

HONORING HERBERT ALLEN, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a long standing black farmer, Mr. Herbert Allen, Sr. of "Allen Farm". He and his family are residents of Silver City in Humphreys County, MS where generations of Allens have been farming since the 1940s, which gives them over 70 years.

The story of the Allen family as black farmers includes major setbacks, but they are still in operation today. Grandpa Nathan Allen started with 40 acres of land in an effort to provide a decent living for himself, his wife, and 6 children. After he died, his son Herbert Allen, Sr. began operating the 40-acre farm and grew it into 323 acres. Herbert and his wife, Nomie, raised 9 children on that small and hard to come by income because again the challenges of the black families were real. In fact they raised most of the food they used to feed their family.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, the odds have been great and many: Depression, rainy and dry crop years with little to sometimes no government compensation, floods, bad loans, too little loans, and other unfortunate things, but again, through it all they survived.

Herbert Allen, Sr. operated the farm for over 50 years until his death in 2006, then Herbert, Jr. and his brother, Freddie, took over the operation. Although the two brothers managed the daily affairs, it was still a family affair involving all the siblings. There are several spin-off businesses that have been developed: Allen Recycling (Canton and Yazoo City, MS), Allen Heating and Air (Gulfport, MS), and Allen Cattle Ranch (Silver City, MS).

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Herbert Allen, Sr., a black farmer from Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

PAGE LAMBERT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Page Lambert for her outstanding service and commitment to our community.

Page's motto—Connecting People with Nature; Connecting Writers with Words—describes her passion and her life. For 17 years, she has partnered with professional organizations such as True Nature Journeys, Grand Canyon Field Institute, and the Aspen Writers' Foundation to help women connect more creatively with the natural world. Page serves as an advisor to national writing organizations and nonprofits such as the Children & Nature Network and Women Writing the West. She also donates services locally—co-leading a two-year volunteer effort to build a community horse barn for Mount Vernon using fire-mitigation timber, and serving as Creative Consultant for the Clear Creek Land Conservancy, helping to foster a deeper appreciation for Colorado's open spaces.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Page Lambert for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, due to my plane flight to Washington, DC being canceled yesterday, I was unable to vote for the Quorum Call of January 7, 2014. Had my flight not been canceled, I would have answered the Quorum Call as "present."

"E. CLAY SHAW: A CONGRESSMAN WHO MATTERED," BY JIM MARTIN

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues a eulogy Jim Martin, a good friend and former Chief of Staff to the late Senator Edward Gurney (R-FL), wrote recalling the great and influential life in public service of former Florida Congressman E. Clay Shaw, Jr. As all remember, our friend Clay passed away on September 10, 2013. His legacy will transcend generations, as you can see in the words shared by Jim, the founder and chairman of the 60 Plus Association.

E. CLAY SHAW: A CONGRESSMAN WHO MATTERED

(By Jim Martin)

The barber nearly lopped off the congressman's ear, but it wouldn't have been his fault if he had. For years, the tacit agreement that exists between every barber and customer to sit still as a statue when the clippers are humming was fiercely observed. But the barber said something that startled the normally reserved lawmaker to suddenly spin his head around mid-snip.

"Congressman," the barber offered, "I've been voting for you a long time, but this year I'm making a donation to your campaign." In a world of big campaign contributions, a modest offering of a few dollars is hardly noteworthy, unless you consider the source. Rep. Eugene Clay Shaw, Jr.'s hometown barber in Fort Lauderdale, FL was 68 years old and closed his shop the last few months of the year. Far from rich and not particularly political, his pronouncement all but floored his long-time customer.

But this was a special occasion. Under Shaw's leadership, Congress had just passed historic legislation, signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 2000, that removed a Depression-era law that cut Social Security benefits for seniors who earned more than \$17,000 per year. Though little-regarded by some, this legislation had a huge impact on working seniors, and further struck a blow for American productivity and common-sense, bipartisan solutions to intractable government inertia.

With Shaw's passing this month at the age of 74, the tributes honoring his 26-year career in Congress invariably focus on his welfare

reform legislation, implementing a federal missing-child registry and various environmental protections, all of which were monumental in their own right. But seniors are forever grateful for the dogged determination Shaw displayed as chairman of the House Social Security Subcommittee when he took on a law long past its expiration date.

