

continuing productive relationship in this regard.

Sincerely,

BARBARA LARKIN,
Acting Assistant Secretary,
Legislative Affairs.

IN HONOR OF CASA OTONAL ON
ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 11, 1996, Casa Otonal will celebrate its 20th anniversary by honoring four of its founders. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to salute Casa Otonal and congratulate all those who have made this amazing organization possible.

The original mission of Casa Otonal was to offer inner city youth an alternative to the streets by providing educational and other activities. It has since expanded its mission and now provides a very successful senior center, a housing complex and a community center, Casa Linda.

Casa Otonal begun in 1974 at St. John the Evangelist Church. While still in the space at St. John's, Casa Otonal was designated a senior center and a nutrition center. This began Casa Otonal's mission of enabling senior citizens, particularly Hispanics, to maintain cultural ties and personal dignity and to remain self-sufficient. The Casa Otonal program continued to expand and identified one of the most important needs of the elderly, housing. In July 1986, an elderly housing complex with 105 units was completed. The result of this expansion is two distinct projects, the senior center and residential facility. The senior center provides social and recreational activities, the nutrition program and continues to reach out to all the elderly in the city of New Haven. Other programs for seniors include adult education, health services, transportation, cultural programs, and workshops.

The Casa Linda community center offers a unique opportunity for the elderly and young people to interact and enjoy and learn from each other. Casa Linda opened in 1992 with the philosophy that the elderly could teach children past values, skills, and traditions. The center has been incredibly successful in encouraging this coming together of the generations.

I am so pleased to join Casa Otonal in honoring its founders. Linda Kantor and Jim Vlock were instrumental in obtaining the Housing and Urban Development grant for Casa Otonal and saw the project through to its completion. Linda, in particular, has put her heart and soul, and a great deal of time and energy into Casa Otonal and Casa Linda. Using her own money and some private contributions, Linda purchased the property across from Casa Otonal for the construction of Casa Linda. She renovated the building with the help of volunteers.

Casa Otonal is also honoring cofounder Joseph Odell and Patricia McCann Vissepo. Joseph, who spent 18 years working in urban ministry, was vital to the conception of the idea of a residential housing complex for Hispanic elderly. Patricia joined the board of Casa Otonal in 1984 as the complex was

being constructed. She became board president in 1987 and in 1993 the board invited her to become the executive director of Casa Otonal.

I am delighted to be able to offer my congratulations to all those involved with Casa Otonal and Casa Linda on the 20th anniversary. Both organizations are vital to the Hispanic community and foster a sense of family, history, culture, and tradition. The work of Casa Otonal and Casa Linda make the city of New Haven a richer, better place to live.

A TRIBUTE TO OSSIE DAVIS AND
THE FOURTH ANNUAL NATIONAL
MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize one of our Nation's most celebrated and talented actors, writers, and directors and a true friend of mine, Ossie Davis who recently hosted the fourth annual National Memorial Day Concert on the West Lawn of the Capitol in Washington, DC.

Mr. Davis, a veteran who was a surgical technician in North Africa during World War II for years avoided Memorial Day celebrations. This year's event televised on PBS marked a significant transformation in his life.

As a veteran of the Korean War and ardent supporter of our Nation's veterans I want to acknowledge the contributions made by the veterans of this Nation and I can think of no one more qualified to host the fourth annual National Memorial Day concert than the incomparable Ossie Davis.

For the edification of my colleagues in the House, I would like to share the article written by James Zumwalt in Parade Magazine on May 26, 1996 titled "We Should Pay Tribute."

[From Parade Magazine, May 26, 1996]

WE SHOULD PAY TRIBUTE

(By James Zumwalt)

Tonight at 8 p.m. EDT, Ossie Davis will be the host for the fourth year of the National Memorial Day Concert, held on the West Lawn of the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

The PBS telecast (check local TV listings) will include performances by the National Symphony Orchestra, as well as dramatic readings and archival footage from various wars in American history. A special segment will be dedicated to the women who worked statewide in World War II. And tributes will be made to Desert Storm veterans and to American soldiers now serving in Bosnia.

Davis, now 78, served as a surgical technician in North Africa in World War II. Yet, until a few years ago, he had never participated in any Memorial Day celebrations. "I did not want to get involved in anything that glorified war," he told me.

While in Africa, Davis witnessed not only the horrors of battle, he said, but also pronounced racism among fellow American troops. He recalled watching a white soldier choose to die rather than accept care from the only medics available, because they were black. And he watched troop trains in Africa—returning U.S. servicemen home after the war—in which blacks were segregated while whites shared cars with German prisoners who, he said, were granted more dignity than the African-American troops.

