

On the occasion of this milestone, I am proud to recognize the dedicated, hardworking employees of Aerojet in Orange and this latest of their many achievements in support of our courageous men and women who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. These Virginians are working hard to ensure our men and women in uniform are protected and have the resources they need to carry out their missions effectively and quickly and they are most deserving of our sincere appreciation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 7TH ANNUAL KIT'S MIRACLE MILE AND BRAIN INJURY SERVICES, INC.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 7th Annual Kit's Miracle Mile 10k Run/Walk and Brain Injury Awareness Fair. This event serves to raise money and awareness to better treat and understand those suffering from traumatic brain injury.

Brain Injury Services, Inc., BIS, works to assist those living with the consequences of a traumatic brain injury. Since 1989, BIS has offered services to residents throughout the northern Virginia area. Individuals suffering from traumatic brain injuries often require help learning to navigate the world with reduced cognitive functions. BIS addresses the needs of these individuals with professional experience and compassion in connecting people with the information and resources they need to be successful in their daily lives. With roughly 500 cases at any given time, BIS provides independent living skills training, respite care, specialized clubhouse programs and social skills training, often at no cost to individuals or families.

Kit's Miracle Mile is named after Kit Callahan, whose life was touched by the work of Brain Injury Services, Inc. A graduate of Virginia Tech, Kit was athletic and motivated to begin a career in finance. He pursued this endeavor by taking a job as a runner at the Chicago Commodities Exchange. Shortly after his move to Chicago, Kit suffered a traumatic brain injury, which would change his life forever. Although Kit narrowly survived, he suffered traumatic brain damage which would require him to relearn many of the day-to-day activities that most of us take for granted. He was fortunate in that he had strong community partners like Brain Injury Services, Inc. to help him navigate the challenges he faced. Kit also possessed a determination to return to a productive life and pursue the goals he had set before his injury. Through case management and training, his family became able to assist Kit in restoring his ability to be independent and maintain employment. Although to this day Kit requires the care and assistance of his family, his miraculous recovery from near death is an inspiration to everyone suffering from a traumatic brain injury.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Brain Injury Services Inc. and the important work they perform in the community and in honoring Kit Callahan for his courage and determination to recover and return to productive life. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the many volunteers and staff who contribute their time and energy to make this organization and the annual run/walk possible.

HONORING GLORIA AUSTIN

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Floridian, an internationally recognized leader in the equestrian world, founder of the Florida Carriage Museum, and the president of the Equine Heritage Institute—Ms. Gloria Austin of Weirsdale, Florida.

Ms. Austin has been justifiably credited with being responsible for educating, celebrating and preserving the history of the horse and its role in shaping world civilization and changing lives through the creation of the Florida Carriage Museum and Equine Heritage Institute.

Ms. Austin brings to her passion for all things equine an astute understanding of how beneficial involvement with horses can be to those who have development and/or physical disabilities. She has a long and storied history of actively advocating for this needy population with both financial and therapeutic support.

She has recently expanded her support into the area of providing assistance to include helping physically and mentally challenged service veterans. Her willingness to give back to those who have given so much has been justifiably lauded by numerous veterans groups as commendable.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that Ms. Austin has been involved with the equine world for almost 7 decades. I have stated many of her outstanding accomplishments, but perhaps her greatest legacy to equestrian society will through her establishment of meaningful educational programs offered in the partnership with leading collegiate educational institutions, and the creation of the highly acclaimed Florida Carriage Museum. These attributes will have a lasting impact well beyond the lifespan of Ms. Austin.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring this outstanding leader and benefactor for her humanitarian accomplishments in the equestrian world.

TESTIMONY OF MR. CHRISTOPHER COATES BEFORE THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS REGARDING UNEQUAL ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I submit a copy of my September 23, 2010, letter to Attorney General Holder strongly supporting the decision of Mr. Christopher Coates to comply with a subpoena to appear before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Mr. Coates contacted me prior to his testimony to share this information and he requested all applicable federal whistleblower protections.

I also submit a portion of Mr. Coates' testimony before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in which he discusses the unequal enforcement of federal voting laws by political and career officials in the Department of Justice.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 23, 2010.
Hon. ERIC H. HOLDER, Jr.,
Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice,
Washington DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: I write to strongly support Mr. Christopher Coate's decision to comply with a federal subpoena to appear before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. I also wanted to make you aware that prior to appearing before the commission, Mr. Coates contacted me to share similar information relating to the equal enforcement of federal voting laws.

Mr. Coates has every right to bring this information to a Member of Congress as well as a responsibility to comply with the commission's subpoena, despite the department's obstruction. I trust that Mr. Coates will face no repercussion for his decision and expect you to inform political and career supervisors to respect his decision.

As you are aware, the 1912 Anti-Gag Legislation and Whistleblower Protection Laws for Federal Employees guaranteed that "the right of any persons employed in the civil service . . . to petition Congress, or any Member thereof, or to furnish information to either House of Congress, or to any committee or member thereof, shall not be denied or interfered with." (37 Stat. 555, 1912; codified at 5 U.S.C. 7211, 1994)

Additionally, you should be aware that federal officials who deny or interfere with employees' rights to furnish information to Congress are not entitled to have their salaries paid by the taxpayers. As ranking member on the House Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations subcommittee, I assure you that I take this statute very seriously and will do everything in my power to enforce it should any negative actions be taken against Mr. Coates as a result of his decision to contact Congress and appear before the commission.

A copy of this letter and Mr. Coate's testimony before the commission will be submitted to the Congressional Record for public review.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress

TESTIMONY OF CHRISTOPHER COATES—U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS, SEPTEMBER 24, 2010

Good morning, Chairman Reynolds, Vice-Chair Thornstrom, and other members of this Commission. I am here to testify about the Department of Justice's (DOJ) final disposition of the New Black Panther Party (NBPP) case and the hostility in the Civil Right Division (CRD) and Voting Section toward the equal enforcement of some of the federal voting laws.

This Commission served me with a subpoena in December 2009 to testify in its investigation of the DOJ's actions in the NBPP case. Since service of that subpoena, I have been instructed by DOJ officials not to comply with it. I have communicated with these officials, including Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Thomas Perez, and expressed my view that I should be allowed to testify concerning this important civil rights enforcement issue. I have pointed out that I have personal knowledge that is relevant to your investigation—personal knowledge that Mr. Perez does not have—because he was not serving as AAG for Civil Rights at the time of the final disposition of the NBPP case. My requests to be allowed to testify and your repeated requests to the DOJ for it to allow me to respond to the lawfully-issued subpoena have all been denied.