

appreciate all that he has done and thank him for the exceptional example that he has provided for others. I ask that you please join me in honoring Mr. T. Vance Little.

HONORING JAMES VASSAL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 5, 2007*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James Vassal in honor of his 100th birthday. A celebration was held at United Bethel Methodist Church on his birthday in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

James Vassal was born on August 18, 1907, in Amory, MS, the middle of 5 children. He worked for Frisco Railroad in Memphis for 25 years. During these years he met President Franklin D. Roosevelt twice. In 1945 he moved to Flint and went to work at the Chevrolet V-8 Engine Plant in Flint for 26½ years. He retired in 1971 and is a member of UAW Local 659.

He is a devoted member of United Bethel Methodist Church. He started attending services in 1946 in the basement of its future church on 12th Street. He worked as an usher and sang in the church gospel choir. James credits his grandfather for providing the foundation for his future devotion to United Bethel Methodist Church. He attends the 11 a.m. worship services every Sunday and is still a member of United Methodist Men and the Bible Study Group. In June, William Kornegay presented him with a certificate from the United Methodist Men's national office recognizing Vassal's "outstanding achievement" in the church. He was honored by the church's senior adult ministry at a luncheon on August 16. On his birthday, a dinner was held in his honor and attended by over 200 people. Many of James's relatives from Tennessee, Mississippi, Texas, Indiana, and Kentucky traveled to Michigan to join in the celebration. Sunday's worship centered on his contributions and featured remarks by Reverend Russell, McReynolds, Reverend Alonzo Vincent, Reverend Tara Sutton, and James's great-grandnephews and nieces.

James married Mae Berta Carter on July 16, 1927. They had one son, Charles, and one granddaughter, Reverend Delphine Vassal, an African Methodist Episcopal minister in Dallas. Devoted to each other until the end, James was by Mae's side when she passed away in 1996.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating James Vassal and wishing him the best for the coming year.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF R. JOHN HERRINGTON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 5, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of R. John Herrington, and to celebrate all his contributions to Cleveland. John passed away July 24, but he will live on in the hearts of everyone he touched.

As a soldier in the U.S. Army, John worked the night desk for the Associated Press in Tokyo, as well as with Stars and Stripes. After completing his service to our country, John worked in California, Missouri, and even London, England. By the time he arrived in Cleveland in 1968, John was already a seasoned and well-traveled reporter. And for the next 25 years, Cleveland had the fortune of benefiting from all that experience. After 3 years at WKBF, John joined the team at WKYC Channel 3, and was even the anchorman for Cleveland's first 10 p.m. newscast. In 1995, the Cleveland Regional chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences recognized John's contributions by inducting him into their Silver Circle.

John stayed just as active in retirement, acting in community theater and serving in various capacities in his church community.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering R. John Herrington, a mainstay of Cleveland broadcasting for over 25 years. John is survived by his wife of 27 years, Carol Ann, and my thoughts go out to her and their whole family. May John's spirit and live on in the lives of those who were fortunate enough to know him.

MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTION DIGITAL AND WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 4, 2007*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 694, the Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act of 2007.

Minority Serving Institutions include Historically Black Colleges and Universities, HBCUs, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, HSIs, Tribal Colleges and Universities, TCUs, and Asian American/Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities produce a disproportionately high percentage of African American science, engineering and technology professionals with advanced degrees. Even though they struggle with limited resources, HBCUs are institutions that provide special opportunities for educational enrichment for minority students.

HBCUs graduated 40 percent or more of all African Americans who, in 2000, received degrees in physics, chemistry, astronomy, environmental sciences, mathematics and biology.

In fact, African Americans who graduate from HBCUs are more likely to go on to graduate school and complete doctoral degrees than African-American undergraduates from other institutions.

HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions offer unique learning experiences, instill confidence, and impart a "can-do" attitude among minority students who matriculate there.

Congressman EDOLPHUS TOWNS of New York has devised a strong bill to assist minority-serving institutions in acquiring, and augmenting the use of digital and wireless networking technologies to improve the quality and delivery of educational services.

This legislation is appropriate, considering the very small appropriation given to these institutions to help carry on their legacy.

I strongly support this bill and appreciate Chairman BART GORDON and Ranking Member RALPH HALL, of the Committee on Science and Technology, for their partnership to facilitate it through the Committee process.

Again, I am pleased to support the Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act of 2007, and I urge my colleagues to support it also.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL A. FILARDO FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 5, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, proudly pause to recognize Michael A. Filardo, 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 900, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael A. Filardo for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING MS. BROOKE ARNOLD

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 5, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents Ms. Brooke Arnold of Centennial, Colorado, who will attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in 2008. Her outstanding academic merits and communal involvement have laid a solid foundation of individual integrity and dedication: both characteristics of a qualified leader. I am honored to represent such a promising young woman.

Created in 1956, the People to People Program is an educational travel program dedicated to fostering leadership potential in youth worldwide. People to People has helped more than 200,000 students and professionals develop their leadership skills based upon Dwight D. Eisenhower's belief that "people can make a difference where governments cannot." This unique interaction and exposure will enable Ms. Arnold to gain a greater understanding and insider's perspective of Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Arnold and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.