

IN HONOR OF MARTHA GRIFFITHS
ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMEND-
MENT

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, for the record, I would like to pay tribute to an exceptional person whose vision for equality raised the consciousness of our Nation. During her 20 years in the House, Martha Griffiths dedicated herself to fighting for equal rights for women and minorities.

Elected to Congress in 1954, Ms. Griffiths made the introduction of legislation prohibiting wage discrimination on the basis of sex one of her first priorities in the 84th Congress. Breaking gender barriers, Ms. Griffiths became the first woman representative to win appointment to the Committee on Ways and Means in 1962. One of her many great achievements in Congress was the inclusion of her amendment prohibiting sex discrimination in the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act. Ms. Griffiths untiring efforts to create an equal playing field for women led to the passage of the Federal Equal Rights Amendment in the 91st Congress. Although, ultimately, the Equal Rights Amendment was not adopted into law, the legacy of Ms. Griffiths' efforts continue to serve as an inspiration to all of us.

On March 22, 1997, Ms. Griffiths will be in Washington, DC, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Equal Rights Amendment's passage in Congress. On that day, we will celebrate Ms. Griffiths lifetime dedication to furthering equality for all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCISCA DE
CASTRO GUEVARRA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Francisca De Castro Guevarra, a dedicated community leader who is being honored as an inductee into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Francisca De Castro Guevarra was born in San Francisco and is the daughter of Filipino immigrants. She has been an exemplary community volunteer for the past 28 years. She left her banking career in 1969 to join the Volunteer Center where she has been instrumental in broadening the focus of service to groups and regions that had not previously been served. In 1990, she organized the bay area's first Volunteer Center Conference on Cultural Diversity and Voluntarism, which has served as a model for many subsequent conferences throughout the bay area. She has been tireless in her efforts to involve youth in voluntarism and service, and conducted a management training session for representatives of 18 European countries at the 1996 Volunteurope Conference in Rome.

Mr. Speaker, Francisca De Castro Guevarra is an outstanding citizen and I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community. I ask my colleagues to join

me in honoring and congratulating her on being inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

A GREAT TEACHER . . . AN
INSPIRATION

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, this past February 24 would have been the 52d birthday of Helen Leon Guerrero Carrievau should she have survived here bout with cancer. Helen Carrievau left a lasting impression on her family, her friends, her colleagues, and most importantly her many students. A resident of Latte Heights, Mangilao, Helen taught in the Guam Public School System for 28 years. She began her teaching career on Guam in 1968 at George Washington High School. The next year she transferred to Dededo Junior High School, now known as Dededo Middle School, and taught there until 1986 when she transferred to John F. Kennedy High School. For the next 10 years, Helen worked avidly advising and supporting almost every student organization on campus.

Helen worked endlessly during the seventies and eighties toward the preservation of the Chamorro language and culture. Through her role as a language teacher, Helen used her charisma to coach her many students who participated in the various islandwide oratorical contests. Part of her role included coordinating the various campus activities at Dededo Middle School where she was teaching at the time.

Helen's work at John F. Kennedy High School during her 10 years of service were especially rewarding to her many students. She was the main advisor for the John F. Kennedy High School student government program, WAY. During her term as faculty advisor, the WAY Program developed from a student government class to an active school and community-based operation. Students made major decisions affecting school fundraising, activities, calendars, and financial management. Through her work, the student government office became equipped with computers, printers, a facsimile machine, a copy machine, and a direct telephone line. With her encouragement, WAY defined its role as umbrella organization for the other student entities throughout the school. Together, they supplied the school with trashcans for litter, provided a public address system for school functions, and acquired display cases for the art classes. Helen helped form and organize several other student organizations including HITA—Helping Islanders to Achieve—and the community-based JFK chapter of the SHOUT Program. She was an advisor to the S Club, several class councils, as well as the National Honor Society.

Together with Connie Guerrero, another educator, Helen became a lead facilitator and organizer of the Guam Close-up Program which literally brought hundreds of our island students to our Nation's Capital for participation in workshops and lectures developed to spark and maintain student interest in government and democracy. Under Helen's leadership several other programs were introduced to

Guam students. These included the Pacific Basin Program, the Citizen Bee, and the Geography Bee.

Helen's friend and colleague, Robert Abaday gave the following eulogy at her memorial services:

Helen began writing her autobiography on December 5th, 1996 and penned the last entry on January 6th, 1997—the day before she entered the hospital. She never got to finish the story, but I, as a colleague at JFK High School and as her friend, will do my best to relate some things about her as I remember her.

Helen's enthusiasm for teaching excited her students; encouraged them to do their best; and, in some lit the passion for teaching. Her classroom was alive with colors, art, music, exotic foods, posters, piñatas, and student assignments for social studies and Spanish. She shared her knowledge of Guam, history, and Spain. Helen initiated the JFK Cinco de Mayo celebration, which has since become an annual event. She was involved in the school and loved the students. Helen was an "Islander" who led us in school spirit and fiercely believed her school and students were the best on island.

