

Anyone who knew Celia knows how witty, energetic and intelligent she was. She thoroughly understood the legislative process and the workings of this institution, and she met every challenge head on. In fact, the motto by which she operated was that the impossible only takes a bit longer to achieve. When Celia took on a task that usually proved to be true. It is the standard she set for my office—an admirable goal indeed, and one which we have always sought to live up to.

She was above all a woman who knew how to get things done, who never accepted the mediocre and who always believed that we were all here to serve and to make a difference. That is exactly what Celia did. As my administrative assistant she made a difference in the quality of life in the 15th District of Texas which I am privileged to represent. To my constituency back home Celia was known as "our lady in Washington." She lived up to that title and more.

Celia Hare Martin truly was a maverick in her time, and I should add a local legend by virtue of the fact that she has had the longest tenure of any employee in one congressional office. As far as I am concerned there has never been anyone like her and there never will be again. She is going to be greatly missed.

HONORING JOE ALEXANDER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the Nation's best known and most revered public transportation professionals, who is retiring after 25 years of service. Joe Alexander resigned from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Board of Directors on June 26, 1995. The Metro Board will honor him for his quarter century of service to Metro and the transit industry at a reception on September 15, 1995.

Joe Alexander is synonymous with the planning, financing, and construction of the 103-mile Metrorail system. He was appointed to the Metro Board in 1971 and assumed a leadership role in persuading the citizens of Fairfax County to approve bonds to finance their share of the Metrorail system. He went on to become chairman of the Metro Board four times: 1975, 1981, 1987, and 1993. But those titles only scratch the surface of his achievements.

On his watch, the Metrorail system took shape: the initial opening of service on the Red Line from Farragut North to Union Station (1976), followed by the Blue Line from Stadium-Armory to National Airport (1977); the Orange Line from Rosslyn to Ballston (1979); the Yellow Line from Gallery Place to the Pentagon (1983); the Blue Line from National Airport to Huntington (1983); the Orange Line from Ballston to Vienna (1986); and the Green Line from Ft. Totten to Greenbelt (1993). The Metrorail system now encompasses 89.5 miles and 74 stations and will add 3.3 miles and the Franconia-Springfield Station in 1997. This facility will add the last planned station in Fairfax County and the Commonwealth of Virginia, a 3,600-space parking garage and the only Metrorail station in Joe Alexander's magisterial

district. Joe Alexander made sure his job was complete before he decided to move on.

Metrorail has earned the nickname "America's Subway" for its unparalleled design, convenience, and the highest cost recovery ratio of any heavy rail system in the Nation—71 percent. Over 500,000 trips per day, including many Members of Congress, staff and most importantly our constituents, are taken on Metrorail. It represents among the highest level of accomplishment to which elected officials can aspire and is embodied by the career of Joe Alexander.

Joe Alexander was not content, however, to confine his activities in the transit industry to Metro. He was a founding member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission [NVTC] in 1964. NVTC consists of the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun and is responsible for coordinating the financial and service plans of these localities who are included in the Metro service area. He served as chairman of NVTC in 1970, 1971 and 1972. His chairmanship was highlighted by NVTC's receipt of the Shirley Highway Demonstration Project grant from U.S. DOT in 1971. This project was the first of its kind in the Nation to demonstrate the enormous benefits of express bus service on grade-separated high-occupancy-vehicle lanes and is now a common transportation demand management strategy in metropolitan areas around the country.

In 1974, Joe Alexander was among the regional leaders to organize and implement the takeover of four private bus companies to form the Metrobus system. The Metro board acquired 600 new buses, restructured routes and fares and delivered great improvements for the regional bus system in a few short years.

Joe Alexander was a major player at the State level, also. He served as chairman of the Virginia Association of Public Transit Officials [VAPTO] for 4 years. His tenure was highlighted by the VAPTO-created Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund at the 1986 Virginia General Assembly. This fund guarantees mass transit a fixed percentage of the Transportation Trust Fund and for the first time created a stable and reliable source of State funds for Metro and transit systems throughout Virginia.

Joe Alexander did not stop there. He has been very active at the American Public Transit Association [APTA], serving as chairman from 1982 to 1984. There is no person in this country who knows, has worked with or enjoys the respect of as many people in the transit industry as Joe Alexander.

And if all of this is not enough, Joe Alexander will finish out his term on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in January, 1996, after serving 32 years as supervisor of Lee District. When Joe Alexander took office in Fairfax, the beltway did not exist and Fairfax had more cows than people. Today, Fairfax is approaching 1 million in population and is the home of one of the highest-rated public education systems and high-technology business sectors in the country.

