

HONORING CALIFORNIA HISTORY
WEEK IN THE 34TH CONGRES-
SIONAL DISTRICT OF CALIFOR-
NIA

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the rich history of the Great State of California. On Tuesday, September 9, 1997, the Native Daughters of the Golden West, Rancho La Puente Parlor No. 331, will join in celebration of the anniversary of California's admission into the Union of the United States of America.

California became the 31st State of the Union on September 9, 1850, which became known in Cal as Admission Day. The purpose of the Native Daughters of the Golden West is based on the principals of love of California, devotion to the flag, veneration of the pioneers, and faith in the existence of God. This fine organization tirelessly serves to protect and honor the cultural history of California by observing Admission Day and working to reestablish it as a State holiday by California's 150th anniversary in 2000.

In acknowledgment of the cultural, social, political, geological, and economic contributions of the Great State of California to the Nation and the world, I am proud to join with the Native Daughters of the Golden West and Californians throughout the State and proclaim September 7–13, 1997, as California History Week in the 34th Congressional District of California.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in observing Admission Day and honoring the Great State of California.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent during rollcall vote 366. If present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 366.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BELL AF-
RICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
ZION CHURCH

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this hallowed Chamber to ask my colleagues to join me in offering praise and congratulations on the 150th anniversary of the Bell African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, in Center Moriches, Long Island.

The humble beginnings of the Bell AME Zion Church can be traced to 1840, when a small prayer group of faithful friends gathered in the homes of family and neighbors to practice their faith. Born a slave in 1808, Abraham Perdue demonstrated the foresight that made him a successful businessman by initiating the

effort to create for the local African-American community their own church.

With the help of his brother Harry and friend Harry Howard, they purchased property on what is now Railroad Avenue in Center Moriches. For the amount of \$400—a vast sum for the time—the African-American community erected the small church, began services, and the little congregation flourished, experiencing the human joys and sorrows that visit us all. They baptized their babies and married their spouses inside, and buried their loved ones in the cemetery in back.

After an original affiliation with the African Methodist Conference, in 1897 the congregation elected to join with the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Conference. In this era in its history, less than 10 years since Abraham Perdue passed away, the congregation was held together thanks to the efforts of Sister Mary E. Bell. Following her death in 1920, church members immortalized Sister Bell's lifetime good work for the Lord by naming the church the Bell AME Zion Church.

Faced with declining membership, Bell AME Zion ended weekly services in 1914 and remained closed for several years. But an invigoration of African-American emigrants from the South, seeking jobs at local farms, allowed the church to reopen its doors in 1922, and the African Methodist Conference sent Rev. William E. Wright to serve as pastor. Five years later, a board of trustees was appointed and much needed renovations and repairs were made to the church.

By 1932, the church members again chose to affiliate with the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Conference and Pastor Rev. Elliot S. Travalee began an aggressive effort to expand the congregation and church building. Ground was broken on the addition in September 1954. Since then, Bell AME Zion Church experienced phenomenal growth, as the suburbs of New York City received millions of new residents. With growth came the blessings of a new Sunday school, the purchase of the church organ that is still used today and the creation of Christian Education classes. By 1990 a building drive was started for the many needed renovations to this vital and growing church.

Mr. Speaker, our churches, temples, and mosques are the true cornerstones of our communities, the bedrock on which our faith, values, and sense of purpose rest. With the faith and good work that makes their Christian community so vital, the Bell African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church has overcome times of want and despair, and today flourishes as a proud beacon of spirituality. We are proud and blessed to count this wonderful church as an important cornerstone of our Long Island community. May God continue to bless their work for another 150 years and beyond.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NORMAN W.
JETER

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 1997

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the distinguished career of Norman W. Jeter of Hays, KS. Mr. Jeter came to Ellis County 60 years ago after graduating

from the University of Kansas Law School. He was elected Ellis County attorney in 1938 and established his own law practice in Hays. Later, he was a member of the Hays school board and chairman of the Kansas Board of Regents.

The Jeter Law Firm grew with the county. Over the years, Mr. Jeter represented banking, oil, and agricultural interests as he saw them become the State's premier industries. The firm itself, to which Mr. Jeter's two sons Joe and Bill now belong, has produced a justice on the Kansas Supreme Court and this U.S. Congressman.

