EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO MARCUS JOHNSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor New York City Police Officer Marcus Johnson. Marcus was born in Tuskegee, Alabama but raised in Brooklyn, Crown Heights. He attended Washington Irving High School in Manhattan and later graduated from Deborah Cannon Wolfe High School in Shorter, Alabama.

Marcus Johnson returned to New York City after his high school graduation and worked for the corporate law firm of Davis, Polk, and Wardwell. There, he was the supervisor in the mail division overseeing the office's incoming and outgoing Federal Express, DHL, Airborne Express, as well as interoffice courier services.

Marcus Johnson later enrolled in the Borough of Manhattan Community College, immediately following that enrollment, he was accepted into the New York City Police Academy. Upon his graduation from the academy, he was assigned to the 75th Precinct where he initially worked as a patrol officer. He became known for his southern hospitality, speaking and waving as he patrolled the community.

Marcus Johnson's work in his precinct did not stop there. He also worked as an evidence control specialist/property officer, highway safety officer, burglary apprehension team officer, crime prevention officer and he now holds the position of community affairs officer.

Marcus Johnson is a member of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, NOBLE. He holds the office of co-Chair of the Dinner Scholarship and Dance Committee. He is married to Ayicha Johnson and they have three children, Mikhyle, Marque, and Myles.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Officer Marcus Johnson of the New York City Police Department for his work in keeping our community safe.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a kind man who takes pride in the work he does for our city.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HONEST MONEY ACT

HON. RON PAUL
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Honest Money Act. The Honest Money Act repeals legal tender laws that force American citizens to accept fiat money in their economic transactions.

Absent legal tender laws, individuals acting through the market will determine what is money. Historically, when individuals have been free to choose their money they have selected items that are portable, widely accepted, and have a stable value. Having the market, rather than the government, define money is integral to the functioning of a free economy. As Edwin Vieira, perhaps the Nation's top expert on constitutional monetary policy says, ''. . . a free market functions most efficiently and most fairly when the market determines the quality and the quantity of money that's being used.''

While fiat money produced by the State is portable and, thanks to legal tender laws, widely accepted, it is certainly not of stable value. In fact, our entire monetary policy is predicated on the government's ability to manipulate the value of the currency. Thus, absent legal tender laws, many citizens would refuse to accept government money for their transactions.

Legal tender laws disadvantage ordinary citizens by forcing them to use inferior money, which they would otherwise refuse. As Stephen T. Byington put in the September 1895 issue of the American Federationist: ''No legal tender law is ever needed to make men take good money; its only use is to make them take bad money. Kick it out!''

It may seem surprising that the Mr. Byington's well-phrased attack on legal tender laws appeared in the publication of the American Federation of Labor. However, enlightened union leaders of that time recognized that ways in which workers where harmed by the erosion of the value of money which inevitably follows when governments pass legal tender laws.

Legal tender laws may disadvantage average citizens but they do help power-hungry politicians use inflationary monetary policy to expand the government beyond its proper limits. However, the primary beneficiaries of legal tender laws are the special interests who are granted the privilege of producing and controlling the paper money forced on the public via legal tender laws. Legal tender laws thus represent the primary means of reverse redistribution where the wealth of the working class is given, via laws forcing people to use debased money, to well-heeled, politically powerful bankers.

The drafters of the Constitution were well aware of how a government armed with legal tender powers could ravage the people's liberty and prosperity. This is why the Constitution does not grant legal tender powers to the federal government. Instead, Congress was given powers to establish standards regarding the value of money. In other words, in monetary matters the Congress was to follow the lead of the market. When Alexander Hamilton wrote the coinage act of 1792, he simply adopted the market-definition of a dollar as equaling the value of the Spanish milled silver coin.

Legal tender laws have reversed that order to where the market follows the lead of Congress. Beginning in the 19th century, Federal politicians sought to enhance their power and enrich their cronies, by using legal tender powers to change the definition of a dollar from a silver-or-gold-backed unit whose value is determined by the market, to a piece of paper produced by the State. The ''value'' of this paper may be normally backed in part by gold or silver, but its ultimate backing is the power of the State, and its value is determined by the political needs of the State and the powerful special interests who influence monetary policy.