Joe Alexander is an icon in the transit industry locally and nationally. His service has been marked by dedication; a commitment to excellence; and an unwavering determination to achieve the highest goals for public transit and government service. We recently celebrated the lifelong achievement of Cal Ripken,

Jr. as he broke Lou Gehrig's record for consecutive games played in Major League Baseball. Joe Alexander's lifetime record in the transit field is no less worthy of the same recognition accorded Cal Ripken.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring Joe Alexander for his many years of service and contributions to the transit industry. We wish him and his family continued success in the years ahead.

A TRIBUTE TO JACK STONE, AGRICULTURALIST OF THE YEAR

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. DOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise before my colleagues today to pay a special tribute to Jack Stone, a fellow Kings County farmer and rancher who has been honored by his community.

A true pioneer of the San Joaquin Valley's west side, Jack is an especially appropriate choice as the first ever Lemoore Chamber of Commerce Agriculturalist of the year. Before World War II, Jack began farming land on the westside, growing grain and cotton. In those days his land was irrigated with well water pumped from underground.

With construction of the San Luis unit of the Central Valley Project in 1968, Jack and his fellow west side farmers realized a life-long dream of bringing fresh surface water to their farms. That change helped transform the west side into one of the most productive agricultural regions in the Nation. But this transformation could not have been possible without the farsighted and stubborn commitment of farmers like Jack Stone.

As one of the visionaries who helped make the VCP a reality, Jack was appointed to the Wetlands Water District Board of directors in 1972, and was elected president 4 years later. He led the district through years of significant change, including two severe droughts, the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982, the Kesterson Reservoir controversy, and the CVP Improvement Act of 1992.

Jack also has served on the boards of more than 20 community, farm, academic, and water-related organizations. He is past chairman of its producers steering committee; a past member of the International Cotton Advisory Committee; and past president of the Western Cotton Growers Association.

He was the Irrigation Institute's Man of the Year in 1989; was inducted into the Cotton Hall of Fame in 1992; and is an active member of the Kings Country sheriff's posse.

Jack Stone is a dedicated valley and west side resident who has played a significant role in the development of Kings County agriculture. I applaud the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce for Recognizing his contributions.

DEFICIT REDUCTION

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday,

September 13, 1995, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

REDUCING THE DEFICIT

In recent years significant progress has been made in reducing the federal budget deficit. When President Clinton took office the deficit was at an all-time high of \$290 billion and projected to continue to rise. But because of the 1993 deficit reduction package approved by Congress and a stronger than expected recovery for the economy, the deficit has been steadily falling. Last year it was down to \$203 billion and this year will be \$161 billion. Because the U.S. economy has been steadily growing, the deficit is now smaller relative to the size of the economy than at any time since the 1970s.

Despite this, the central issue in Congress for the rest of the year will be making further progress on the budget deficit. The reasons are that the country is focused on deficit reduction as a national goal and that without additional steps the deficit will rise again, driven largely by increasing federal health care expenditures. Within two years the deficit could again be over \$200 billion.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

The more the government borrows to meet its debts, the less is available for productive investment, both private and public, and the more we pass the burden on to our children. Earlier this year Congress passed a plan developed by the congressional leadership to balance the budget in seven years. I supported a similar seven-year plan, as well as a balanced budget amendment to help force Congress to stick to the plan. President Clinton proposed a plan that would balance the budget in ten years.

It is questionable how much difference it makes whether we balance the budget by 2002 or by 2005. After several years of steady decline, the deficit between 2002 and 2005 would be so small that it may be viewed as insignificant in an economy as large as ours. What is important is to have a credible commitment by Congress to put into place a mechanism that will control spending and make sure that the actual deficits are on a glide path towards zero. The debate will continue over balancing the budget in seven years versus ten years. A bipartisan budget will probably have to be reached that sets a date somewhere in between.

ECONOMIC PROJECTS

One major question in the budget debate is the credibility of economic projections. Everybody attacks the other person's forecast of revenue and economic growth. Minor differences in assumptions can over the years magnify into huge differences in the projected deficit. All long-term projections about economic growth and revenues are highly suspect and cannot be made with any precision. Generally, since deficits almost always turn out to be higher than forecast, my inclination is to take the more conservative estimates.