At the age of 85, Norman Jeter is the Cal Ripken of the Kansas legal profession. He still puts in at least 5 hours a day and is often the first person in the office. His dedication to his profession and his knowledge of the law are respected throughout the State of Kansas. He is the kind of elder statesman that every community needs and all too often lacks. In June, Mr. Jeter received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from his colleagues in the KU Law Society, a fitting tribute to the successful career of an extraordinary man.

When Norman Jeter boarded a train to Hays, KS, in the midst of the Great Depression, he came on the hope that Hays would be a great town someday. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, Hays grew into a thriving community, the home of an excellent State university and the commercial center of northwest Kansas. Along the way, Hays residents benefited from the sage advice of Mr. Jeter. Norman Jeter is proof that the practice of the law can still be an honorable profession and that service to one's community can still make a difference. I would ask that my colleagues join me today in paying tribute to Norman Jeter and his 60 years of service to the people of the First District.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, 1 week in our final legislative session has already passed without a vote on campaign finance reform. Members of Congress, as promised, have begun to use parliamentary procedures to slow down the legislative process. This is unfortunate, but inevitable. Frankly, I and many other Members are increasingly frustrated with the fact that no vote has been scheduled on campaign finance reform.

A front page article in the Washington Post this Sunday highlighted Senator MITCH MCCONNELL. Senator MCCONNELL's belief is that money represents free speech. While I may disagree with the Senator's views on this issue at least we know where he stands. The vast majority of Members of Congress have not made it clear where they stand on campaign finance reform. They do not have to, because they have not had to express their vote on the floor of the House. The public is demanding action on this issue. Now is the time, Mr. Speaker, to let the public know where their Representative in Congress stands on campaign finance reform. The only way that will happen is through a vote on the floor of the House.

As a sponsor of the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act I believe this bill offers the best vehicle to fix the current system. There are many other bills that would make the election process work better and encourage more people to vote. At this time a vote on any of these bills is better than the current inaction.

IN MEMORY OF MARK HOLTZ

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 1997

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Mark Holtz, whose untimely passing yesterday will be mourned by many throughout North Texas.

Many players, coaches, and managers wore the Texas Rangers uniform over the last 17 years, through good seasons and bad. But there was always one constant: Mark Holtz—the voice of the Rangers.

He and his broadcast partner of many seasons, Eric Nadel, brightened North Texas nights year in and year out with their seamless calls of Rangers games. The bonds baseball fans throughout the region felt with him were so strong that it was as though a member of their family had joined them each night on the radio from the ballpark.

And when the Rangers struggled through a losing season, Mark's call of the game made listening to the game a pleasure in itself, even if the outcome on the field was not.

But the Rangers have been much improved over the last few years, and fittingly, the last game he worked this past May was a Rangers victory. After the game, Mark was able to sign off the broadcast with his trademark "Hello, win column!" he uttered after each win for the home team.

After that final game, Mark left the broadcast booth so that he could battle leukemia. During his courageous battle, thousands of Rangers fans signed a giant get-well card for Mark, demonstrating the deep feelings which many throughout North Texas had for him.

Mark will be missed dearly by those who had the pleasure of listening to his distinctive voice on the airwaves. As Rangers president Tom Schieffer noted, Mark "brought us joy and laughter about the game of baseball. He will be missed sorely. We are not likely to see his kind again."

ON THE DEATH OF MOTHER TERESA

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 1997

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, it was with great sadness that I learned Friday of the passing of one of the most remarkable women to ever grace our planet, Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Mother Teresa dedicated her life of serving the poor, the destitute, and the most helpless among us. In so doing, she set an example for all people of the world to live by. She demonstrated that love and kindness and hope are far greater rewards than any material goals.

Her selfless dedication to humanity and charity will never be forgotten. She devoted her life to those with less—the helpless and the homeless. She did not hesitate to visit a slum or leper colony. She truly lived Jesus Christ's proclamation in the bible: "What you do to the least of us you do unto me."

