small businesses looking to advertise or engage in commerce through first-class mail.

While I realize the United States Postal Service is facing tremendous financial burdens, taking away a staple of our Nation's most affordable delivery system is a bad business choice. I have been an advocate for preserving six day delivery, cosponsoring H. Res. 30 which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the USPS should take all appropriate measures to ensure continuation of 6-day mail delivery service.

Further, this course of action will result in the loss of jobs for the tremendously hard workers of the postal service. I have had the unique experience of working side by side with a Letter Carrier and have seen firsthand just how demanding their job can be. Given the economic situation and significant job losses our country is already facing, 5-day delivery is a step in the wrong direction.

I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress to ensure we preserve 6-day delivery and strengthen the Postal Service.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN WILMA

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 8, 2013

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mr. John Wilma of Hayward, California, who passed away on January 25th. John was known as a tremendous family man, a business and community leader, and was a friend

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