"I felt betrayed," Davis recalled. I had come to feel that I had been not only a pa-

triot but a fool. I left the Army very depressed."

On returning home to Georgia, Davis turned briefly to alcohol. But in 1946 he got two lucky breaks: He landed a part in a Broadway play, and he met his future wife, the actress Ruby Dee. They have been married for 47 years. Davis went on to distinguish himself not only as an actor but also as a producer, writer and director. Recently, he appeared in *The Client* and *Grumpy Old Men*.

Through the years, Davis' anti-war sentiments remained strong. Why, then, did he agree to be the host of these concerts? "I realized that no matter what I thought of war, we should pay tribute to those both living and dead who sacrificed," he explained.

"The military also has made significant strides," he went on. "Colin Powell who will speak at the concert was no accident—he was an affirmation of what has changed. One of the things I'm proudest of about America is that once she got into it, she came up with a color-blind Army."

Davis also believes that the ignobility to warfare shouldn't lessen the tribute we pay to those who served. "They gave what Lincoln called 'the last full measure of devotion,'" he said. "They did what was required to defend something greater than they were."

HONORING THE JACKSON COUNTY
RESCUE SQUAD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Jackson County Rescue Squad. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that should disaster strike, we know that our friends and neighbors are there to help.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a member of the rescue squad. Rescue squad members undergo a training series over a 4- to 6-month period which includes instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation [CPR], vehicle extrication, emergency driving, and rescue orientation. In addition to this training, rescue squad members also meet monthly to address business concerns as well as hear guest speakers.

Rescue squad members are volunteers. They receive no pay for what they do. What also makes their services especially outstanding is that the organizations themselves receive no funding. They receive no funding from the city, the county, or the Federal Government.

Rescue squads are funded in the same spirit of community volunteerism which moves them to serve. Family, friends, and neighbors pitch in at bake sales, road blocks, and fish fries to help those who sacrifice their time for the benefit of the whole community.

Committing such an amount of spare time and energy to a job so emotionally and physically taxing requires a sense of devotion and duty for which we are all grateful.

HONORING MARY JEAN O'REILLY
MILLER, MAHTOMEDI'S 1995
TEACHER OF THE YEAR, ON HER
RETIREMENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, the people of Minnesota have on several occasions recognized the enormous contributions of Mary Jean O'Reilly Miller to the education and cultural betterment of that State, and it is appropriate that the U.S. Congress now do so as well. This week, after 43 years as a teacher, Mary Miller will retire from a distinguished career that will shine as an enduring model for years to come.

Perhaps it is true that teachers are made, not born, but Mary Jean O'Reilly came from a family of educators. Her grandfather served on the school board. Her aunt and uncle were teachers. Her brothers, sisters, nephews, and nieces are teachers and school administrators. As a child in Goodhue, MN, she grew up playing teacher in a make-believe school with her playmates, and she has dedicated her life to that passion ever since.

Mary's own education reflects a lifelong commitment to scholarship and the improvement of her professional skills. She is thoroughly a product of Minnesota schools, and an alumna in whom all of her graduating institutions now take especial pride. Following her graduation from Goodhue High School, she earned advanced degrees at no fewer than three institutions of higher learning: Winona State College, the University of Minnesota, and St. Thomas College—which awarded her a master of arts in education. But her education did not stop there, and it has never stopped to this day. She has pursued continuing studies at the University of Minnesota, St. Thomas, Mankato State College, Southwest State College, and Hamline University. Among her many other professional qualifications, she holds a lifetime certificate in elementary education.

Teaching is a delicate art. Far more than knowledge, it requires understanding—and above all, understanding of people, their concerns, their lives, and their community. Mary Miller took her first teaching position almost half a century ago in the town of Mahtomedi. In 1996, she was a teacher there still, 43 years after that first commitment. No one better understands and cares for her community, her neighbors, and her students than Mary.

Whether leading school activities or student bus tours, contributing her time to community projects, or helping a local family in time of need, Mary has shown by her living example that we all need teachers, and that education does not end but rather begins at the schoolhouse walls. Three generations of Minnesotans have grown and prospered with her help. Many of former students, now adults, still come to her classroom to see her. It would be difficult to write Mahtomedi's history and that of its citizens in the four decades since World War II without in the process taking full stock of her significant contributions.

Long before Federal and State laws made provision for special education, Mary Miller was a leader in the field. She earned professional degrees in special education, and has

taught children with special needs throughout her career. As she looks back on her own achievements, it is this contribution above all others that stands out as most meaningful.

