

Rather, the best example of true community is shown by Marquette County's programs that help people live happy, productive and engaged lives, supported by and supporting their neighbors. Marquette County's richness in these efforts made it possible for this small, thinly populated piece of God's Country to be named an All-America City in its very first attempt.

I have co-sponsored a House Concurrent Resolution congratulating Marquette County and all ten of the All-America cities for their efforts and successes. It is a small token of recognition for a very large effort. All of Marquette County should be proud.

I certainly am. I ask that my House colleagues join me in extending congratulations to Marquette County, a 2003 All-America City.

#### A TRIBUTE TO DR. AL BEST

### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to salute Al Best as he is being honored at the "Sixth Annual Community Tribute Banquet" on June 22, 2003. He is being recognized for his tireless activism and community service on behalf of San Diego's Gay and Lesbian community.

Al was born and raised in Colorado, was hired at the age of 18 by United Airlines, and in 1960 became United's Regional Convention Representative. During this time, he received his BS degree at the University of Colorado. In 1963, Al joined Frontier Air Lines as Southwest Regional Manager, based in Albuquerque, and two years later, he was named to the New Mexico State Aviation Board. He received his Masters' Degree from the University of New Mexico and his Ph.D from New Mexico State University.

When Al first arrived in San Diego in 1975, he immediately became active in the community by volunteering and raising money for outstanding organizations such as The Center and the Metropolitan Community Church. He was one of the founders of Stepping Stone, a non-profit alcohol and drug recovery agency. In 1979, he made history by being the first openly gay person to run for the San Diego City Council. Even though he was largely outspent and outraised by his opponents, he finished 5th out of 11 in the campaign.

In 1985, Al became the first president of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club. In 1989, he was the first openly gay person appointed to San Diego's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He was also a member of Mayor Maureen O'Connor's Violent Crime Task Force. In 1990, he was the first openly gay person sworn into the San Diego Civil Service Commission and became its first openly gay president in 1992. In 1993, he was a co-chair for the Human Rights Campaign milestone March on Washington. He currently serves as Vice Chairman of Something Special Food Pantry, a volunteer organization that distributes food to men, women, children and families who have HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Al Best has set an outstanding precedent for gay and lesbians in San Diego and

has paved the way for future generations to come. He is truly one of the best in San Diego. I offer my congratulations to him on being honored at the "Sixth Annual Community Tribute Banquet."

#### TRIBUTE TO STEVE MOORE

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to stand before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to Steve Moore, a police officer from Grand Junction, Colorado, whose optimism and courage have rightfully garnered him the Optimist Officer of the Year Award. Steve has spent most of his adult life serving his community, working with determination to protect his fellow citizens in Grand Junction.

Steve has been involved in law enforcement for 17 years, and has spent the last five with the Grand Junction Police Force. Steve loves working as a member of the Motor Department because he enjoys being around people and spending his time outdoors. Fellow officer Sergeant David Krouse, who describes Steve as an excellent officer, coach, co-worker, friend, and father, nominated him for the Optimist Officer of the Year.

When not protecting the streets of Grand Junction, Steve volunteers his time to make a difference in the community. He is currently developing a safe-driving program for local high schools in hopes of educating teens as they take the wheel. In an effort to improve community safety, Steve instructs traffic violators in a program called Traffic School. When not teaching Traffic School, Steve spends much of his time with teenagers, and relishes the positive impact he makes on their lives. With a role model like Steve, teens become confident in their ability to make the right choice the first time.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to Steve Moore. His hard work and determination in the Grand Junction community have helped create safer streets and smarter students. Steve certainly deserves the respect and admiration of this body and it is clear he is deserving of the Optimist Officer of the Year Award. Thank you, Steve, for your outstanding service to the community.

#### IN HONOR OF MR. LLOYD MONSERRATT

### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, we, Ms. ROY-BALL-ALLARD, Ms. SOLIS, and myself, rise today with emotions mixed with fond memories and profound sadness to pay tribute to a dear friend and people's champion, Mr. Lloyd Monserratt. Six months ago, on January 9, 2003, Lloyd unexpectedly passed away. His

loss was a sudden and tragic one for all of us—we lost an inspirational leader. This upcoming Sunday, June 22, 2003, we will have an opportunity to remember Lloyd and honor his life when the community gathers to break ground for The Lloyd Monserratt Pleasant House, a transitional living program designed to prevent foster youth from becoming homeless by providing them with a stable and secure environment; a fitting tribute to a great man.

After 36 short but accomplished years of life, Lloyd Monserratt is survived by his mother, Olga Monserratt; his brother, Ernie Monserratt; his grandmother Consuelo Recalde; and his fiancé, Michele Ramos. Lloyd was predeceased by his father, Carlos Monserratt.

