

years later, a group of women in Jackson County began a league locally.

For 75 years the Jackson County League of Women Voters has helped all voters, men and women, to prepare for elections. The League has held demonstrations on how to vote, sponsored forums for candidates to explain their views and published election guides. For several decades, League members have served in Jackson County as deputy registrars, registering voters at local events and stores.

The League believes in open and accountable government. Locally, it promoted the City Manager form of government for the City of Carbondale and has studied the professionalization of and the various forms of both city and county government. For many years before the advent of the Open Meetings Act which requires that public bodies post agendas and hold open meetings, the League sent observers to many public meetings as a reminder to public officials about the citizens whom they serve.

The Jackson County League of Women Voters has also helped to desegregate the schools, integrate the neighborhoods, develop recycling and other environmental programs, create standards for large scale livestock farms and ensure the safety of the drinking water. The League has also published a guide to mental health services in the County and a booklet about county offices. Nationally, the League has studied issues as wide-ranging as national security, urban transportation and health care.

Currently, the League of Jackson County is working to break the cycle of violence in children by ending aggressive behavior in schools, a project through the local health department. It is examining the forms of election of Illinois State legislators and promoting campaign finance reform. The League sponsors a series of talks by local county officials on local issues. It is studying the need for a new County Courthouse and other facilities. The League is also encouraging voters to take a friend to vote, as a means to encourage citizens to vote. The League of Women Voters adheres to the belief that democracy is not a spectator sport.

The League of Women Voters is open to men and women, at least 18 years of age. The League is non-partisan, but involved in many efforts in our communities. Always, the focus of the League is encouraging active citizen involvement and participation in the community and in the government.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the men and women of Jackson County on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Jackson County League of Women Voters.

IN SUPPORT OF VAWA REAUTHORIZATION

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the leadership of the House of Representatives to schedule floor action on the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which expires this year.

The Violence Against Women Act, H.R. 1248, was reported out of the House Judiciary Committee on June 27, 2000. With 216 co-sponsors, H.R. 1248 enjoys strong bipartisan support. It reauthorizes current VAWA grant programs for 5 years, makes targeted improvements, and adds important new programs.

The passage of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994 was one of the greatest accomplishments of the 103rd Congress and the Clinton Administration. Since 1995, VAWA grants have provided a major source of funding for national and local programs to reduce rape, stalking, and domestic violence. The 1994 Act bolstered the prosecution of child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence cases; provided services for victims by funding shelters and sexual assault crisis centers; increased resources for law enforcement and prosecutors; and created a National Domestic Violence Hotline.

VAWA has made a difference in the lives of millions of women, but we need to do more. We must ensure that we adequately address the needs of all victims of domestic violence and sexual assault including immigrant women, older women, women with disabilities, and women of color. We must help women who are trying to escape domestic violence by providing transitional housing and legal assistance services.

H.R. 1248 vastly improves VAWA by strengthening the existing provisions and by adding new provisions to address dating violence, reach underserved populations, facilitate enforcement of state and tribal protective orders nationwide, provide transitional housing, create programs for supervised visitation and exchange for children, develop training programs on elder abuse for law enforcement personnel and prosecutors, provide civil legal assistance funds, strengthen the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and more.

Passage of the Violence Against Women Act has been identified as the top priority of the Congressional Women's Caucus. It is certainly one of my top priorities.

I urge the leadership to schedule a vote on this vital legislation within the next ten days. The Senate is ready to vote on its VAWA bill. We must be ready to go to conference and to send this bill to the president before the 106th Congress adjourns.

We cannot in good conscience go home to our districts without acting on this critical legislation, which so strongly impacts the safety and well being of women and children throughout our nation.

TRIBUTE TO ST. ANDREW'S AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to St. Andrew's African Methodist Episcopal Church of Sacramento. On October 1, 2000, St. Andrew's will be celebrating its 150th anniversary. It is the oldest church of its kind on the Pacific Coast. As the Congregation members gather to celebrate, I ask all of my col-

leagues to join with me in saluting this monumental achievement.

St. Andrew's was founded in 1850, three months before California was admitted as the 31st state to the Union. It is the first African Methodist Episcopal Church and the first African-American religious congregation established on the Pacific Coast of the United States.

In the beginning, a small group of worshippers gathered in Sacramento at the home of Daniel Blue. Under the leadership of Barney Fletcher, this group would form the church that would later be known as St. Andrew's A.M.E. Church. In the fall of 1850, Reverend Isaac Owen, pastor of the Seventh Street Methodist Episcopal Church, participated in the formal organizing of the church.

