

TRIBUTE TO D. MAE JOHNSON, W. RAY JOHNSON, MYSER JAMES KEELS, PASTOR CHESTER RIGGINS, AND JAMES E. WALTON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to D. Mae Johnson, W. Ray Johnson, Myser James Keels, Pastor Chester Riggins, and James E. Walton, Ph.D., for being selected the 1999 Portraits of Success program Honorees by KSEE 24 and Companies that Care. In celebration of African-American History Month, these five leaders were honored for their unique contributions to the betterment of their community.

D. Mae Johnson was a teacher in Fresno and Oakland for twenty years; during this time she also obtained a master's degree in both Counseling and Guidance from California State University, Fresno (CSUF) and Administration from Pepperdine University. For the past 20 years she has been executive director of Quality Group Homes one of the Central Valley's largest providers of residential treatment care for adolescents and children. Mrs. Johnson is involved with many professional, church and community organizations, including being a lifetime member of the NAACP. In 1997, she helped found the Fresno chapter of Links Inc., a nonprofit humanitarian organization that provides support services to enrich the quality of life through cultural, civic and educational activities. Inspired by her niece's long struggle with Sickle Cell Disease, she worked with Fresno Links and St. Agnes Hospital, to bring to Fresno, the only Sickle Cell Anemia program in the Valley.

W. Ray Johnson has been a dedicated public servant for three decades. He is the Director of Community Resources for the City of Fresno. He reports to the City Manager, and works closely with the Mayor and City Council members. He was formerly the Fresno Deputy City Manager and Director of Human Resources. One of his proudest accomplishments was his role in establishing a facility for the African-American Museum for which he has helped to secure almost half-a-million dollars in funding over the years. He is currently instrumental in setting up the African-American Multi-Service Center as a one-stop facility to work with youth and gang members. Mr. Johnson has served on many boards and commissions, including two terms as vice president of the NAACP. His many awards include State of California Black Women Organized for Political Action, Man of the Year award, United Black Men Community Service award, California State Assembly Civic Involvement award, and the California State Senate Outstanding Community Contribution award.

Myser James Keels has long given himself to benefit the Fresno community. For 27 years, he was a groundsman with the Fresno County Parks and Recreation Department until his retirement in 1995. Along with park upkeep and worker supervision, he also provided supervision of adult and youth offender programs. He gave ten years to the County of Fresno Social Security Board, eight to the County Human Services Advisory Board, and two to the Equal Opportunities Commission. Mr. Keels also served on the Conservation

Corps Commission Community at Large Revitalization Board, Southwest Edison Planning Committee, Fresno Neighborhood Alliance, as a deacon for St. Joseph's Baptist Church, president of the Black Political Council, president of the Coalition for Cooperative Development & Community Development Corporation, treasurer of King of Kings Center Board of Directors, vice chairperson of Westside Fellowship and board member of Central California Legal Services. Honors and awards have come from these entities and many more including a special Certificate of Appreciation for 11 years of assisting alcoholics in their recovery.

Pastor Chester Riggins has served the St. Rest Missionary Baptist Church since 1950 as a Sunday School teacher, Baptist training union instructor, church clerk, financial secretary, deacon, chairman of the Deacon Board and chairman of the Church Pulpit Committee. For many years he was a mail carrier for the Postal Services, but resigned in 1979 to serve the church full time. Pastor Riggins' activities outside the church have included being the temporary chairman for organizing the Fresno Model Cities Program, member and officer of the West Fresno Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance, charter member of the Fresno Police Program, member of the Concerned Citizens for Quality Education, secretary-treasurer of the Home Mission Board of the California State Convention and 1st Vice Moderator Emeritus of the St. John Missionary Baptist Association.

Dr. James E. Walton, Ph.D., has been teaching since 1967 and has been a professor of English at CSUF since 1990. He previously taught at Mt. Union College for 20 years and was an exchange professor in Osaka, Japan in 1988. Dr. Walton served as a member of Search Committees at CSUF for the Dean of Education, Human Relations Director and vice president and has been a member of the Committee on Academic Policies and the Committee on Faculty and Strategic Planning. Apart from the university, he has served as Library Trustee, on the Fair Housing Board, and as a Board Member of the American Red Cross, Junior League, and the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to D. Mae Johnson, W. Ray Johnson, Myser James Keels, Pastor Chester Riggins and Dr. James E. Walton, Ph.D. for being recognized as the KSEE 24 Companies that Care 1999 African-American Portraits of Success honorees. I applaud the contributions, ideas, and leadership they have exhibited in our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing these fine people many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT D. ANDERSON, JR.

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert D. Anderson, Jr., an extraordinary citizen of San Mateo County, California, who will be honored by the San Mateo Central Labor Council on Saturday, June 12, 1999.

Robert D. Anderson, Jr. has been a leader in both the labor movement and his commu-

nity for the last twenty-five years. After nineteen years of exceptional leadership and service, Bob has announced that he is stepping down as President of the San Mateo County Labor Council.

Throughout his career Bob has dedicated himself to improving the living and working conditions for families in San Mateo County and the airline industry nationwide. He is a former United Airlines mechanic and a member of the International Association of Machinists, Local Lodge 1781. He is currently the ground safety coordinator at San Francisco International Airport.

During his tenure as President he helped establish, build and chair the San Francisco Airport Labor Coalition and its predecessor, the Airport Health and Safety Coalition. He has also served on the advisory boards of the California Occupational Safety Coalition and Health Administration, and the Labor Occupational Health program at the University of California, Berkeley.