Teaching was not a job that ended at 2:30—it was a lifestyle that included evenings, weekends and vacations. Helen was always ready to stop by school for meetings or to chaperone. She was always ready to listen to student's problems; help them find solutions; encourage them to continue; and when she needed to, straighten them out. She allowed others to experiment and to make their own mistakes. Students in Spanish, history and student government loved her classes and knew Helen was there for them. Students returning from college on vacation would seek her out, once again, to share their triumphs and their worries.

Helen had a very active life. Look at the lists over the years for committees, workshops, and chaperons and Helen's name will be included. Close-up, National Honor Society, SHOUT, Peer Counseling, and Geography BEE were only a few of her many activities. She shared her knowledge of Guam and its history during the Golden Salute by leading tours for Veterans.

Helen was well-organized, responsible, and thorough. Whatever activity or event she ran would be sure to be smoothly planned and implemented.

Those who worked with her could expect to be recruited for some event or job, but we knew Helen would be there working right along with us. She believed in working together and asked for input from others. She always had a few minutes available to bounce ideas and phrases around. Helen could make you feel your ideas were good and you were an important part of any endeavor.

Helen made others feel welcome—new students at the orientations, new classes, new colleagues—faculty, staff, and administrators. People were drawn to Helen. They enjoyed her company. She loved a good story and was a great storyteller. She was a charter member of the Social Studies Party Animals. Helen made everyone feel better just being around her. She enjoyed laughing and made us laugh along with her. You could always tell when Helen was holding back a laugh though—her eyes danced.

Friendship was very important to Helen. Her father told her that if you had friends—you were rich. Helen had many friends. If you ever needed any help, Helen was there. I have pictures of Helen and Liz Huey sweeping water out of classrooms after a typhoon, sweating and laughing. Helen taught a group of us how to play pinochle a few weeks before Christmas. She was considerate, encouraged

us to "go for it", and went out of her way for others. Her generous nature made us feel honored to be accepted as her friends.

When you needed a spokesperson, a mediator or a dragon fighter, Helen was there. Helen was known for her high sense of values, family pride, love for life and integrity. Compassionate and dignified could be used to describe this gracious and joyful woman. She showed us what it meant to have courage and to value family, friends, and life. She shared her life with all of us—moment by moment. She encouraged us, she challenged us, she brought out the best in us. Helen taught all of us. She taught us how to enjoy every bit of life. She taught us, through her own example, how to live."

Her thoughtfulness and influence extended far past the campus of John F. Kennedy High School. She can count on many other students as her pupils. Joshua Tenorio, one of my legislative assistants is included as one of those students. He met her many years ago during a trip to Washington he had made to participate in the Close-up Program. As a representative of the Guam Youth Congress, Joshua did not have an advisor. Helen adopted his group and they bonded from then on. Joshua told me:

She was a true inspiration to us all. She was always encouraging and provided us with her full support. Her death is a loss to the entire island of Guam for she represented everything positive about being an educator. She lives on in the minds of the hundreds of students she touched with her heart. I know that her husband and her children can safely say that she led the best possible life. That is why we should celebrate it whenever we think of her. One thing is for sure, she will never be forgotten.

Helen was my colleague in various projects over the years. She was intelligent, committed, and a positive influence on everyone she came into contact with. I will miss her, her students will miss her, and the people of Guam have lost a great educator.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I submit this statement for the RECORD. May others take note and use her as an example of the best that we can be. My sincere condolences go out to her husband, Kenneth, and her children and their spouses, Kenneth and Llolanda, Monique, and Brett, and her two grandchildren, Katherine and Kieran.

IN MEMORY OF JANIE TIJERINA OF HOUSTON, TX

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a valuable member of the Houston community, Mrs. Janie Gonzales Tijerina, who passed away on Sunday, March 2, 1997. Mrs. Tijerina was among Houston's most prominent community leaders, but perhaps will be most remembered as the owner of Felix Mexican Restaurants which she founded with her husband, the late Felix Tijerina, Sr., in the 1930's. Following her husband's death in 1965, Mrs. Tijerina continued to run the restaurants with her family until her death last week. As much as the community of Houston loved and respected Mrs. Tijerina, her family has suffered an even greater loss.

Mrs. Tijerina touched the lives of many generations in Houston. While I was a regular

customer at her restaurant since almost birth—in fact both of my daughters can claim to have eaten at Felix's under her watchful eyes within one week of their respective births—I came to know Mrs. Tijerina while serving as chairman of the Harris County Democratic Party, when we leased space in the flagship restaurant on Westheimer for use as a polling place. I will always remember her enthusiastic greeting and her meticulous dedication to satisfying her customers. She truly ran what is now a Houston institution. She was one-of-a-kind and will be greatly missed by generations, including four in my family, who were fortunate enough to have met her and spent time with her.

Janie Tijerina treated everyone in Houston as a family member, and now that family mourns her passing. I ask unanimous consent to insert in the RECORD at this point an article and obituary which appeared in the Houston Chronicle on March 4, 1997.