As chairman of a national seniors organization, and having grown up in the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood part of Rep. Shaw's district, and having testified on his legislation, I was at the front lines cheering when this law passed, and recall that Shaw shared with me many of the reactions from working seniors. "People would think I was rich and off fishing somewhere," Shaw's barber told him at the time, "because my shop was closed the last months of the year. It just made no sense to stay open, as I was essentially working for free. This way, thanks to your legislation, I can continue to earn money which I can then happily spend at Christmas on gifts for our grandkids."

Upon his return to Washington after a routine recess, Clay related to me not only his barber's reaction, but also the response he received from a 66-year-old waitress who served him breakfast one morning. "Mr. Shaw, I had to tell my manager I couldn't work the last months of the year, as I made no money. Fixing this law is a huge relief to me, my boss and my regular customers who often ask for me during my absence."

While Congress is always an easy target at which to aim our nation's considerable political frustrations, it's important to remember and honor dedicated public servants like Clay Shaw who got up every day intending to use their clout to bridge the aisle to make life better for the people back home. Shaw was also congressman to my favorite senior, my mother.

His career harkens back to a day—just a few decades ago though it seems like ages—when institutional knowledge meant something, and political clout was more frequently a tool of bipartisan cooperation. Shaw is in the company of congressmen such as Republican Dante Hyde of Illinois and Democrat Dante Fascell of Miami, and many others now long gone who didn't mind a good fight, but would never let their differences prevent them from banding together to do the right thing on behalf of the people back home.

America has 60 million senior citizens with more than 10,000 joining our ranks every day. All of them, as well as those soon to join our ranks, owe a debt of gratitude and thanks to the gentleman from Broward County. He and his kind are sorely missed.

HONORING FRANK WILBOURN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a prodigal farmer, Frank Wilbourn.

Mr. Wilbourn was born and raised in Marks, MS. He is 71 years old and has the ageless quality of someone with natural wisdom and a generous spirit. At age 22, he took the road north for the promise of better paying jobs. After returning home from 23 years of working in the steels mills of Milwaukee, he bought his father's farm and began life as one of the few local organic produce growers and the only local organic produce seller in the town. This land was purchased by his parents in 1939.

Mr. Wilbourn spends part of his days below a shade tree besides the Fred's Dollars Store parking lot. His truck bed overflows with cabbage, string beans, bundles of kale, bags of okra, and baskets of tomatoes and peppers.

Mr. Wilbourn grows all of the produce himself on a 5-acre fraction of his 100-acre farm that's nearby. On his property, two high tunnels stand in stark contrast to the surrounding straight lines of pines and the row crops of area farms.

Mr. Wilbourn is a part of the Delta Fresh Family and was inspired by his wisdom and love for his community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Frank Wilbourn for his dedication in being a remarkable farmer.

WE CAN WIN THE WAR ON
POVERTY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 50th Anniversary of President Lyndon Johnson's declaration of the "unconditional war on poverty." The question we must now ask is whether we will continue to fight to win the war on poverty or whether we will allow those who would rather wage war on the poor themselves carry the day.

No one can argue that we have won the war on poverty. We have only to look at the nearly 50 million Americans who are living below the official poverty line—including more than 16 million children. But we can argue—and should do so vigorously—against those who call the war on poverty a failure and want to raze its very foundation.

The war on poverty was based on the idea that we should make sure every American has access to a good education, economic opportunity, sufficient food, housing and health care to climb out of poverty, reach their full potential, and contribute to the economic strength of our country.

Consider what life would be like without Medicare and Medicaid, Head Start and college assistance, food stamps (now the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Jobs Corps and expanded unemployment insurance benefits, and Section 8 housing. How would we protect Americans in economically trying times without them?

Researchers tell us they make a difference. The EITC lifts six million Americans—half of them children—out of poverty, and SNAP does the same for almost five million people—also almost half of whom are children. In 2011, Medicaid kept almost 3 million Americans out of poverty. Unemployment insurance has kept 11 million people out of poverty since 2008. Without programs that help reduce poverty, almost twice as many Americans—nearly 30 percent—would live below the poverty line.

