

great citizens that the President talked about. Their names were never in lights nor on billboards, but they are the unsung heroes of my community. They helped in the education of our children, they built strong families and engaging communities. And they taught us to have a strong value system. Let me share with you these outstanding African-American individuals.

—
THERESA LAVERNE HARRIS

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, the first days of the 105th Congress are clearly historic and momentous days as a new Congress begins to address the myriad of problems that face our Nation. At the same time, however, I would urge all of us to take a moment to reflect on some of the major events which have taken place over the past few months and perhaps more importantly on the millions of strengths that have made us, and this Nation, what we are today.

An example of one of these strengths is Theresa La Verne Harris, who passed away on November 21, 1996. Throughout her life, Theresa LaVerne touched all of us who had the pleasure of knowing her with her humor, her strength, and perhaps most importantly her dignity.

Born in Beaumont, TX, to Armand Rodney and Geraldine Phillips Richard, Theresa LaVerne was the oldest of three children. She spent her early youth in Louisiana and Mississippi until her family moved to California in 1943. She lived in California for the rest of her life, attending Los Angeles public schools and graduating from John H. Francis Polytechnic High School with honor, in 1947.

It was during her college year at UCLA, where she majored in English, that she met and married her husband of 45 years, Robert E. Harris. Together they had three sons, Michael, Vincent, and Trevor.

Following her graduation from UCLA in 1953, Theresa LaVerne began a long distinguished career with the Los Angeles Unified School District [LAUSD] as an educator and personnel administrator. Over the next 16 years, she excelled at her career; she raised three outstanding children; she was a loving and supportive wife; and she went on to earn a master of arts degree in personnel administration from Pepperdine University.

During this time Theresa LaVerne served the LAUSD in a variety of administrative capacities before taking a 2-year leave of absence to serve as assistant superintendent for personnel services for the Compton Unified School District in 1983. She retired from LAUSD in 1989.

As both an educator and an administrator within the public school system, Theresa LaVerne worked hard to ensure that the students under her charge had the best education available to them. While she was deservedly proud of her personal and academic achievements, she was more interested in using her strengths and her assets to elicit the best from those around her.

In passing, Theresa LaVerne Harris is survived by her husband; Robert Emery Harris,

her three sons and their wives: Michael and Anita of Fresno, Vincent and Celeste of Oakland, and Trevor and Kamela of Fresno; her father Armand Rodney Richard of Los Angeles; her brother, Dr. Rodney A. Richard of Pasadena; her sister, Geraldine Constance Speed of Carson; her three grandchildren, Ahmad, Mazisi and Jamila; a great granddaughter, Maya; two aunts, and an uncle; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family.

She is also survived by the thousands of people whose lives she touched and invariably improved, some of whom knew her well and others who simply benefited from her efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I worked with Theresa LaVerne Harris and have had the privilege of knowing her and her family for decades. Theresa LaVerne was a devoted wife, a wonderful and nurturing mother, and a role model for all of us who had the opportunity to know her. She will be sorely missed.

As I said earlier, however, it is up to us to remember people like Theresa LaVerne and to build on their strengths and their legacies. It is people like her who should be our role models.

—
CAROLYN ANN RICHARDSON
CHENEY

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, in these early days of the 105th Congress, we face many of the same challenges of governance and public policy development our predecessors had to address as we confront the problems and opportunities before our great nation. As we look forward, we should pause to reflect on the contributions, both large and small, our citizenry, collectively and individually, have made to the development of our great nation.

In doing so, we cannot help but take notice of Carolyn Ann Richardson Cheney, who passed away on December 13, 1996. Carolyn's devotion to family and community service, as well as her generosity, spirituality and faith, served as an inspiration to all who knew her.

Born in Dallas, TX, to Oda Lee Blair and Howard Richardson, she spent her early youth in El Paso, TX, before moving to Tulare, CA. After graduating from Tulare Union High School, she obtained credentials as a dental assistant and began working in Los Angeles. She moved to Compton, CA, where her love of learning, thirst for knowledge and pursuit of higher education continued at Compton Community College. She earned her associate of arts degree and, upon graduation, matriculated to California State University Dominguez Hills. As an honor student, she earned a bachelor's degree in public administration. In 1977, she gained admission to the University of Southern California's master's program in public policy and judicial science. Until health challenges forced her to postpone her graduation, she maintained a 4.0 grade point average as a personal expression of her high standards and expectations for those whom she nurtured and set an example.