Those of us who are fortunate to have called Lloyd a friend remember him as a man who had passion for life, as a gentle man, and as someone who was always there for you with an enormous smile and a warm embrace. He devoted his life to helping others in the greater Los Angeles area and across the country. By using politics as a vehicle for change, Lloyd labored tirelessly to empower poor and underrepresented individuals to work together and make a difference in their own communities. Lloyd treated everyone with respect and made it his personal mission to provide opportunities, training and jobs for youth. Through his work and boundless love, Lloyd gave life to countless people. The lessons Lloyd shared and example he set will continue to live on—through the many family members, friends, young people, community activists and elected officials whose lives Lloyd touched—long after he has left us.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all who loved and respected him, we respectfully submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following tribute to Lloyd Monserratt, shared by his family at his funeral on January 18, 2003, at All Souls Church in Alhambra, CA.

Los Angeles has lost an angel—Lloyd Monserratt, altar boy, eagle scout, soccer coach, umpire, community organizer, chief of staff, and young political leader.

Lloyd Monserratt, the child of Carlos and Olga Monserratt, was born on December 3, 1966 at California Hospital in Los Angeles, California. A love and respect for the community was instilled in Lloyd early in life. As a 9-year old, Lloyd attended his first protest alongside his father in his hometown of Alhambra.

Lloyd was born to lead; he ran his first political campaign while in the seventh grade where he was successful in getting himself elected to be All Souls Elementary School Student Body President. As a boy scout, he reached the rank of Eagle Scout with Boy Scout Troop #203, and while in college Lloyd became one of the few Latino USAC Presidents at UCLA. An active member of the University of California Student Association, he organized students across the state.

Lloyd was a role model. He was an altar boy at All Souls Church. He was a member of several of All Souls' sports teams. He played T-ball, little league, and West Valley AYSO soccer. Lloyd was the assistant coach of his brother Ernie's soccer team. He later became a little league umpire for several years for West Alhambra Little League. As an All Souls Panther, Lloyd earned MVP honors for "B" basketball and took his team to the city championship.

Lloyd attended Saint Francis High School where he was an honor student. As a senior in high school, Lloyd applied to only one college—UCLA. Lloyd was proud to be a Bruin. He was a leader in the student movement, as a student commissioner and later student President, and as a MEChA leader and co-founder of MEChA class.

Lloyd was the community. He created the Parents Institute while working for Los Angeles School Board Member Vicki Castro, and designed the National Association for Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) national program for newly elected and appointed officials. Widely respected and admired by all who met him, Lloyd gave people the tools to change their lives. He made a difference in the lives of youth, seniors, and residents across the state. A community organizer and political veteran, he managed and directed political campaigns from San Diego to San Francisco and beyond. As a Latino Campaign Director for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, he led all six of his congressional candidates to victory simultaneously. As a chief of staff to Los Angeles City Councilman Nick Pacheco, he impacted countless people across the eastside and northeast Los Angeles. Lloyd can be remembered as a motivator, a peace keeper, a visionary, and a gentle man. Lloyd was the heart of the district, and the heart of Councilman Pacheco's office. He was the visionary, the mover, the motivator and the implementer.

Lloyd made a lasting impact on everyone he met. Lloyd accomplished more in 36 years than many others accomplish in three lifetimes. Lloyd was a leader of his generation. We will miss him greatly.

Mr. Speaker, the voice of family always speaks with conviction and from the heart. The sentiments expressed by Lloyd's family are also ours. We, too, know them to be true. We wish to thank Father Richard Estrada of Jovenes, Inc., for our newly named The Lloyd Monserratt Pleasant House. June 22 offers us another chance to commemorate the life of our friend Lloyd Monserratt.

Mr. Speaker, we ask that all of our colleagues join with us today to salute Mr. Lloyd Monserratt and honor his life. He will forever remain in our thoughts.

#### TRIBUTE TO CAMILLE FIELDS

### HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2003*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 14, 2003, at the NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner in Cleveland, OH, Camille Fields, the daughter of Helen and Darryl Fields and the granddaughter of Mary and George Forbes, President of the Cleveland Chapter of the NAACP, delivered the following address:

"Imagine 250 years ago: you must get up at 5:00 a.m. to go to the fields and farm. After farming, you go home at about 7 or 8:00 p.m. Can't imagine it? Well this was the normal life of an African-American slave during the antebellum period. Day in and day out, African-Americans worked harder than anyone of us will probably ever know. Enslaved in the slave trade, black slaves brought to the Americas spent their days working, picking cotton, farm-

ing and cooking for their white masters. Despite their everlasting work and the building of America, African-Americans were never paid the dues that they were owed. Payments or reparations should be given to African-American slave descendants for that painful period in history that some people want to forget, but should always remember.

