

the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame, and as an elected Fellow of the Aerospace Medical Association. However, Harry Orlady would tell you that the main satisfaction of his work came from his peers, from people who told him that he made a difference, and most of all, from watching those whom he coached and mentored make contributions to the industry.

Aviation aside, Harry Orlady's main interest was his family. Harry met the love of his life, Ellen, when she was a stewardess for United during the DC-3 days. At the time, stewardesses were required to be registered nurses and also could not continue to fly once married. Harry and Ellen were blessed to share 59 years of marriage. Besides Ellen, Harry is survived by 4 children: Roger and his wife Nancy; Sue and her husband, John Brown; Linda and her husband, John Cirino; and Craig; as well as his "bright lights," grandchildren: Stephanie, Steve, and Scott Brown.

Madam Speaker, Captain Harry Orlady's contributions to aviation safety will be long remembered and carried on by his many colleagues and students. He will be greatly missed, but his momentous contributions will live on forever.

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HONORING ROBERT L. HARRIS

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 27, 2007*

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and work of Robert L. Harris, a native of Oakland, CA. Today Bob celebrates his retirement from Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), where he currently serves as the Vice President of Environmental, Health, Technical and Land Services. His outstanding contributions to his company are second only to what he has given back to our community. I am proud to have this oppor-

tunity to salute him for his many years of service.

Bob graduated from Merrit College in 1963 and the University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall) in 1973. There he had a memorable career, where he was an associate editor for the California Law Review. He was admitted to the California State Bar on December 13, 1972, and was a State bar examination grader from 1973-1979. He made continuing education a priority throughout his career, completing the Harvard Graduate School of Business Advanced Management Program, as well as the Management Development Program at Duke University's School of Business.

Almost immediately after his graduation from law school, Bob was invited to join the legal staff of PG&E. In 1985, he became the first and only lawyer in PG&E's history to argue and win a case for the company in the United States Supreme Court. The issue he won pertained to free speech.

In 1989, Bob was selected to become the manager of one of PG&E's major operating divisions in its East Bay region in Oakland, CA. He was the first lawyer ever appointed to such a position within PG&E. In that position, he proved his exceptional leadership skills in the face of disaster on more than one occasion. In 1989, the Loma Prieta earthquake devastated the Bay Area and damaged PG&E's facilities. Despite the severity of the situation, Bob was able to keep his division afloat and organized. Two years later, the Oakland Hills Firestorm, the largest urban firestorm in United States history, struck and devastated our region. During this crisis, Bob was once again able to lead a demonstration of commitment to Bay Area residents, and PG&E restored service to the remaining homes in record time. As a result, PG&E won accolades from throughout the East Bay for maintaining service to their customers, no matter how grave the situation.

In addition to his success with PG&E, Bob has distinguished himself in numerous endeavors within the community. He is an active longtime member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fra-

ternity, and has served as the Sire Archon (president) of Alpha Gamma Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. Bob is a former president of the Charles Houston Bar Association of the San Francisco Bay Area, and in 1970-1980, he served as president of the National Bar Association. He is one of the founders of the California Association of Black Lawyers, and served as a member of the Board of Commissioners at the Port of Oakland from 1996-2000.

Bob is also active in energy matters that impact African Americans. He is the second vice chairman and former general counsel of the American Association of Blacks in Energy. Bob is a board member of the U.S. EPA's National Advisory Council on Environmental Justice, the National Energy Policy Commission, the California EPA Advisory Committee on Environmental Justice, and the California League of Conservation Voters.

Bob is well known for his unparalleled dedication to community service and has received numerous accolades for his work. Among them is the NAACP's highest legal honor, the "William Robert Ming Award," as well as the National Bar Association's highest honor, the "C. Francis Stradford Award." In July 2005, he also received the Kappa Alpha Psi's highest honor, the "Laurel Wreath." Currently Bob chairs the United Negro College Fund's Bay Area Advisory Board, and has received its highest honor, the "Fredrick D. Patterson Award." On five different occasions, he was selected by Ebony Magazine as one of the "100 Most Influential Blacks in America."

Today, the friends, family and colleagues of Robert L. Harris have come together to celebrate his career and immeasurable contributions to our community. On this very special day, I join all of them in thanking Bob for his invaluable service, and for the profoundly positive impact his work has had on countless lives here in California's 9th U.S. Congressional District, across our country and throughout the world.