Carolyn's ambition, strength, and motivation found expression in her entrepreneurial and

managerial talents. For 15 years, she worked at Sears and Roebuck, during which time she was promoted from sales clerk to floor manager for the home furnishings and interiors department. In 1980, she opened her own insurance agency under the auspices of Allstate Insurance Co., where her firm became one of the top agencies in southern California. Despite her busy schedule, Carolyn found time to serve others through her church and community service activities. Throughout her life, Carolyn's leadership and organizational skills found expression in a wide variety of organizations. She served as president of the Compton Rotary Club; director of evangelism and coordinator of the Angel Tree Program at Tower of Faith Evangelistic Church in Compton; and as a teacher at Union Rescue Mission in Los Angeles. She was a member of the Torrance/Lomita Rotary Club; served on the advisory board for the California Women's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Dependencies/Black Women's Media Project as well as the board of trustees of Light of the World Community Church. She volunteered in the Los Angeles Probation Department Chaplain's Office.

Carolyn was named a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International in appreciation of her efforts and assistance in the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world.

Carolyn was a loving and devoted mother of four children: Vernon, Giselle, Darrell, and Marcus. Through words and deeds, she instilled in them the principals of honesty, integrity, hard work, perseverance, and self sacrifice. These are the values that helped to make our Nation great and our people strong. The attributes and her example are testaments to the enduring strength of motherhood.

Carolyn Ann Richardson Cheney is survived by her sons, Paston Vernon Lee Ward of Hawthorne, CA; Darrell Delaune Cheney of Dominguez Hills, CA; Marcus Sebastian Mason of Washington, DC; one daughter, Giselle Faune Cheney of Hawthorne, CA; seven grandchildren, including Shelly Fion, Vernisha Leshawn, Fallon Veron, Deijanae Zaire, Delaune Marcus, Jazmin Ayana, and Taelor Chanel; daughters-in-law, Debra Ann Ward and Dionne Patric Cheney; daughter-in-law, Chanel Nicole Troy of Los Angeles, CA; aunts, Mattie Bernice Owens and Elizabeth Anthony and a host of extended family and friends. She is also survived by a loving stepfather, Coyal James Marlin.

Mr. Speaker, Carolyn Ann Richardson Cheney will be sorely missed by all who looked to her for nurturing, leadership and strength. Her example should inspire us all to make the most out of our lives and opportunities.

—
TRIBUTE TO PRISCILLA LYON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Priscilla Lyon is a diligent worker on behalf of the First Baptist Church of Brownsville, where she organized the first Vacation Bible School. She functioned as director of that position for 5 years. Additionally, she has taught the youth Sunday School, supervised the youth choir, and provided services to the youth missionaries.

Presently, she serves as the chairperson of the Women's Ministry, is the director of the Feeding Ministry, serves as the director of the Shekina & Praise Dancers, and is the instructor of the Senior Missionary Circle. Priscilla Lyon also finds time to perform liaison work for the Women's Fellowship.

Born in South Hampton County VA, she is the third of six children. Her hobbies are sewing, crocheting, drafting, millinery, and decorating. Respected and adored by her fellow church members, she was honored at the Henry House in September 1996. She is a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. It is my privilege to highlight her achievements and contributions.

CHAMPIONS OF THE PRAIRIE

HON. JOHN THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, lately, football fans across the Nation are talking about the Green Bay Packers. Today, I'd like to inform my colleagues about an outstanding championship team that hasn't received much national attention. They are the NAIA Division II National Football Champions—The University of Sioux Falls Cougars. With their victory in the championship playoff game in December, the Cougars became the first South Dakota college team to win a national football title.

This group of young men had a remarkable season—an exclamation point to their emergence as a football powerhouse. Many of the players spent the last 4 years playing together. While each of these seasons has been significant, the Cougars 2–8 record in 1993, didn't even foreshadow the greatness just around the corner. Head Coach Bob Young was concerned he'd lose many of his talented freshmen. Instead of dwelling on past disappointments, the young players and their coach pulled together and focused on a winning future. They have proven that commitment, loyalty, and hard work can and do pay off. In the three seasons since that disappointing 1993 season, the Cougars compiled and impressive 32–4 record, made three straight playoff appearances, and won the 1996 National Championship. For the last 2 years, the South Dakota Sports Writers Association have selected the Cougar Football Team as the Men's College Team of the Year.

The sportscaster who coined the expression "this is the one for the record books" had no idea how fitting it would be for the 1996 Cougars. Nearly half of the school's individual records were set by that team.

Quarterback Kurtiss Riggs completed the regular season without throwing an interception. He set a national collegiate record 290 pass attempts without an interception. He also holds the NAIA division record for most touchdowns in a season with 55. Yet, when he was asked about his personal records, Kurtiss said he'd give them all up for the national championship. Fortunately, he didn't have to make that sacrifice.

