

HONORING MR. CEDRIC GARDNER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, Cedric Gardner is a John F. Kennedy 9th grade student of Mound Bayou, Mississippi and is a very diligent young student who is committed to learning and being an outstanding athlete.

Prior to joining the Hornets football, baseball, basketball, cross country and track athletic programs, Cedric participated in numerous community athletic activities. Starting in 2006, he played in the Mound Bayou Mississippi Little League and Cleveland Mississippi Park Commission athletic programs.

He was selected to be included in the 2011 edition of the United States Specialty Sports Association baseball. In 2012 he was one to be selected to participate in the Down Under Sports for Cross Country Runners and participated in the World Series for youth in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Even with facing prejudice, Cedric helped lead the John F. Kennedy's Cross Country team in winning their 1 A Title in 2014.

Besides being an athlete, Cedric is also a member of The Future Business Leaders of America, Wander's Home Baptist Choir and Sunday School Records Clerk, as well as, playing the drums.

Cedric is exciting, loveable and down to earth and loves to teach young youth athletics. He will always greet you with a handshake, hug or a smile. He made it his life's mission to continue the legacy of his late cousin, Coach Sank Powe, help others and encourage them that you can do anything you set your mind to.

Cedric has decided, when he graduates in high school 2018, he will continue his education at The University of Oregon. He plans on becoming a professional Baseball Player or Coach/ Teacher.

Cedric is the son of Tabithia Gardner and his motto is: "Stay positive and always believe in yourself."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing student.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it has been forty-three years since Congress passed the Equal Rights Amendment (also known as the Women's Equality Amendment). This historic amendment is intended to enshrine in our United States Constitution fundamental equality based on sex in all areas of society.

In 1972, Congress passed the ERA with a measure that it had to be ratified by the necessary number of states (38) within 7 years. The deadline was ultimately extended an additional three years, but with this narrow and arbitrary time limit, the ERA fell just three states shy of full ratification when the deadline

passed. Other constitutional amendments have been afforded much longer for ratification. One example is the 27th amendment, concerning Congressional pay raises, which was accepted after a 203-year ratification period.

This Congress, I am joined by my colleague Representative CYNTHIA LUMMIS in this important bipartisan effort to finally add women to the Constitution. It is time for our nation to definitively declare that we will not tolerate discrimination against half the population. While we have made cracks in the glass ceiling throughout history, we have yet to shatter it. We believe that this amendment is far more than a symbolic demonstration of equality, but rather would provide protections that are vital to the wellbeing and prosperity of women and their families.

The ERA will ensure all citizens have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Women and men must have equal rights for a democracy to thrive.

The ERA will put women on equal footing in the legal systems of all 50 states, particularly in areas where women have historically been treated as second-class citizens, including in cases of public education, divorce, child custody, domestic violence, and sexual assault.

Passing the ERA will put the full weight of the U.S. Constitution behind employment laws relating to the prevention of sex discrimination in hiring, firing, promotions, and benefits—especially in the public sector.

Pregnancy discrimination continues to be prevalent in the workforce. The ERA can protect women from being harmed by a policy simply because she is a woman.

The 14th amendment is not enough. Only the ERA would provide for gender equity and offer an "overriding guarantee" of equal protection for women.

The ERA would protect the progress made on women's rights from any shifting political trends.

The ERA will ensure that the rights of American women and girls will not be diminished by any Congress or any political trend, but instead be preserved as basic rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Over the past several decades, legislative efforts have aimed to advance the rights of women—but this progress is not irreversible. Without the ERA, women have often been denied the ability to seek justice when they have experienced discrimination. We have seen that constitutional ambiguity on women's rights can have negative consequences when cases that affect the lives of women are brought before the Supreme Court. Until women's equality is clearly acknowledged in our Constitution, half of our population will continue to be without constitutionally guaranteed equality. The time is now to make women's equality a constitutional reality.

Our democracy rests on the principle of "liberty and justice for all." We need the ERA to ensure that this concept applies equally to all.

I am pleased to introduce this bill with 171 of my bipartisan colleagues. I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join in support.

OFFICER BENJAMIN DEEN

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery, fortitude, and sacrifice demonstrated by Officer Benjamin J. Deen, a member of the Hattiesburg Police Department, who was tragically slain in the line of duty on Saturday, the ninth day of May in the year two thousand and fifteen.