I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to hear Mother Teresa speak twice in my lifetime: once at the Congressional Prayer Breakfast in 1995 and most recently at the award ceremony where she was presented with the Congressional Gold Medal. Listening to her speak, listening to her conviction, her dedication to the poor, I truly believed I was in the presence of a saint. She was humble and modest, but strongly committed to the poor, the unborn, and the hungry.

Mother Teresa's work will carry on through the missionaries of charity which she founded, but she will be missed. I admired her greatly and pray that she, in her infinite faith, is joyfully reunited with her God.

A TRIBUTE: TO ONE OF MY DEAREST FRIENDS, THELMA PAULINE MILLER, MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 1997

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to one of my dearest friends, Thelma Pauline Miller. She passed away on July 27, leaving a legacy of kindness and consideration that will be remembered by all who knew her. Thelma was not just a great friend of mine, but a friend to the entire community of Herrin, IL. Born on January 23, 1918 in Brookport, IL, Thelma was married for 43 years to Carl Miller, who served as Winston County Sheriff. Carl preceded her in death as did her parents, Bryan and Clara Johnson, and her sister Geraldine Burgoon.

Thelma touched many people through her devoted work to numerous causes. She was never afraid to roll up her sleeves and get the job done, contributing her time to the Business and Professional Women's Club, Win One Class, First Christian Church in Herrin, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and Eagles Auxiliary. She was also active in politics, serving as a Democrat State central committeeman and as Williamson County chairwoman. Professionally, Thelma worked for the Department of Unemployment for 12 years.

Thelma will be remembered by many people whose lives she graced over the years. She is survived by a loving family, including her daughter Linda, son, John, brother Howard Eugene, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. May God bless her family, and I know that the spirit with which she lived her life will be with us for some time to come.

18TH & VINE DISTRICT

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 1997

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge an event that I attended

this weekend which exemplifies the rich heritage of the Fifth District of Missouri and demonstrates the phoenix-like results that can come from congressional investments for urban revitalization and bipartisan cooperation to improve our urban centers. That event was the opening of the historic 18th & Vine District Jazz Museum and historic Gem Theater.

Kansas City has made a significant contribution to the great American art form known as jazz. The 18th & Vine District is steeped in history, with the old Attucks School on 18th and Woodland which Charlie Parker attended, and the Street Hotel on 18th and Paseo where all of the great players, like Josh Gibson and Rube Foster stayed. The District also includes the Shannon Building on 18th and Vine, where Joe Louis trained, and the Mutual Musicians' Foundation which is registered as a national landmark. This weekend, the area came alive with the music of jazz legends such as Clause (Fiddler) Williams and 81-year-old big band leader Jay McShann.

The 18th & Vine Project truly represents the best of American ingenuity and public-private partnership. When the project appeared to be in limbo, and public skepticism was running high, creativity came to the rescue and Federal empowerment zone funds were made available to continue this marvelous effort. Private sector commitments came from large corporations such as Sprint planning to open a call center in the district, and small business such as Winslow's BBQ agreeing to manage the Blue Room night club in the jazz museum. Further evidence of the public-private commitment can be seen in the opening of Count Basie Court Apartments, which was a collaborative effort joining the local private Citizen Housing Information Center and Black Economic Union with Federal housing development initiatives.

The Federal empowerment zone initiative is critical for directing resources to revitalize urban areas. Kansas City is maximizing this tool for economic development within our communities and neighborhoods. The congressional bipartisan tax relief package, recently signed into law by the President, included not only an expansion of the empowerment zone initiative, but also a perfect complement—the brownfields initiative, which provides incentives to transform economically distressed areas and hazardous waste sites into thriving economic centers by providing developers and businesses with a tax credit to improve and reclaim the land.

What is happening in Kansas City is a stellar example of the way the partnership between the public and private sectors and the Federal, State, and local governments can work, and a fundamental reason that the Environmental Protection Agency chose to hold its 1997 national brownfields conference here last week. Initiatives such as the 18th & Vine District, building upon the heritage and unique qualities of that community, create jobs within the community—bolstering local welfare to work activities—and cleaner, safer, and more livable neighborhoods out of areas that were urban blight.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing the efforts of the community embodied in the opening of the 18th & Vine Historic Jazz Museum and Gem Theater and acknowledging the accomplishment of this important public-private partnership. It serves as an example of successful coordination among