Unfortunately, the Supreme Court failed to protect the American people from Congress' unconstitutional legal tender laws. Supreme Court Justice, and Lincoln Treasury Secretary, Salmon Chase, writing in dissent in the legal tender cases, summed up the main reason why the Founders did not grant Congress the authority to pass legal tender laws: ''The legal tender quality [of money] is only valuable for the purposes of dishonesty.'' Justice Chase might have added dishonesty is perpetrated by State-favored interests on the average American.

Another prescient Justice was Stephen Field, the only justice to dissent in every one of the legal tender cases to come before the Court. Justice Field accurately described the dangers to the constitutional republic posed by legal tender laws: ''The arguments in favor of the constitutionality of legal tender paper currency tend directly to break down the barriers which separate a government of limited powers from a government resting in the unrestrained will of Congress. Those limitations must be preserved, or our government will inevitably drift from the system established by our Fathers into a vast, centralized and consolidated government.''

Considering the growth of government since the Supreme Court joined Congress in disregarding the constitutional barriers to legal tender laws, can anyone doubt the accuracy of Justice Field's words? Repeal of legal tender laws would restore constitutional government and protect the people's right to use a currency chosen by the market because it serves the needs of the people, instead of having to use a currency chosen by the State because it serves the needs of power hungry politicians and special interests. Therefore, I urge my colleges to cosponsor the Honest Money Act.

HONORING WEBSTER P. PHILLIPS, A DISTINGUISHED EXECUTIVE AT THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise, on behalf of myself and Ways and Means Ranking Member JIM MCCRERY, to recognize Webster Phillips, a distinguished executive at the Social Security Administration. Mr. Phillips

is Associate Commissioner for Legislative Development. On July 3, he will retire after a career of public service spanning more than 30 years.

Mr. Phillips began his public service as a member of the United States Army. After his military service, which included a tour of duty in Vietnam, he began his career in the Social Security Administration as a Claims Representative in the local office in Alton, IL. He was promoted to the Operations Supervisor in the Rock Island, IL Social Security office in 1980. In 1983, Web was selected as a management intern and completed a series of developmental assignments in the Chicago Regional Office and in SSA Headquarters in Baltimore. In 1987, Web moved to Baltimore and joined the staff of the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs. Since 1995, Web has been assigned to SSA's Legislative Affairs Office in Washington. He was selected to serve in his current position as Associate Commissioner of Legislative Development in February 1999.

Ways and Means Committee Members and staff of both parties have had the pleasure of working with Web on many issues relating to Social Security during his tenure at SSA. The Subcommittee on Social Security, in particular, has benefited greatly from Web's in-depth knowledge of all aspects of Social Security policy and operations. Web has been unfailingly responsive and professional, and always provides Members and Committee staff with timely, accurate, and thorough information and analysis. Of special note is his contribution to the development of the legislation, enacted by Congress in 1994, that established the Social Security Administration as an independent agency.

It is important that we in Congress recognize the men and women who devote their working lives to improving the lives of others. Career civil servants usually do their work in quiet anonymity behind the scenes, but provide vital service to the Congress and the American people. Webster Phillips is one of those people. His record of leadership at the Social Security Administration and his commitment to providing the American people with effective and compassionate service is a record of which he can be justly proud.

We wish Web all the best in his retirement from the Social Security Administration and thank him for his many years of dedicated federal service.

TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON COUNTY, WEBSTER CITY, AND THE WEBSTER CITY DAILY FREEMAN-JOURNAL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hamilton County, Webster City, and the Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal on their 150th year anniversary. Hamilton County is located in north central Iowa and is home to approximately 16,500 people. It was named in honor of William W. Hamilton, who served as President of the Iowa State Senate from 1856–1857. Hamilton County was home to MacKinlay Kantor who won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1956 for his novel Andersonville.

The county seat of Hamilton County is Webster City, which is located along the Boone River. The city was started by Wilson Brewer when he built a log cabin by the Boone River. Brewer and William Flakes platted the town of Newcastle, which was later sold for $22,000 to Walter Wilson and his brother Sumler. Wilson was eventually elected State representative; in that capacity he requested the help of William Hamilton to divide the rather large county of Webster into two counties, Webster and Hamilton. The act of January 1, 1857 officially changed the city name from Newcastle to Webster City.