Senior wide receiver Kalen DeBoer finished the year with 17 touchdowns, 99 receptions, and 1,372 yards, including 182 in one game. Sophomore running back David Ruter had 19 touchdowns and 1,726 yards rushing, includ-

ing 315 in one game. When you have that kind of offensive trio achieving those kind of stats, it means you have an equally impressive offensive line doing the job up front. The Cougar defense led by Phil Porter, Larry Wilson, Chuck Morrell, Travis Dumke, and Ray Smith were ranked in the top 10 nationally both in scoring and rushing defense.

As a team, the undefeated Cougars recorded the 19th best season scoring total in collegiate history with 636 points. They achieved this record by averaging 45 points per game and defeated their opponents by an average of 30 points. These figures are even more impressive considering one game was played in a blizzard and Coach Young's practice of benching the first string players once the game was in hand. It wasn't unusual for starters to play only half the game, giving younger players valuable game experience. With such an overwhelming offense, some may have been tempted to run up the score. But Coach Young's success is grounded in good sportsmanship and an eye toward the future. The Cougars also marched to the record books without much home cooking. They had the home field advantage for only two games this season.

When the Cougars took the field for the Championship game in Tennessee on December 21, they faced Western Washington, a team with a school enrollment 10 times that of University of Sioux Falls. It was a modern-day version of David and Goliath. The outcome was the same as the Biblical tale—Sioux Falls slew Western Washington with a decisive 47-to-25 victory.

The University of Sioux Falls never was ranked No. 1, but the Cougars won their championship on the field, not in the polls. And for his leadership, Coach Bob Young was named the NAIA Division II Football National Coach of the Year.

I also want to pay tribute to the character of the players and the entire coaching staff, which was shown at the end of each game when the entire team would huddle on the field and give thanks to God for their success. This weekly demonstration of faith is a stark and moving contrast to the typical bravado we see sometimes during professional games.

Faith, loyalty, commitment, and teamwork. In a day when many look to sports for heroes, the 1996 University of Sioux Falls Cougar football team have earned two titles: local heroes and national champions. They are champions of the prairie. On behalf of the city of Sioux Falls and the State of South Dakota, I am pleased to say congratulations, Cougars. We're proud of you.

ADOPT A FARM FAMILY

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an organization that is working hard to bring about economic and spiritual renewal in rural America. Headquartered in Sikeston, MO in my congressional district, the Adopt a Farm Family of America organization has been a tremendous force for good in southern Missouri and throughout the country. The volunteers and

coordinators of Adopt a Farm Family are sponsoring a rural restoration conference in Sikeston next week, continuing their tradition of spiritual outreach and support for farm families.

America's farmers and ranchers are the best in the world, but they face an increasingly complex set of challenges. Uncertain markets, changing environmental conditions, and new government policies all contribute to the challenge of operating a farm in rural America. The job calls for long hours, old-fashioned values, and a strong faith in God. Adopt a Farm Family has stood by our Nation's farmers since its inception in 1988. Today, it continues to provide the kind of assistance and expertise that makes a real difference in the lives of thousands of Americans.

At next week's rural restoration conference, from Sunday February 16 to Tuesday February 18, Adopt a Farm Family will invite farmers to come together as a group to discuss methods of improving farm life. The entire Sikeston community, many of whom are providing financial and other support to the conference, is participating in a concerted effort to make the event educational and rewarding. Seminars and speakers will address a broad variety of topics, including farm finances, soil nutrition, marketing techniques, and family issues. I should also note that I have the high honor of speaking at the conference, and I am looking forward to contributing to the special purpose of the occasion.

Mr. Speaker, Adopt a Farm Family of America is one of the best examples in America of a group of people determined to help, and who then make it happen. You can see it in founder and current director of ministry, Mrs. Mary W. Myers, in her husband and current President Peter, and in the many folks who play a part in Adopt a Farm Family programs—the belief in the idea that through hard work and faith in God, good things are possible. I commend the people who are part of the Adopt a Farm Family of America organization, and express the hope that we can help them fulfill their mission of fighting to keep farm and ranch families on the land.

RECOGNITION OF MAYOR KIERAN O'HANLON

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the accomplishments of Kieran O'Hanlon, the mayor of Limerick City, Ireland. The mayor has been invited to Queens for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day and to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Charter of Limerick City, thereby making it the oldest chartered city in Europe.

As the founding member of the Progressive Democrats in Ireland, Mayor O'Hanlon has served as an inspiration to the members of his party as well as to the rest of the world. Having only entered the formal political arena in 1991, Mr. O'Hanlon has already made an indelible mark on politics in Ireland.

The anniversary of Limerick should remind us of the importance of maintaining the integrity of our own communities. Mr. Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues will join me in wishing Mayor O'Hanlon all the luck in the future.