Are these programs perfect? No. Are there ways we can improve them? Of course, and many of us have been working to do so—to add new tools to lower prescription drug costs and eliminate fraud, to improve education by providing universal pre-K and making college more affordable, and to create jobs that will help the unemployed find work.

What we cannot do is follow the Republican Budget Proposal—which would give the average millionaire a \$245,000 tax cut and pay for that by gutting SNAP funding, slashing education funding, cutting infrastructure investments, voucherizing Medicare, and cutting Medicaid by more than \$800 billion over the next decade. Aside from my moral opposition to cutting those vital priorities, there is an economic reason: cutting them will hurt economic growth by preventing low-income Americans an opportunity to succeed and to contribute to our economic growth.

Instead, we should commit to strengthening the programs that have contributed to a reduction in poverty. Rather than cutting off unemployment insurance for 1.3 million Americans—and costing our economy more than 200,000 jobs in the process—we should extend the program so that those struggling to find work have the support they deserve in a time of need. Rather than weakening our education system, we should invest in universal pre-K and provide affordable student loans so that all students have a fair shot. Rather than cutting SNAP, we should restore the Recovery Act's boost to the program and ensure that it has adequate resources to prevent hunger in this country. Rather than cutting Section 8 and other housing assistance programs, we should make it our goal to ensure that everyone has a safe place to live. Rather than ending the guarantee of Medicare, we should ensure that it is strong and that our seniors have the health care they need and deserve. Rather than allowing workers to be paid less—in real terms—than at any time since the 1960s, we should commit to raising the minimum wage so that employment will mean escaping poverty.

Those investments, and others, can be made by asking the wealthiest Americans to contribute a little more and by closing loopholes that allow American corporations to avoid their fair share in taxes. Those policies do not represent "class warfare," they represent reality: if we are to end poverty, we need to invest in our people. In fact, I believe that what truly constitutes class warfare is the gutting of programs and policies that prevent poverty. If we make needed investments in preventing and reducing poverty, we will have an even stronger workforce, a more sound economy, and a brighter future for every American.

PATSY MUNDELL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Patsy Mundell for her outstanding service and commitment to our community.

Patsy Mundell is Division Chief and a 28-year veteran of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. Recognized by her peers as an innovator of inmate management and program development, Patsy implemented successful inmate education and mental health programs. She has also reformed ADA policies regarding inmates and developed video visitation in the jail. In addition to her advocacy for women in law enforcement, Patsy Mundell mentors indi-

viduals within the organization on career goals and promotions. As a Metro State University graduate, she is also a mentor for the Metro State Women's Basketball team.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Patsy Mundell for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM T. DWYER
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize William T. Dwyer High School in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida for their victory in the 7A State title game. In a well contested battle at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, the Dwyer Panthers defeated Niceville High School 55–39 to win their second State football championship.

Panther's coach Jack Daniels took his team to the title game with a perfect 15–0 record, the school's first undefeated season. After 15 consecutive playoff appearances, Dwyer High School can now call themselves repeat State champions in football, and I am honored to recognize them today.

Throughout the football season, these student-athletes balanced the pressures of both academics and football. As student-athletes across the country, myself included, can tell you, this is a challenge that tests one's patience and perseverance, and I commend the team for their successes in the classroom as well as on the field.

The Dwyer Panthers handled themselves with class in front of thousands of fans on a big stage. I hope all of the players, faculty, and parents who showed their support continue to enjoy the school's rank of 2013–2014 7A football champions for the State of Florida. I wish all of the graduating seniors the best in their future academic and athletic endeavors. To those returning next season, continue to work hard and take pride in everything you do. Congratulations again to the 2013–2014 Dwyer Panthers.

EXPIRATION OF THE FEDERAL UN-
EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PRO-
GRAM

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my serious concern about the expiration of the federal unemployment insurance program for more than 1.3 million Americans, including more than 90,000 hard working people in New Jersey. At a time when so many Americans are still struggling to recover from one of the greatest periods of economic downturn in our nation's history, it is unconscionable to me that Congress would fail to stand behind those who need our support the most right now.

The emergency federal unemployment insurance program was signed by President