The first trustees, James R. Brown, John Barton, George Fletcher, John L. Wilson, and Chesterfield Jackson purchased part of the lot in the square between G and H Streets. At this site, the first church was erected and named the Methodist Church of Colored People of Sacramento. In 1851, the members of the church petitioned the Indiana Conference for admission to the African Methodist Episcopal Church and officially became the Bethel African Methodist Church. Later in the 19th century, the church acquired its current name, St. Andrew's African Methodist Episcopal Church.

St. Andrew's has been a pioneer in organizing an educational and religious haven for people of color. In 1854, the first A.M.E. Sunday School in the far west was organized. This also became the site of the first public school organized for children of African, Asian, and Native American descent. In 1855, the church was the site of the first statewide convention of the colored citizens of California. This was the first organized political activity by people of African descent in California aimed at securing citizenship rights.

During the following years of westward expansion in the United States, St. Andrew's became a pivotal point in the far west for African Methodism, and it hosted numerous political, secular, educational, and cultural activities for African Americans. The church helped to develop educated and trained leaders of the African American community, even before the end of slavery.

Today, St. Andrew's continues to shine as a pillar for the community. In 1995, the church was recognized as a California Registered Landmark for being the oldest African-American Church on the Pacific Coast. For 150 years, the church has admirably served the ethnically diverse Sacramento community.

Mr. Speaker, as the exceptional people of St. Andrew's African Methodist Episcopal Church gather to celebrate their 150th anniversary, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most outstanding institutions. Throughout their proud history, the people of St. Andrew's have maintained an impressive tradition of service to the African-American community and other minority communities in greater Sacramento. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing the people of St. Andrew's continued success in all their future endeavors.

**SALUTE TO BEVERLY ANN KING
2000 MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT
REGIONAL MINORITY ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR**

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to salute my constituent and my friend, Beverly Ann King, who is being singled out for her enormous contributions to minority entrepreneurs with the National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Award, which will be presented to her in Washington, DC, on Wednesday, September 27, 2000. Each year, the President of the United States designates one week as Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week to honor outstanding members of the business sector. I am proud to note that in addition to being a recipient of the national Award, Beverly also received the Region IX MEDWeek Award at a luncheon in her honor on Thursday, August 31, 2000, and on Wednesday, October 18, 2000, will be honored with the local Los Angeles MED Week Award, at a luncheon in her honor at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

President and Chief Executive Officer of BAK Management, Beverly King is recognized nationally for her expertise in the conceptualization and implementation of programs benefitting minority, women, and disadvantaged business (MBE/WBE/DBE) owners. She has been a much sought after advocate for minority entrepreneurs for nearly two decades, as she has worked to ensure participation and parity for MBE/WBE/DBE enterprises in government and business contracting opportunities. As an expert in the field of MBE/WBE/DBE programs, she is a frequent lecturer and conducts seminars and training programs into the concepts and skills necessary for a successful minority business program.

Ms. King founded Beverly A. King (BAK) Management Consulting in July 1986. Her numerous clients have included the City of Los Angeles, Bunker Hill Tower, the Southern California Gas Company (now SEMPRA Energy), and Turner Construction. She continues to represent Turner Construction, serving as the company's Community Affairs Director and MBE/WBE/EEO Administrator.

Prior to establishing BAK Management Consulting, Beverly served six years as Equal Opportunity Manager for the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) in Los Angeles. Her duties included overseeing all civil rights/EEO activities associated with the construction of Los Angeles' Century Freeway project, and serving as the FHA's representative on the Century Freeway Affirmative Action Committee.

During the early years of her career, Beverly worked in our nation's capital for Senator Ralph Yarborough of Texas and Congresswoman Yvonne Brathwaite Burke of Los Angeles. She attended Prairie View A&M College in Texas, Howard University in Washington, DC, and earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Pepperdine University in Los Angeles.

The recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the President's Award presented by the Black Business Association of Los Angeles, in August 1992 she was named by

Speaker Thomas Foley to a four year term as a member of the United States Glass Ceiling Commission.

She is on the Corporate Advisory Board and a member of the Black Business Association; the Asian Business Association; the National Association of Minority Contractors of Southern California; and Women Construction Executives of Los Angeles. In addition, she has served on the Advisory Board of the UCLA Graduate School of Business. Furthermore, she is chair of the Legislative Task Force of Black Women's Forum and serves on the Board of Black Women of Achievement.