The Mahtomedi School District honored her as Teacher of the Year in 1995, and again as Teacher of Distinction in 1996. Last year, she was among only 10 honorees selected statewide as finalists for the Minnesota Teacher of the Year. Today, it is appropriate that we recognize her here, in the U.S. Congress, for her lifetime of achievement for our country.

Many of us who are not teachers by profession understand, nonetheless, the responsibilities that teaching entails, because we are spouses and parents. The same individual care and concern that we hope a good teacher will show for our children is the measure of our success at home as mothers and fathers, husbands and wives. Not surprisingly, Mary Miller's four uninterrupted decades of commitment and success as a teacher are matched by her steadfast devotion as mother and wife. Later this year, she and her husband, Frederick P. "Bud" Miller, will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary.

Mary and Bud have raised three grown sons, Michael, Patrick, and Kevin—who served with distinction in Operation Desert Storm—and are now deservedly proud grandparents. As she retires from the responsibilities of teaching that she loves so well, can anyone doubt that Mary will redouble her devotions and attentions to these young children—or that they will not inherit her love of learning?

In this way, and in her exploration of the many new frontiers that now await her, Mary Miller will continue to improve the lives of everyone around her. Her retirement from teaching, like a graduation ceremony, is more accurately called a commencement: It is the beginning of a new chapter in a most remarkable life.

Plato observed that "the direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life." Mr. Speaker, Mary Miller has been a positive influence not only in the lives of her family and friends, but of thousands of boys and girls, men and women, whose lives she has turned in a positive direction by her energy and effort. For her contributions to her native Minnesota and to our Nation, I know that all of my colleagues will wish to join me in extending the congratulations and best wishes of the House of Representatives to Mary Jean O'Reilly Miller on the occasion of her retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS "ARCHIE" STEWART

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, It gives me great pleasure to honor Mr. Thomas Stewart, affectionately known as "Archie." I wish to extend this recognition to Mr. Stewart, for his invaluable contribution to New York's 20th Congressional District, and the greater Hudson Valley. It was through Mr. Stewart's leadership, vision, and generosity, that Stewart Airport, in Newburgh, NY, was built.

In 1930, Mr. Stewart and his family donated a 220-acre parcel of land known as Stony

Lonesome Farm, in memory of his grandfather Lachlan Stewart, for the development of an airport. It is truly remarkable that in these early years of aviation, Mr. Stewart had the vision to foresee the need for an airport in Orange County. But even he could not have predicted the impact that Stewart Airport has had over the years. Prior to World War II, partly through Mr. Stewart's own efforts, the U.S. Military Academy established Stewart Field for the flight training of West Point Cadets. The airport served as the first wings of West Point to serve cadets, and was later expanded for Army Air Corps operations and subsequently as a major U.S. Air Force Base. It served as an important airfield during World War II for the defense of the Eastern sector of the United States.

After the Air Force base was closed in 1970, Stewart Airport converted to commercial use. Today, Stewart International Airport offers service to eight airlines, carrying over 800,000 travelers in and out of Stewart each year. It is rapidly becoming the fourth major airport for the New York metropolitan area.

Mr. Stewart and his wife Mary, who have been married for 72 years, have spent their lives and raised their family in the Newburgh area. Today at 94 years of age, Mr. Stewart's presence remains an inspiration to his community. Recently, the members of the Stewart Airport Commission declared May 28, 1996, as "Archie Stewart Day" at Stewart International Airport.

I was pleased and proud to have personally participated in this ceremony, at which I stated:

Mr. Stewart and his family made a decision over sixty years ago which has impacted the lives of countless Americans by providing the land which became Stewart Airport, and then Stewart Air Force Base, and finally Stewart International Airport. Archie and his family helped make eastern Orange County a hub of the Northeast. None of us will ever know how many lives were saved by the Stewart family providing the land for the airport which provided the training for our cadets at West Point prior to and during WWII. No one will ever know how many lives were impacted by the young men and women coming to the area during the war to serve at Stewart, and then staying and settling in the region, serving their communities and contributing to the betterment of the Hudson Valley. No one can measure the benefit that the hundreds of commercial flights have had on Americans in recent years.

Mr. Speaker, history is full of dynamic people who helped make a difference, but historians will tell us that our lives are shaped just as much by those individuals who do not necessarily appear in the pages of history books. This is why I am pleased to take this opportunity to formally recognize Mr. Stewart, whose efforts through the years have positively affected so many. Mr. Speaker, Thomas "Archie" Stewart has dedicated his life and land to serving his community and I ask that his efforts not be forgotten.

HONORING THE LAVERGNE RESCUE SQUAD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services