Officer Benjamin J. Deen, known as "B. J.," was thirty-four years old, a resident of Sumrall, Mississippi, and a graduate of Sumrall High School. He was a loving husband to his wife, Robin, and devoted father to his son Walker and daughter Melah. Prior to becoming a police officer, B. J. attended the Mississippi Fire Training Academy and served his community as a firefighter. He later attended the Hattiesburg Police Training Academy and became a patrolman with Hattiesburg Police Force. Deen soon after trained to become a K-9 officer and bonded with Tommy, his K-9 counterpart, who also became a beloved member of the family.

Together, B. J. and Tommy successfully apprehended and arrested numerous drug-related offenders. Officer Deen was not only an exceptional citizen and neighbor, but he chose to live a life of service, stepping into harm's way daily in order to protect his community.

An exceptional member of the force, Deen was named Hattiesburg Police Department's 2012 Officer of the Year. He was an outstanding and respectable man and a valuable asset to the Hattiesburg Police Department, even earning perfect attendance during two of his nearly six years on the force.

The City of Hattiesburg and the Great State of Mississippi have suffered the loss of one of our own: a family member and a protector and defender of our Constitution and laws. Every citizen deeply and sincerely feels the loss of such a devoted law enforcement officer, and his service, heroism, and sacrifice will not be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORMAND DRAPEAU FOR BEING AWARDED THE CHEVALIER OF THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize Normand Drapeau for being awarded the chevalier (knight) of the French Legion of Honor by the French Government for his courageous actions while serving in the United States Navy during World War II.

Normand was born on May 1, 1925 in Holyoke, Massachusetts into a large Catholic family as the oldest boy of twelve children. He attended the Immaculate Conception School for his primary education as well as spent a year at LaSalette Seminary in New Hampshire before ultimately deciding to work as a butcher at his family's business, Drapeau's Market. In 1942 on Holy Thursday when he was only seventeen, Normand enlisted in the United

States Navy and was shipped off to boot camp the next day on Good Friday. After he completed amphibious training in Little Creek, Virginia and Fort Pierce, Florida, he was sent off to Dartmouth, England in preparation for the invasion of France.

However, Normand did not have to wait until D-Day to see some action. On April 27, 1944, German gunboats attacked Normand's flotilla while they were on an exercise in the English Channel. One of the blasts threw Normand into the channel but he was not seriously injured. A month later, when General Eisenhower postponed the invasion of Normandy due to poor weather conditions, Normand's Landing Craft Mechanized (LCM) flotilla decided to embark across the 120-mile channel when their tow got cancelled. Once the flotilla reached Omaha Beach, Normand faced the brutal fighting and harsh reality that the beach is infamous for in order to liberate France. Normand was slightly injured during the battle but was able to be treated on the battlefield.

On June 16, 1944, Normand was hit by a landmine and was seriously wounded. This led to a difficult and dangerous journey back to the United States. He was put on a Landing Ship Tank (LST) to be brought back to a hospital in England. While on board, the ship was hit by a German torpedo and was disabled, forcing it to be towed back to England. Once in the hospital in England receiving treatment, he still had to deal with a series of German attacks. The hospital was hit by German V1 and V2 rockets, causing severe damage to the building. Normand was then moved to Scotland to await a cargo plane to take him back to the U.S. His original plane was overbooked, forcing him to fly to Newfoundland first. This last minute change ended up saving Normand's life because his original plane was shot down. He eventually got back to the United States and was treated at a naval hospital. Normand was discharged from the Navy in June 1945 and received two Purple Hearts for being wounded on the battlefield.

Mr. Speaker, Normand Drapeau is the epitome for our quiet American heroes. This very humble man does not seek any recognition or special attention for his bravery. He simply wanted to serve his country and to defend the enduring cause for freedom around the world. As the French government awards Normand with one of its highest honors, I want to take a moment to thank Normand on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the American people for his service to our nation and congratulate him on receiving this prestigious honor.

PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD
PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I support the right for women to make their own personal health care decisions and oppose H.R. 36, the "Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act." I will vote against this legislation because it imposes the will of an intolerant minority on our mothers, sisters, and daughters. It is a deliberate attack on women and it's wrong.