Tremendous pressure is placed on those who make economic and budget projections. For example, the new congressional leadership has been pushing the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to adopt "dynamic" methods, of calculating the effects of their policies, so that their proposed tax cuts and spending reductions would boost projected economic growth beyond the estimates of most economists. But CBO has a reputation for independence, and has not always been cooperative. Last year for example, CBO dealt a crippling blow to President Clinton's health care reform plan by concluding that it would produce far smaller savings than the President had claimed. It recently warned the new congressional leadership that their proposal for moving millions of

Medicare recipient from a fee-for-service system to managed health care would likely not save nearly as much moneys as the leadership wanted. That could undermine their efforts to balance the budget or to deliver a big tax cut.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

The primary goal of deficit reduction is to help create an economy that has strong investments, creates jobs, has a sound dollar, and has low inflation. That is why it is important not only that we balance the budget but how we balance it. We should not gut the very programs that help improve our long-term economic outlook—including education and training, research, and roads and bridges.

It is disturbing that the economic projections made in the budget provide only modest growth for the rest of the decade. Much more attention has to be directed towards what is an acceptable rate of growth for the country and what kinds of investments are needed in order to get that growth. Although the principle of balancing the budget has been adopted by almost everybody, the more fundamental questions about the economy have gotten much less attention and need to be addressed. How do we get more growth in the economy? How do we ensure that the benefits of growth are felt more broadly in our society?

TAX CUT

I also believe that there should not be a tax cut at this time. The reason the new congressional leadership has had to propose such deep cuts in health care and other programs is because of the huge tax breaks they have proposed, and because they are working with less than half of the budget. They have excluded defense, social security, and interest on the debt. Their efforts have been to cut the programs for the poor and lower-income working families. Savings can certainly be had there, but nowhere near the savings the budget resolution suggests without greatly adding to the burden of people of modest income.

The fact is that the tax cut is simply too large for too many who do not need it. Tax breaks should wait until spending cuts have achieved a balanced budget. And we should broaden the base of deficit reduction—for example, cutting corporate welfare and looking for "frauds, waste, and abuse" also in Pentagon programs.

OMNIBUS BILL

The next few weeks will be very confusing. The congressional leadership will be bringing up most of the cuts to balance the budget in one mammoth bill, far bigger than anything that has ever been seen in Congress. It will include a rewrite of federal farm programs, an overhaul of Medicare, welfare reform, major changes in student loans and trade programs, among other things. Members will not be told the contents of the bill until a day or so before the final vote occurs, and will have very limited opportunities to improve the package on the floor. We need to take serious steps to balance the budget, but we need to think through the changes we are making. Poorly thought out policies could be very costly in the long run.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to commend my colleagues

here in the Republican led 104th Congress for a most remarkable job over the past several months. We have accomplished many historic changes and the ball is still rolling.

Last November, Republicans promised the American people they would balance the budget and we are well on our way. We started out on the right foot by reducing our own budget by \$207 million. The legislative branch appropriations bill which I authored will make many internal reforms, including cutting the number of congressional staff and eliminating duplicative bureaucracies.

Mr. Speaker, the future looks even brighter. Over the coming months we will have the opportunity to pass major legislation that will enable us to keep our promise of a balanced budget. We will not only save, but strengthen Medicare. We will change the welfare system so that it emphasizes work, family, and personal responsibility, and we will provide tax relief for American families.

This is an ambitious agenda, but we have an obligation to the American people and the generations to come. I strongly urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and the President to do their part to help and not stand in the way of reform mandated by the voters last November.

ADHIAMBO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy and admiration that I salute the faculty, staff, parents, students, and friends of Adhiambo School in Jackson, MS. Adhiambo which was founded in 1979 is a refreshing alternative to the traditional American school system. The school curriculum is aimed to perpetuate moral attitudes and values by developing children's personalities and characters and instilling brotherliness, kindness and charity. The school provides a nurturing environment while offering a challenging curriculum. During a time when so many negative forces plague our communities, Adhiambo motivates our children through positive cultural images and experiences.

It is rewarding to recognize a success story in the educational system when so many school systems are in decay. Today there are a tremendous number of children in the Nation who do not have the basic tools needed to learn and are not motivated to learn. Adhiambo's students are an exception and they are worthy of praise. Even more astounding is the fact that on December 5, 1994, the building which housed Adhiambo was completely burned down, yet the spirits of the students and staff persevered. On June 27, 1995, Adhiambo moved into its new home and all studies have resumed.