

Japan. Next he was assigned to the Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico.

After completing his third year of service in the military's most elite branch of service, and on behalf of a grateful Nation, we take this opportunity to award Cpl. Hector A. Somoza with the good conduct medal. It is an honor to pay tribute to a young man who continues to serve this Nation with distinction.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF THE
HONORABLE RALPH W. YARBOROUGH OF TEXAS

HON. HENRY B. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, the recently concluded regular session of the 75th Texas Legislature adopted, and the Governor then signed, House Concurrent Resolution No. 318, in memory of the Honorable Ralph W. Yarborough, who represented the great State of Texas in the U.S. Senate from April 1957, when he was elected to fill an unexpired term, until he departed elective office in January of 1971.

I am the only remaining member of the Texas delegation who had the privilege of serving with the late Senator Yarborough in the U.S. Congress, an honor which I had for more than 9 full years.

As the dean of my State's delegation, and as one who deeply admired and respected the Honorable Ralph W. Yarborough, I would like to take the opportunity to pay tribute to this champion of the common citizen and outstanding public servant by having placed in the RECORD the full text of the Texas Legislature's House Concurrent Resolution No. 318, which is here attached:

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 318

Whereas, the passing of the Honorable Ralph Webster Yarborough on January 27, 1996, at the age of 92, brought a great loss to the family and many friends of this distinguished native Texan and former member of the United States Senate; and

Whereas, he was born in 1903 in Chandler and attended Sam Houston State College and the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York; after teaching school for three years, he enrolled in The University of Texas School of Law, graduating from that institution with honors in 1927; and

Whereas, a specialist in land law, he went on to become an assistant attorney general and, in a landmark case, helped to secure for the State's permanent school fund the interest money on nearly 4,000,000 acres of land; he was a respected jurist as well and served as a district judge in Austin before becoming a presiding judge over 30 counties in Central Texas; and

Whereas, like many of his generation, Senator Yarborough proudly served his country during World War II as a member of the United States Army, and he rose through the ranks of the military to become a lieutenant colonel; after the war ended, he was named military governor of Japan's Honshu Province, and his valor and meritorious service throughout his military career earned him both the Bronze Star and the Battle Star; and

Whereas, in addition to his remarkable contributions in these areas, Senator Yar-

borough will be well remembered for his outstanding career in the United States Senate; he first won election to that office in April of 1957 and went on to serve his State, and nation with the utmost integrity and distinction for 13 years; and

Whereas, Senator Yarborough was inspired by the goals advocated in President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal of the 1930's and 1940's; he truly envisioned himself as the people's servant and was dedicated to restoring fairness, justice, and economic opportunity for all Americans; indeed, shortly before the November 22, 1963, assassination in Dallas, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy said of the prolific federal legislator: "Ralph Yarborough speaks for Texas in the United States Senate, and he also speaks for our nation, and he speaks for progress for our people;" and

Whereas, a staunch advocate of equal rights, he earned further distinction as the only Southern senator to vote for the Civil Rights Act of 1964; he chaired the Labor and Public Welfare Committee and sponsored or actively supported nearly every piece of legislation in President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society programs of the 1960's; and

Whereas, Senator Yarborough's experience as a teacher fostered his abiding commitment to public education; he was instrumental in the creation of the country's first Bilingual Education Act, and as the sponsor of a Cold War GI Bill, he helped to extend education benefits to 5,000,000 veterans; and

Whereas, this illustrious statesman further enhanced the quality of life of his fellow citizens through his work on health care and social security legislation, and his involvement extended to the area of natural resources as well, for he helped to preserve the beauty of the South Texas coast by authoring legislation establishing the Padre Island National Seashore and many other national parks and preserves in the state; and

Whereas, firmly believing that every human being is best viewed as an asset, rather than as a liability, this renowned lawmaker's philosophy was quaintly summarized by his frequently-expressed hope that "... the jam be kept on the lower shelf so the little people can reach it ..."; and

Whereas, Ralph Yarborough further contributed to the political culture of our country by inspiring those who have followed in his footsteps, and he has left behind a legacy of outstanding achievements that will endure in the hearts and minds of future generations for many years to come; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 75th Legislature of the State of Texas, Regular Session, 1997, hereby honor the memory of former United States Senator Ralph Webster Yarborough and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his beloved wife, Opal Warren Yarborough; to his brother, Donald V. Yarborough; to his sisters, Nell Yarborough Mallet and Margaret Yarborough Pickett; to this three grandchildren; and to the many other friends and relatives of this eminent public official; and, be it further

Resolved, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of the Honorable Ralph Webster Yarborough.