The new language in H.R. 36 is bad for women's health. It would require adult women who have been raped to receive potentially unwanted medical treatment and proof of counseling before receiving an abortion. This is an attempt to shame and stigmatize rape victims, while doing nothing to provide necessary mental and physical health services to women in need.

While it is couched in the language of protecting unborn fetuses from pain, this legislation is nothing more than a cruel disregard for personal circumstances of women's lives.

REMEMBERING HARVEY MILLER

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note the passing of one of this nation's preeminent bankruptcy attorneys, Harvey R. Miller. Harvey was a giant of the profession, having played a leading role in some of the most significant cases of the last half century. These cases included Texaco Inc., Drexel Burnham Lambert Group Inc., Eastern Airlines Corp., Continental Airlines, R. H. Macy, WorldCom, Global Crossing, Enron, Lehman Brothers, and General Motors, just to name a few.

Harvey was also a mentor to some of this nation's top practitioners, and an outstanding law professor. He even took the time to help me understand the Bankruptcy Code and many complex legal issues arising from it when this House considered a rewrite of the Code a decade ago.

Speaking to the New York Times in 2007, he said, "Life should be an adventure. My practice at Weil was and still is exactly that. By working on reorganizations and restructuring work in so many different businesses—such as energy, retail, manufacturing and even satellites—that's the glory of the practice and that's what I love about it. I've always said that about restructuring practice. It is probably the last area of the generalist."

As a member of the National Bankruptcy Conference, Harvey worked with his colleagues in the profession to advise Congress on changes to the Bankruptcy Code, advice that was both scholarly and informed by the real world experience of the nation's top practitioners. That advice was too often ignored by this institution and the state of the law is the poorer for it.

Harvey was a consummate New Yorker. He would note with satisfaction that his office in the General Motors building on Fifth Avenue was "across from Bergdorf's men's shop and close to Barneys." He was also a great lover of the opera, and served as an Advisory Director of the Metropolitan Opera.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to count Harvey Miller, a fellow son of Brooklyn, as a friend. He was greatly admired by all who knew him. His contributions to the profession, and to the development of bankruptcy law in the United States, are incalculable. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and work of this great legal scholar and practitioner, and to join me in extending to his wife, Ruth, our deepest sympathies.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, as I was summoned to serve on jury duty in my district, I was unable to be present for votes on the House floor on May 12, 2015. Below is an explanation of how I would have voted and why.

I would have voted for H.R. 606, the Don't Tax Our Fallen Public Safety Heroes Act, which excludes benefits paid to survivors of public safety officers killed in the line of duty from federal income tax. While such federal survivor benefits are generally exempt from taxation, this bill would ensure that the grieving families of brave officers who give their life in the line of duty do not also bear an unexpected income tax burden.

I would have voted for Rep. Edwards's amendment to H.R. 1732, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act, which aims to address criticisms of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed rule defining "Waters of the United States." This amendment would have clarified that the new definition does not expand the scope of EPA's authority under the Clean Water Act, and provided specific exemptions that help prevent spikes in the cost of water in our desert communities.

However, I would have voted against final passage of H.R. 1732, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act, which would prevent the EPA from finalizing a proposed rule clarifying which bodies of water are subject to the Clean Water Act. This bill would undermine the EPA's ability to safeguard our water supply, and invalidates the thousands of public comments submitted on the proposed rule without even seeing the final product.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
SOUTHLAKE MAYOR JOHN
TERRELL

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Honorable John Terrell, who is retiring from the Southlake City Council after six years of service as Mayor and five years as Councilmember of Place 3.

Mayor Terrell was elected Mayor of Southlake in 2009 after serving two terms as a councilmember. He has been an instrumental leader in the successful growth of Southlake. Throughout his tenure, the City of Southlake has developed into a premiere location where families want to live, businesses want to operate, and people want to visit.

Mayor Terrell has served on a number of Southlake committees that address transportation and taxes. Among these groups are the Audit Committee (2008–present), Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone No. 1 (2004–present), and Southlake 2030 Committee (2009–present). Additionally, he has served on community boards addressing development and energy, such as the Super Bowl Planning Committee (2009–2011), Oil and Gas Drilling