Mr. Speaker, Beverly A. King is indeed a woman of achievement. The fruits of her labors bear witness through the growth of the many successful MBE/WBE/DBE's engaged today in businesses throughout the Los Angeles community. It is a pleasure to publicly commend her, and to extend heartfelt congratulations to her on the high honors she is so deservedly receiving at this time. On behalf of the residents of the 32nd Congressional District of Los Angeles, I thank her and wish her continued success in the future.

**TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RICHARD
D. ROMERO**

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with regret and deep sadness that I announce the passing of Inland Empire businessman, philanthropist, and community leader Richard Romero, at the age of 64.

Richard demonstrated vision and entrepreneurial spirit in the Inland Empire for over 30 years, opening his first dealership, Pomona Valley Datsun, in 1970. Today his business interests include 8 automobile franchises, a wholesale auto auction and a real estate company.

Throughout the years, Richard had a large presence in the Inland Empire, both as a businessman and community leader. He believed that what makes this country great is our individual commitments to philanthropies.

Richard and his wife of 38 years, Val, sponsored and supported many service organizations and programs for children including: an annual Christmas Choral Competition which awards monetary grants to 5 area high schools, a Christmas Program which provides gifts for over 300 foster children, Assistance League of Pomona Valley, Kiwanis, Ontario Chamber of Commerce and National Charity League.

Richard was born in rural Socorro, New Mexico, September 4, 1935, son of Clara and James Romero. He began working at age 9 washing cars and working in a service station. He earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, and for 6 years served our country in the Army Reserve Tank Corps. He then worked as assistant auditor for the state of New Mexico.

He moved to Los Angeles to work as an auditor for 20th Century Fox, at which time he also began his career in the retail auto business when he bought a small gas station from which he began refurbishing and selling used cars.

Richard was Chairman of the Board of Empire Nissan, Romero Motors Corporation, Jeep/Chrysler/Plymouth of Ontario, Toyota of Glendale and J. McCullough Corporation. He had served as a board member of the California Motor Car Dealers Association and the Chairman of the Board and CEO of Acquirecorp's Norwalk Auto Auction, Oremor Management & Investment Company and Oremor Development L.L.C.

Richard received several awards within the industry, including Chrysler Corporation's "Five Star Award for Excellence" and Nissan's President Inner Circle Award. In 1987, he was honored as the only Californian to receive the Import Car Dealer of Distinction Award. He was also the winner of the Time Magazine's Quality Dealer Award and named Mr. Hispanic Business Man of the Year, 1985.

In addition to being listed in "Who's Who in California", he was also named 1987 Humanitarian of the Year by the Alliance of Latino Business Association. He served with the Deukmejian administration as a California Transportation Commissioner. He also served on the Board of Governors of Opportunity Funding Corporation, a nonprofit, Washington, D.C. based organization, which helps minority members start and/or expand small businesses. Additionally, he worked closely with King Juan Carlos of Spain when he served on the Board of Governors for Expo '92 in Seville.

Richard was the founder and former chairman of the board of directors of Empire Bank and also served for over 20 years on the Board of Trustees for the University of La Verne, which chose him for their 1998 President's Award. Additionally, he served on the Board of Governors for the Rose Institute of Claremont McKenna College. The Romeros had the honor of meeting and hosting several dignitaries and celebrities in their home including Chief of Staff Howard Baker under President Ronald Reagan, Former Governor Pete Wilson, Lord Roger Keyes, Sir Julien and Lady Ridsdale, and heavy weight champion George Foreman. He had also met and conferred with Presidents Reagan, Bush, Ford and Carter.

Richard is survived by his wife Val; son R.J.; two daughters Valerie and Christina; and four grandchildren with one on the way.

Richard will be missed by family and friends alike. He touched us all with his kind deeds and leadership in our community.

**U.S. SHOULD SHOW SOLIDARITY
WITH IRANIAN RESISTANCE**

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Mohammad Khatami, the president of Iran, is scheduled to speak at the United Nations' Millennium Summit in New York today. More than 10,000 Iranian-Americans protested yesterday in front of the United Nations saying that Khatami does not represent the Iranian people, and should not be speaking at this summit.

Unfortunately I was not able to join U.S. Senator ROBERT TORRICELLI, and my colleagues in the House, CAROLYN MALONEY, GARY ACKERMAN, and GREGORY MEEKS at this impressive rally. But, Mr. Speaker, I want to