

many captains of industry would return to high school, as Dave Thomas did in 1993, to earn a diploma forty-five years after leaving school to work full time. Fewer still would have the grace and humor to attend the prom. Dave Thomas lived a life of purpose and action. He was devoted to his family, committed to his business, and endlessly generous with his time and wealth.

HONORING THE METROPOLITAN HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GERALD NICELY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. BOB CLEMENT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gerald Nicely, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency (MDHA) in Nashville on the occasion of his retirement after more than thirty years of service to Metropolitan/Davidson County Tennessee Government.

I consider Mr. Nicely a longtime friend and have had the opportunity to work with him on housing issues for Tennesseans a number of times. One of the most important projects we worked on together was securing significant federal funding for the revitalization of the Vine Hill Homes through the HOPE VI funding effort. Additionally, our continued cooperation resulted in millions of federal housing dollars being allocated to Middle Tennessee for numerous programs and housing improvements.

His accomplishments include outstanding leadership overseeing key downtown projects such as construction of Adelphia Stadium, the new downtown library, the Country Music Hall of Fame, the convention center, Frist Center for the Visual Arts and Gaylord Entertainment Center Arena. He also directed renovations at the historic Ryman Auditorium and the revitalization of the Riverfront Park area. These marked improvements under Nicely's direction have resulted in the highest praise from his peers and residents of the community as well as awards on the local, state, and national levels.

A native of East Tennessee, Gerald Nicely received his bachelor and masters degrees in Economics from the University of Tennessee. The Metropolitan Planning Commission hired him as Staff Economist in 1968, and by 1979, he was promoted to Director of the Housing Development Division, beginning a twenty-two year run managing MDHA. His tenure as director was interrupted only once, in 1993–1994, when he was named Chief of Staff for then Nashville Mayor Phil Bredesen.

Nicely has always believed in giving back to the community through attendance and service on various boards and civic organizations. For instance, he currently serves as founding board member of the Nashville Housing Fund and the Nashville Homestead Corporation; as charter board member of the Frist Center for the Visual Arts and Affordable Housing of Nashville, Inc.; and on the board of the Metropolitan Action Commission. A past president of the Public Housing Authorities Directors Asso-

ciation, today he serves as trustee for that organization. Additionally, he served two terms on the board of the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA).

Membership in civic organizations includes the Downtown Rotary Club of Nashville; the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce; the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials; the Tennessee Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities; Urban Land Institute; and Leadership Nashville Alumni Association.

As Director of MDHA, Nicely met the ongoing challenge of overseeing the public housing authority, as well as directing efforts to revitalize and renew urban areas, purchase land and design projects throughout the county. His fortitude, vision, and professionalism as an administrator have helped propel Nashville forward into the 21st Century.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my sincerest wishes for future success to Mr. Nicely and his family on this momentous occasion and I yield back the balance of my time.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MICHAEL L. WARNER (RET)

**HON. JIM SAXTON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, few Americans dedicate the majority of their lives to the people of our country and the residents of their State. Even fewer place their own lives in harm's way to protect the values and freedoms we, as Americans, hold dear.

One such person is my friend, Colonel Mike Warner (Ret). Mike has had a distinguished career serving our country in the United States Army. Mike served in the U.S. Army for 27 years as an officer. During his distinguished career as an Active Army officer, Colonel Warner had numerous staff command assignments including assignments in Korea, Germany, and throughout the United States.

Colonel Warner is a highly decorated soldier, receiving two Legions of Merit, two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, three Meritorious Service Medals, and the Army Commendation Medal. Additionally, he has received campaign medals for service in Vietnam and overseas service ribbons for his tours of duty in Europe and Korea.

For his final assignment, Mike served as Commander of Fort Dix, in Burlington County, New Jersey. At Fort Dix, Mike was responsible for the 35,000 acre military installation and a \$125 million operating budget.

After retiring from Active Duty, Colonel Warner continued to serve the people of the State of New Jersey. Governor Christine Todd Whitman appointed Colonel Warner as the State's third Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs in March of 1994. As Deputy Commissioner, Mike was responsible for providing support for New Jersey's 650,000 veterans and their families, managing a \$55 million budget, the operation of three 300-bed nursing homes, and the Nation's largest State veterans cemetery.