Throughout its long tenure The Daily Freeman-Journal has provided excellent national, state, and local news coverage to the people of Webster City and Hamilton County. The Daily Freeman-Journal is Hamilton County's longest continuously operating business. Throughout its history, the paper has won numerous awards including the Governor's Volunteer Award, Outstanding Outreach/Community Service Newspaper, numerous advertising awards, and several best page awards.

Again, I congratulate Hamilton County, Webster City, and The Daily Freeman-Journal on this historic anniversary.

RECOGNIZING AND WELCOMING THE DELEGATION OF PRESIDENTS, PRIME MINISTERS, AND FOREIGN MINISTERS FROM THE CARIBBEAN TO WASHINGTON, DC

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome an impressive delegation of Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Ministers from the Caribbean to Washington, DC for the first ''Conference on the Caribbean'' through the coordination of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the State Department, and Congress.

This multifaceted and dynamic region is strikingly promising, offering an array of opportunities. CARICOM is committed to enhancing economic integration through a common market and common trade policies. Members of this organization are also committed to increasing their functional cooperation by pooling resources and services in the area of human and social development, as well as coordinating foreign policy objectives that make a concerted stride for regional advancement.

The fact that this meeting is taking place in our Nation's capitol is indeed something that I applaud. However, I would be remiss if I did not emphasize the concentrated costs associated with developing an institutional framework needed to secure deeper regional integration. Therefore, it is essential that the international community invests in the socioeconomic infrastructure of this lucrative region in order to increase competitiveness and development. Aggressively pursuing partnerships and seizing opportunities to open markets are instrumental in securing a progressive future for this often ignored region.

This fortified partnership is much needed to address plaguing social dilemmas that warrant international attention. As HIV/AIDS, crime, and poverty ripple through the Caribbean region, we must be compelled to advocate for this region's growing plights. The increasing West Indian influence in the U.S. legitimizes the need for continued U.S.-Caribbean relations. According to 2000 census data an estimated 1.9 million of the total U.S. population comes from a West Indian background.

I am proud to represent Florida's 23rd district where approximately 115,000, or 18 percent of the entire district, has a Caribbean heritage. The growing presence of West Indians in South Florida, New York, and Washington, DC, has contributed to enhancing multicultural communities that are committed to economic development and social advancement.

I applaud this important step, and look forward to working with CARICOM to improve the overall relations between the U.S. Congress and our Caribbean allies.

A TRIBUTE TO BOB JAMES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional musician, Mr. Bob James. The career of Bob James is long, varied, and continues to evolve at every turn. From his first piano recital in Marshall, MO to the formation of his own trio while attending the University of Michigan to the gigs in New York City and beyond, the music of Bob James has captivated audiences throughout the world.

Bob James recorded his first solo album ''Bold Conceptions'' not long after he was discovered by Quincy Jones at the Notre Dame Jazz Festival in 1963. Another 25 solo albums would follow within a span of four decades. However, that does not include his Grammy Award-winning collaboration projects. However, it was not until Bob James met up with Creed Taylor in New York that his composing, arranging and recording career took off. After working with such CTI Recording artists as Hank Crawford and Grover Washington, Jr., James finally recorded his own album, ''One.'' This introduced his music to a much larger audience and launched a lifelong career of recording and performing live.

Bob James moved to Warner Brothers Records in 1985, beginning an association with another million seller and Grammy Award-winning album ''Double Vision.'' This album was a collaboration with David Sanborn. In 1990, while recording the ''Grand Piano Canyon'' album, Bob James reunited with his old friend, drummer Harvey Mason and worked for the first time with Lee Ritenour on guitar and Nathan East on bass. The recording sessions for this project were the genesis of the group ''Fourplay.'' Their first album was recorded and released in 1991.

Bob James experienced a personal and professional career highlight when he collaborated with his daughter Hilary on the ''Flesh & Blood'' album. The music for the project was jointly written by the two of them. They later toured 15 U.S. cities in acoustic vocal and piano duet performances.

Madam Speaker, I cannot say enough about Mr. Bob James. He has been considerate in