HONORING COUNCILMAN ENOCH H. WILLIAMS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and achievements of Councilman Enoch Williams.

While attending the needs of a racially and ethnically diverse constituency, Mr. Williams has been a member of the New York City Council, representing the 41st Councilmanic District, since 1978. Prior to entering elective office, Mr. Williams served as the executive director of the Housing Development Corporation of the Council of Churches of New York City. He was also a community-organization specialist in the now-famous Youth-in-Action, Inc. anti-poverty agency, where he developed the skill of working with community groups, guiding them to create housing and employment in the innercity.

While making important strides in his role as a councilman, Enoch has managed to contribute to his community in other meaningful ways. Currently, he is the civilian director of the New York City region of the Selective Service System. He is a member of the American Institute of Housing Consultants, the Community Service Society, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Urban League, and the Unity Democratic Club. In addition, the councilman served as an elected delegate to the 1992 Democratic National Convention, having served in the same capacity in 1968 and 1972. He also served as Democratic district leader from 1986 to 1994.

As a veteran, Major General Williams has again proven his commitment to his country. He was appointed Commander of the New York Guard in 1990. After serving as an enlisted member during World War II, General Williams earned his commission in 1950, and has enjoyed over 30 years of active service. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Army Commendation Medal, both the Bronze and Silver, and Silver Selective Service System Meritorious Service Medals. He retired in June 1995 as Commander of the New York Guard, with the rank of major general.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Councilman Enoch Williams for all of his years of faithful service to his country and to the 41st Councilmanic District of Brooklyn, New York.

NATIONAL ELECTION FAIRNESS
ACT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, without question, a fundamental necessity of our republican form of government is the participation of citizens in the electoral process. Today, across America, millions of voters will go to the polls and select their Representatives in Congress, the Governor's mansion, or their city council. These choices are extremely important and should enjoy the benefit of the collective wisdom of all citizens.

Can you imagine if you were a voter today in Alexandria, VA, and, before you could reach your polling place, the media begins to report that, based on results in Richmond, Norfolk, Roanoke, and other areas, the Governor's race was over? Obviously, this might discourage you from making any extra effort in casting your vote. Although this is a preposterous example for Virginia or other individual States, this is exactly what happens every 4 years during most Presidential elections.

It is demoralizing to be a voter on the West Coast on the way to the polls and hear on the car radio that the Presidential election is over—without your vote. In America's West, reports of results from the East is one significant factor in depressing voter turnout in Presidential elections. Certainly, Congress cannot restrict the freedom of the press to report factual information. However, we can take steps to delay the release of election results until after they would impact voters in States where polls are still open.

Today I am introducing the National Election Fairness Act, which will restrict State and local election officials from releasing Presidential election results until after all polls have closed in the continental United States. This bill will not restrict the ability of news organizations to conduct exit polling or employ other methods to predict election outcomes, but will merely prevent official Presidential election results from being announced before western polling places have closed.

I believe this limited measure will help to increase voter turnout in Presidential elections in my home State of California and in other States in the Central, Mountain, and Pacific time zones. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill and taking steps to ensure a more equitable election process that values the votes of a voter in California or Washington as much as a voter in Florida or New York.

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP OPPOSES HEALTH REFORM—WORKS WITH FOR-PROFIT INSURERS TO DESTROY CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, following is a memo from a staffer at the for-profit insurance lobby demonstrating how the Republican leadership is soliciting money to defeat consumer protections designed to provide a minimal floor of quality and protection for America's families.

Once again, those who profit off of insuring only those who are healthy and who resist any effort to provide minimal consumer protections reveal their cynical hand. Undoubtedly we will be flooded with literature in the coming months trashing proposals to require insurers to comply with simple rules against gagging what doctors can tell their patients and others, minimal consumer protections.

HEALTH INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
MEMO

Date: October 22, 1997.

To: Michael Fortier.

From: Melody Harned.

Subject: Government Run Healthcare.

The message we are getting from House and Senate Leadership is that we are in a war and need to start fighting like we're in a war.