Mike Warner is also a dedicated citizen, giving his free time to many charitable and civic organizations. He is a member of the Alumni Associations of Marquette University and the

Army War College, the Association of the U.S. Army and Retired Officers Association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and is a lifetime member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Disabled American Veterans. Locally, Mike is a member of the Burlington County Boy Scouts of America Executive Council, the Pemberton Rotary, and serves on the Board of Directors of the USO of Philadelphia.

Our country and communities need dedicated people like Colonel Mike Warner. He is a true American Patriot and it is my pleasure to call him friend.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DEE WEITZEL

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of DeeAnn "Dee" Frances Weitzel of Grand Junction, Colorado. Dee peacefully left us on a Friday evening, January 11, 2002. Dee was a popular member of the community and was often sought by many in the community for her listening ear, advice, and warm smile.

Over forty years ago, Dee moved to Grand Junction, Colorado where she quickly became an entrepreneur in the Western Slope community. Dee managed to start an employment agency, while raising a family that appreciated and valued the importance of hard work, honor, and perseverance. She raised her sons Scott, Kirk, Clay, and Tim to be respectful men who were determined to succeed in their pursuits. Dee's influence touched many lives outside of her immediate family and she was also a loving grandmother, wife, sister, and friend to many.

Dee's innovation in the business world led to her ownership of Warning Lites & Equipment, Inc. Although she was President and General Manager of her company, Dee and her husband Dewey could often be spotted along the highway working next to their employees and repairing the weather-beaten roads of the Western Slope. Dee was a respected employer and community benefactor who recognized the importance of providing for a community that had offered her a comfortable setting to raise a family and build successful businesses. Dee's business ventures brought jobs, dollars, and security to the community. Additionally, Dee made a number of charitable contributions in the area and donated her time and energy to many community events.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to DeeAnn Weitzel for the great strides she took in establishing herself as a valuable leader in the Grand Junction community. Her dedication to family, friends, work, and the community certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress. Although Dee has left us, her good-natured spirit lives on through the lives of those she touched. I would like to extend my regrets and deepest sympathies to Dee's family and friends during this difficult time.

IN MEMORIAM OF THE LATE  
PRESIDENT LEOPOLD SEDAR  
SENGHOR

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great leader, the past President of Senegal, Leopold Sedar Senghor who past away on December 20th, 2001. President Senghor was a educator, poet, statesman, and a friend of the United States of America.

President Senghor was born in a small town of Joal, Senegal in 1906. He received a scholarship to attend school in France where in 1935 he became the first African to receive the "Agrégé" (doctorate degree) in French language and literature.

After teaching for a number of years, he served in the French army during World War II (1935–1945), was captured, and spent two years in German prison camps. It was as a prisoner of war that he managed to write some of his best poetry. After the war, Senghor was recruited by the French Socialist Party and was later elected to represent Senegal in the National Assembly in Paris in which capacity he served until the French territories became independent. In 1960, France granted independence to Senegal and Leopold Senghor was elected its first president.

Few chief of states could match his political skill or his personal charisma. This was especially notable when President John F. Kennedy hosted President Senghor at a state visit in 1961 at the White House. As recorded in the memoirs of Ambassador of Senegal at that time—the Honorable Philip Kaiser—the two gentlemen developed a special bond. Ambassador Kaiser remarked "they were both intellectuals, both highly cultivated, both Catholic in countries predominantly Protestant or Moslem, and not the least of all, both creative, pragmatic politicians."

During the 1960s, President Senghor's friendship with the United States grew and was evident in his support for President Kennedy during the Cuban missile crisis. Washington strategist realized that Moscow could evade the U.S. naval blockade around Cuba by flying Soviet planes, with atomic warheads aboard, to Havana if they were able to land and refuel in Dakar, Senegal's capital. President Senghor agreed to Washington's request to deny the Russians landing rights in Dakar and made it clear that his relationship with President Kennedy was a crucial factor in his decision. President Senghor was also the first African leader to receive Peace Corps volunteers—a program highly touted by President Kennedy.