"Reparations are payments to repair or right the wrongs of past injustices. African-Americans are owed reparations because of the work and pain that they had to endure during and after slavery. Reparations have been around since emancipation. A form of reparations was the idea of 40 acres and a mule. This was the idea that all slaves would receive 40 acres and mule after slavery to get them started for their own lives. Slavery and its benefactor, the white masters hurt black Americans. To this day, black Americans are living the legacy of slavery. In slavery, if blacks were to refuse to work or proceed to run away, they were punished. The form of punishment was almost always beatings or being whipped. Slavery was a horrible time for the black race, there were 250 years of pain and labor with no compensation for it and that is not fair. Slavery was, 'America's Black Holocaust.' Because of the effect slavery has brought on to African-Americans, blacks deserve to be compensated. After all, everyone else has.

"In 1987, people began to hear the word reparations a lot, but the discussion was not directed towards benefiting African-Americans. Instead, the United States government passed a law to conduct a national apology to Japanese-Americans and to pay them \$20,000 apiece for their internment during World War II. The Japanese-Americans are not the only ones who received reparations. Last year, European insurance companies were allowing Holocaust survivors to apply for reparations; \$275 million are being split up into accounts. Of this, 100 million will be for expenses and other 175 million will be available for Holocaust survivors and charities. This agreement will be fully enforced at the end of next year. Seven-thousand, eight-hundred forty-four people have made claims for Holocaust reparations in Germany and 18,200 people have made claims in other European countries. Israel Singer, the chairman of the World Jewish Congress stated, 'this is a great victory for justice. This is part of a massive effort at restitution that is very late, but fortunately not too late for hundreds of thousands of Holocaust survivors still alive, many of whom are in great need.' Jewish and Japanese people have been compensated for the past injustices done against their religion and race, so many African-Americans are raising the question, 'Why haven't I been compensated for slavery?' So as a result many African-Americans go to court.

"Reparations Activist Deadria Farmer-Paellman has been the spokesperson for African-Americans who are suing various corporations for their part in slavery. She files lawsuits against companies and as Paellman states, 'These are corporations that benefited from stealing people, from stealing labor, from forced breeding, from torture, from committing numerous horrendous acts and there's no reason why they should be able to hold onto assets they acquired through such horrendous acts.'

"In one lawsuit, Aetna Insurance Company is being held accountable for the act of insuring white masters, if their slaves ran away. They have apologized for insuring masters with money for their slaves. In 1998, Imari Obadele and two other people filed a claim that slavery was worse than Japanese internment and blacks should be paid. Their claim was turned down. The judge ruled against them, Chief Judge Lawrence Baskir of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims wrote 'make no mistake, the plaintiffs have made a powerful case for redress that could form the basis of future legislation providing for reparations for slavery.' In the late 1990s, President Clinton played with the idea of reparations and an apology, but he rejected it.

"Every year, the government does nothing to help out and further the idea of reparations, but one city is making a change toward the better. Last year on October 2, 2002, history was made in Chicago. The Chicago Council passed a law called the Slavery Era Insurance Disclosure. This law was the first one of its kind for a well known city. With the law, before they do business with the city, companies will have to disclose their ties with slavery. This law could affect anyone's company who can trace their ties back to slavery. Here in Cleveland, NAACP president George Forbes wants to have that same law passed here. His proposal wasn't asking for money, but as he states, 'We're not advocating reparations, we just want to discuss it. We want to take it out of the emotional context and show how slavery goes into all corners of Cleveland life.' Many people are advocating and pushing the need for reparations, because so many people need them.

"Some people might raise the question, 'is black poverty the legacy of slavery?' Well it is. After slavery, African-Americans had to start their lives from scratch and they were poor and uneducated. So the cycle continues from one generation to another. The poverty rate is higher for African-Americans than for other minorities. The rate has stayed the same since the last census. Twenty-two point seven percent of African-Americans are living in poverty. While the poverty rate for whites is 7.8 percent. Black people still suffer from economic, political and social falls from slavery. Martin J. Katz, author of *The Economics of Discrimination* says, 'Whites will be allowed to retain an advantage, which they did not earn and blacks will continue to lag behind as a result of acts which, although they may not be amenable to documentation, no one denies were performed in contempt of individuality. Racism has made race relevant to productivity. Treating race as if it were irrelevant will not help to make it any less relevant.' Slavery's everlasting mark is black poverty, so therefore, because of slavery and its dent on society, African-Americans deserve reparations.

"The saying 'let bygones be bygones' is often referred to the subject of reparations and slavery. The excuses include 'it ended 140 years ago before any of us were born,' or 'There's nothing I can do about it; my family never owned slaves.' But did people say that in 1987 when the government had to pay Japanese Americans? Would anyone say, 'I was never really there when the Japanese were interned, so why should I have to pay them.' I