RESTAURATEUR JANIE TIJERINA DIES AT AGE 88

Services will be held Wednesday for Janie Gonzales Tijerina, who helped her husband, Felix Sr., launch Felix Mexican Restaurants 60 years ago.

She died Sunday at age 88 after a long illness.

Tijerina had served on the Municipal Arts Commission and numerous other boards.

"Her death helps mark the passing of the founding generation of the truly prominent Hispanic Houstonians who began to attract citywide attention," said historian Thomas H. Kreneck.

Tijerina's husband, likewise deeply involved in civic projects, was national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens before his death in 1965.

In the 1930s, the Tijerinas were a struggling couple in Houston. He had tried to launch a restaurant, and they were living in a spare, one-room house.

One day, her boss at a variety store gave her \$50 to bet on a horse at Epsom Downs, the area's former horse track. He was such a skinflint, she knew he wouldn't risk that much money unless he was sure the horse would win.

She had promised her husband to stop gambling but couldn't resist betting on the same horse. She hocked her jewelry and furs and their car, plus got a few dollars from other shop girls, and bet \$450.

The horse won, but Felix, then a beer truck driver, was shocked and said: "Janie, what have you done?"

She confessed about renegeing on her promise, gave him the winnings (about \$1,100 after their property was redeemed), told him to open a restaurant and pledged, "You're going to be the only boss."

Tijerina is survived by a son, Felix Jr., and a daughter, Janie.

JANIE GONZALES TIJERINA

Janie Gonzales Tijerina (Mrs. Felix Tijerina, Sr.), 88, owner of Felix Mexican Restaurants, died Sunday, March 2, 1997 in Houston. Mrs. Tijerina was born December 20, 1908, in Sandyfork, Texas. She was a member of St. Anne Catholic Church, was past president of the Downtown Women of Rotary and was the first woman granted a membership in the Rotary Club of Houston, (Downtown). She was past president of the Pilot Club of Houston, a member of the Salvation Army, the Chamber of Commerce of Houston, South Houston and Pasadena, was a former board member of the National Hotel Association of Mexico City, member of the City Art Commission, past member of the

Board of Directors of The University of Houston, Sheltering Arms, and the Houston Women's Club.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Felix Tijerina, Sr. and is survived by her daughter Janie Tijerina; son Felix Tijerina, Jr. and wife Sandra Kay; grandchildren Cary Jordan Tijerina and Katherine Ann Tijerina.

Friends may call at Geo. H. Lewis & Sons, 1010 Bering Drive, after 12:00 noon Tuesday, where a Rosary in English will be recited at 6:30 p.m., and in Spanish at 7:30 p.m. The funeral mass will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, 1997, at St. Anne Catholic Church, 2140 Westheimer, with Rev. David Zapalac celebrant. Rite of Committal will follow in the Garden of Gethsemane, Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery. Active Pallbearers will be Eugene Galindo, Alejandro Parra, Sia Ravari, Cary Tijerina, Janie B. Tijerina and James E. Wiggins. Honorary Pallbearers will be Frank Barrera, Joe Gonzalez, Hewitt Jenkins, Thomas Kreneck, Paul Pressler, Sr. and Joseph Soper. For those desiring, memorial contributions may be given to The University of Houston System, 1600 Smith, Suite 3400, Houston, Texas, 77002 Attn: General Endowment Fund for Scholarships, or to a charity of your choice.

IN MEMORY OF MARTIN SLATE

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to take a few moments to express my sadness at the passing of a truly dedicated public servant. His name was Martin Slate. Since 1993, Mr. Slate had served as executive director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation [PBGC]. In this capacity, he was charged with safeguarding the hard-earned pension benefits of millions of working Americans. It was a job he did brilliantly. He arrived at the PBGC at a time when the agency was in danger of failing in its mission to guarantee the pension benefits of American workers. He developed a plan to set things right and went about doing so. Director Slate led the effort to make needed reforms in the pension laws, he restored the PBGC to a level of solvency it had not seen in decades, and he spearheaded a new initiative to track down missing pension participants and provide them with the benefits they had earned but not received.

While at PBGC, Director Slate worked closely with leaders from Capitol Hill, particularly with former Congressman J.J. "Jake" Pickle. Writing to Director Slate's spouse last week, Congressman Pickle remarked:

We should give eternal thanks for Marty's leadership in the Pension Benefit Guaranty Program. For years neither the Administration nor Congress could remove road blocks that kept badly-needed pension reform from enactment. Marty Slate knew the problem, and knew how to chart a course of action. As Chairman of the Congressional Subcommittee that had jurisdiction over pension reform, I can vouch that Marty, more than anyone, led the fight that resulted in the passage of the Retirement Protection Act of 1994. Countless millions of American workers, now and in the future, owe a deep debt of gratitude to this great man.

Having worked closely with Director Slate on pension policy over the past several years, I share Congressman Pickle's enormous gratitude for the leadership and vision he provided