Over the last twelve years Bob has worked with labor and community leaders to bring affordable, high-quality, around-the-clock childcare to families who work non-traditional hours. He has also served on the Board of Directors of PALCARE, San Mateo County's community-based childcare center since its opening in 1993.

Mr. Speaker, Robert D. Anderson, Jr. is an outstanding individual, a respected labor and community leader, and a valued friend. I salute him for his remarkable contributions and commitment to our community and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him upon his retirement as President of the San Mateo Central Labor Council.

HONORING NAVAL COMMANDER KENT ROMINGER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the career of one of Del Norte, Colorado's natives who has shown great character and motivation, Naval Commander Kent Rominger. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who has illustrated the notion of duty and service for Colorado and the Navy alike.

Kent Rominger has been flying for the Navy since 1978, when he earned his degree in civil engineering from Colorado State University. As a Naval officer, Rominger flew in Operation Desert Storm. In 1992, Officer Rominger was selected to join the astronaut program. Since his start in the astronaut program, Commander Rominger has piloted three previous space missions, one of those being in the space shuttle *Discovery*.

On May 27, 1999, Kent Rominger returned to the space shuttle *Discovery* and guided six astronauts into orbit. As commander, Rominger oversaw all aspects of the mission and the crew. This is a great honor for Rominger to command a space shuttle that he once piloted into space.

Kent Rominger is an outstanding citizen of Colorado who's accomplishments will be long remembered and admired. Selfless service and dedication makes Commander Rominger

a valued and respected man. His achievement are a great service to us all, and for that we owe him a debt of gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SOLANO
COALITION FOR BETTER HEALTH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to recognize the Solano Coalition for Better Health (SCBH), which is celebrating its 10th Anniversary year. On June 5, SCBH kicked off its 10th Anniversary Celebration by hosting an Enrollment Day for the Solano Kids Insurance Program (SKIP), in an effort to promote free or low cost health insurance options for Solano County children, and it's fitting that we honor SCBH at this time for its many contributions to the community.

SCBH is a nonprofit organization of health care administrators, government officials, local physicians, representatives from the business and educational communities, and neighborhood advocates. Its focus is to improve the health and quality of life in Solano County by sharing resources through effective partnerships. It is a nationally recognized model of public and private partnerships, creating system changes in the provision of care and services to promote and improve the health and safety of the people and their communities.

SCBH works in a collaborative fashion and places high value on efforts that benefit the community, neighborhoods and people of Solano County, and meets the interests and needs of individuals and specific constituencies within the community.

SCBH recognizes and values diverse communities, neighborhoods and people within Solano County and encourages their participation in improving the health of all county residents, through a multi-lingual network of health and social services providers, reflective of the population of Solano County in gender, sexual orientation, culture, ethnicity, and disability.

SCBH is innovative in its approach to addressing the health needs of Solano County

residents and is not adverse to taking risks for potential rewards. Further, it recognizes and values the unique importance of innovative approaches in responding to health issues that disproportionately impact ethnic communities.

SCBH has initiated such unique programs as:

(1) the Partnership HealthPlan of California, a public/private organization designed to provide a cost-effective method of health care delivery to Medi-Cal recipients in Solano County, which has now expanded to include Napa County

(2) Healthier Solano Communities, an initiative that promotes wellness in each of Solano County's seven cities by creating or supporting a team in each city to look at issues in each city that impact health and wellness; identify one or more issues in each city that can be addressed; and, develop partnerships and plans to address those issues.

(3) the Community Services Task Force, which includes volunteers who are service providers from public, private, County nonprofit, and community based organizations, and advocates for health and human services that are culturally, linguistically, geographically, physically, and financially accessible to all residents of Solano County.

(4) Solano Health Improvement Initiative (SHII), which addresses the most critical indicators of health in the community, and has expanded countywide efforts to pursue strategies that address three initial goals:

1. All children will be healthy and ready to learn when they enter school.

2. Comprehensive prevention, early detection, and support services will be developed for individuals living with cancer in Solano County.

3. People with diabetes or at risk of diabetes will live well and independently in the community.

In recognition of the SHII's outstanding cancer community outreach efforts, the U.S. Postal Service presented the first Prostate Cancer Awareness Stamp Dedication in California on June 5th at the SCBH's 10th Anniversary celebration.

(5) SKIP which provides outreach efforts to enroll children in free or low cost health insurance options in Solano County.

Mr. Speaker, SCBH participants are people who are personally committed and who dedicate their time, talent and knowledge to influence the organizations they represent to support the Coalition's mission. I commend them for their outstanding contributions to the community.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF
REBECCA KREPICK

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievement of Rebecca Krepick. On May 29, 1999, Rebecca graduated from Klein High School. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating her and her family.

Although this achievement deserves recognition in and of itself, Rebecca accomplished much more. When she was in second grade, the Anthony Robinson Foundation offered 600 students a \$20,000 scholarship if they maintained a B+ average, participated in community service, and were a model student for 10 years. On the day of graduation, less than thirty of these students completed the program. Rebecca's achievement should be recognized and commended.

Rebecca and her fellow scholarship recipients are examples of what is right with public education. They should be held up as role models for other students everywhere to emulate.

Rebecca plans to use the scholarship at the University of Houston, one of the finest universities in our nation. Rebecca's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Barbosa, family, friends and community are very proud of her. We wish her well in her future education pursuits. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members join me in congratulating Rebecca Krepick for her outstanding achievement