Republican Leadership is now engaged on this issue and is issuing strong directives to all players in the insurance and employer community to get activated. Earlier this week, I met with Keith Hennessey (Sen. Lott) along with the NFIB coalition. Hennessey will be working with House and Senate leadership to coordinate the advocacy effort. Senator Lott is well aware of the issue of mandates, incremental health care reform, etc., and is very concerned. Lott told Senator Jeffords that he could not introduce his "Quality Bill" this session and was advised to work less with Sen. Kennedy and more with his fellow Republicans on the Senate Labor Committee. Sen. Lott has also spoken with all Republicans on the Senate Labor Committee and told them to get involved and express their concerns. Sen. Lott also said that Senate Republicans need a lot of help from their friends on the outside, "Get off your butts, get off your wallets". Keith Hennessey believes that it is critical that employer/insurer grassroots occur during recess (Nov & Dec) so that Members are prepared when they come back to town in January.

At the NFIB Coalition meeting today, Mark Isokowitz (NFIB) informed the group that he had been summoned to the Hill by Missy Jenkins (Rep. Gingrich), Dean Clancy (Rep. Arney), Stacey Hughes (Sen. Nickles) and Keith Hennessey (Sen. Lott). Staff gave him four directives to take back to the coalition: (1.) Hold a briefing for Republican health LAs in 2 weeks; (2.) Implement heavy grassroots during recess; (3.) Meet with groups of Senators (e.g., Sen. Coverdell health care coalition) to report on what each organization is doing to fight these bills; and (4.) Write the definitive piece of paper trashing all these bills. Mark Isokowitz's overall impression from the meeting was that the Leadership was looking for signs of serious commitment on our part before they go out on a limb.

HONORING UNIVERSOUL CIRCUS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Universoul Circus as they bring their successful tour of the United States to the Power Center in Houston, in my district. Their production has entertained families across the country and is benefiting communities economically as well.

The Universoul Circus is the first touring African-American circus in the United States in more than 100 years. It follows in the footsteps of Ephraim Williams, who in 1885 began the first all-African-American traveling show. What began with a horse doing math tricks quickly grew into three touring circuses, leading Williams to be called the Black P.T. Barnum. With the creation of the Universoul Circus, Cedric Walker has built on that tradition and brought it to a new generation.

Since its humble beginning in 1994, in a rented tent in a parking lot in Atlanta, Universoul has grown in attendance and significance. Today, it performs to sold-out crowds across the country and has become a source of family entertainment and community

pride that will last for decades to come. Mr. Walker is committed to bringing the circus to neighborhoods that have been traditionally underserved by the entertainment industry. The group bypasses suburban arenas for our Nation's poorer neighborhood, bringing over 100 jobs with it at each stop along its tour. By the end of their 18-city tour, the Universoul Circus will have given back more than \$5 million to the communities they have visited.

Like other circuses, the Universoul Circus showcases attractions from aerial and equestrian acts to wild animals and clown skits. Universoul, however, is much, much more than an ordinary circus. It spotlights the largest number of African-American performers in circus history and features urban themes, state-of-the-art lighting, and high-energy music under its big top. Performers pay tribute to such heroes as the renowned Buffalo Soldier cavalymen, the Negro League ballplayers, and the famed Tuskegee Airmen. For many of these performers, these acts are the first opportunity they have had to showcase their tremendous talents. Through their performances, they are honoring the struggles of the past while working to build a better future for our communities.

The Universoul Circus was developed to provide quality entertainment to all families, but also to give children examples of positive African-American role models. Walker and his performers include lessons in African-American history at each performance and encourage children to take the ringmaster's pledge to love their families and say no to drugs. Instead of avoiding difficult subjects such as slavery, stereotypes, and racism, the Universoul Circus uses these tragedies as tools, to show that, through strength of mind and spirit, we can overcome all obstacles.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Universoul Circus for its success both in providing exciting, wholesome entertainment for our families and strong role models for our children.

TRIBUTE TO "WE WANT AMERICA BACK" RALLY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Pastor Billy Robinson and everyone involved with the "We Want America Back" rally on October 23, 1997. Over 700 people were there to stand up for the traditional values that made this country great. It is important to note that the mayor of Jasper, Don Goetz, remarked that it was the biggest crowd ever at the Sherer auditorium.

It is also noteworthy that this was not a political rally, or a denominational rally. It was an opportunity for people to stand up for what is right. In fact, it was the many people from different denominations and both political parties joining together that made this rally so successful.

Although I could not attend in person due to my official duties in Washington, I strongly support the efforts of those I represent to improve the moral climate in this country today, and reassert the vital importance of traditional values. I look forward to continuing to work in support of this cause.