In 1978, President Senghor won Senegal's first multiparty election easily after successfully introducing amendments to the constitution to foster multiparty politics. He resigned in 1981, thus becoming the first leader of an independent African country to give up power voluntarily.

He has been acclaimed as one of the most astute thinkers of our time. He was one of three to develop the concept of "negritude" which refers to the distinctive culture shared by Africans and people of African ancestry around the world. He won several awards for

his poetry including the highly coveted PEN award and had been nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature several times. He was admitted to Academie Francaise—the first black person to receive France's highest honor for enduring contribution to French life and letters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all my colleagues join me in celebrating the life and the political accomplishments of a friend of the United States of America, the late President Leopold Sedar Senghor of Senegal.

### TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARIAN M. OLIVER

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Marion M. Oliver of South Carolina, a retired educator with numerous years in the public school systems. A dedicated servant to her fellow citizens, she has amassed many years of volunteer service to her community. I join the citizens of Orangeburg and Barnwell Counties in expressing our deep appreciation and gratitude to her for a lifetime of outstanding service.

Mrs. Oliver was born February 17, 1912, in Bamberg County, South Carolina. She attended schools in through high school. After graduating high school she continue her education at Claflin University in Orangeburg, SC. There she received a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education. After graduation, her desire to help others lead her to a thirty-seven year teaching career in Orangeburg and Barnwell Counties, South Carolina.

Though Mrs. Oliver has no biological children, she has raised two; Dwight and Pearl Ethel, as her own and has been a mentor to many others in her community. She has invested much of her time supporting her church and community through personal involvement and countless fundraisers. In addition to her leadership positions in her church, Sunday School Teacher and President of United Methodist Women, she is an active member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

At age eighty-nine, Mrs. Oliver is still active with United Methodist Women and several other organizations in her community including Cooperative Church Ministries of Orangeburg, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Retired Teachers' Association, and a local needbased service group called Senior Support Group. Because of her tireless dedication to church and community, Mrs. Oliver is now reaping the harvest of her efforts through the admiration she receives from her neighbors and appreciation she receives from those whose lives she has touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring Mrs. Marian M. Oliver for the immeasurable service she has offered to her community through her roles as a teacher, civic leader and volunteer. I sincerely thank Mrs. Oliver for her life-long commitment to helping others and wish her good luck and Godspeed.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GAY CAPPIS

### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Gay Capps and thank her for her extraordinary contributions as County Clerk for San Miguel County. Her life-long dedication to both her job and the people of San Miguel County is matched only by the level of integrity and honesty with which she has conducted herself each and every day while at her post. She will always be remembered as an employee with the utmost dedication and talent, and will continue to be known as a leader in her community. As she celebrates her retirement, let it be known that I, along with each and every person with whom she has worked and the people of San Miguel County, are eternally grateful for all that she has accomplished in her more than 50 years of public service.

Gay worked in the San Miguel County office for over 24 years, beginning as a typist at the age of 19 for County Clerk Shelly Clark. Gay was later appointed Deputy County Clerk by Mollie Rae Carver in 1964. She was then appointed County Clerk in 1970 and has run successfully for this important position to this day. For over 50 years, Gay has selflessly given her time, energy and unrelenting commitment to the people of San Miguel County. Although we are sad to lose her services, we are happy that she will now have more time to travel and relax with her husband George and enjoy her well deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Gay Capps is a woman of unparalleled dedication and commitment to both her professional endeavors and the people of her community. It is her unrelenting passion for each and every thing she does, as well as her spirit of honesty and integrity with which she has always conducted herself, that I wish to bring before this body of Congress. She is a remarkable woman, who has achieved extraordinary things in her career and for her community. It is my privilege to extend to her my congratulations on her retirement and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

### SLAUGHTER-HOEFFEL-SMITH RESOLUTION ON THE UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

### HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with my colleagues Rep. JOSEPH HOEFFEL and Rep. CHRISTOPHER SMITH, introduced a resolution urging the Government of Ukraine to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process leading up to the March 31, 2002 parliamentary elections.

In April 2001, I was troubled to learn about the Ukrainian Parliament's vote to remove reform-minded Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko. This change in government came in the midst of the ongoing political turmoil resulting from allegations over the involvement of President Leonid Kuchma in the