

instruction focusing on religion, reading, writing and arithmetic. Limerick hired its very first law enforcement officer, a constable, in 1767, before organized police protection began in 1961. For the first 250 years of Limerick Township's history, all public records were kept in individual homes until the municipal building was erected in 1973, with a ceremony and dedication in 1974. In 1968, the Philadelphia Electric Company selected a site within the Township for construction of two nuclear power generating units and, by 1986, the plant was fully operational. Today there are four elementary schools that serve the Township's children, two fire companies, an airport and numerous churches—just a few more indications of how the community has grown through the years.

Flourishing Limerick Township, however, saw an acceleration of growth particularly after the opening of the Pottstown Expressway (Rt. 422) in 1985, which connects the Limerick area to King of Prussia as well as nearby Philadelphia. Since its completion, the Township has seen skyrocketing residential and commercial growth resulting in many new businesses and residents who call Limerick Township home. Today, Limerick Township, one of the oldest townships in Pennsylvania, is considered one of the most desirable and respected communities in the Philadelphia region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Limerick Township for 125 years of history, heritage and service. I also recognize the fine citizens and officials of Limerick Township, including Township Supervisors Thomas J. DiBello, Kenneth W. Sperring Jr., Francis T. Grant, Frederick L. Fidler and Joseph T. Greco, for making Limerick Township the wonderful community it is today.

HONORING WARREN WILSON

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Warren Wilson, a former constituent and friend whose short life touched those with whom he came into contact.

Warren Wilson was, more than anything else, generous. I have met few people in my life whose generosity and charity exceeded Warren's. He willingly gave his time, energy, and money to help those in need. He performed free legal work for those who could not afford it. He raised money for charitable organizations that helped the poor and down-trodden. He volunteered to serve on the boards of local community and service organizations.

Warren Wilson was, however, more than just an asset to our community. He was a loving husband to his wonderful wife, Beth. He was a devoted father to his fine son, Scott. And he was a mentor to my children, especially to my son Gus, who runs the law practice that I started before I came to Congress.

Warren also was my friend. He was someone with whom I could watch a baseball game, someone with whom I could discuss the issues we debate in this hallowed chamber, and someone with whom I could talk

about life and our roles in it. One of my proudest and most gratifying moments in Congress came when I was able to appoint his son to serve as a congressional page. Warren was so proud of Scott, as was I for the outstanding job he did during his time in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I was blessed to know Warren Wilson and to have had him as a friend. And the world is a much better place for having had him in it. I know that, although his earthly life has passed, his impact will be felt by those he touched for many, many years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION HONORING CELIA CRUZ BY AWARDING HER THE CONGRES- SIONAL GOLD MEDAL

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer legislation to honor my great friend, the music icon, Celia Cruz, who lost her courageous battle with cancer on July 17, 2003.

Last night, during the Latin Grammy's, Americans were mesmerized by an emotional and wonderful tribute to the great Celia Cruz. Today, in the People's House, I am joined by my colleague, Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, to introduce legislation that will posthumously award Celia Cruz the Congressional Gold Medal.

Celia de la Caridad Cruz Alonso was born on October 21, 1924, in Havana, Cuba. Her career blossomed when she left Cuba for the United States in 1960, where she eventually made Fort Lee, New Jersey her home.

Over a five decade career as an entertainer, Celia Cruz became known as the "Queen of Salsa," and claimed the calling card cry of "Azucucar!" Celia's passion, boundless energy, and charisma transfixed generations of salsa fans and musicians. She recorded more than 70 albums and her collaborative efforts with other performers including the legendary salsa artist Tito Puente, pop star David Byrne, and hip-hop producer Wyclef Jean helped break down ethnic and cultural barriers. She was one of the few bridges that crossed cultural and racial divides.

Celia's musical talent earned her hundreds of awards worldwide, including five Grammy's, two Latin Grammy's, and the National Medal of Arts, the highest honor bestowed on an artist in the United States. She was a Hispanic Heritage Awards Lifetime Achievement recipient, and has a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame. Her music was a unifying force, and her passion for a free Cuba was evidenced in both her music and her words.

Celia touched the lives of millions. More than 100,000 individuals mourned her loss at her wake in Miami, Florida and 75,000 people lined the streets of Manhattan to pay their respects as her funeral procession made its way through the streets of New York City.

Celia Cruz made countless contributions to American society and the world as an entertainer, and she was an ambassador of Latino culture and a voice of freedom. Her music, her words, and her love of freedom live on. This legislation would make Celia the first Latina to receive the Congressional Gold Medal.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I urge the leadership to bring it swiftly to the floor for a vote.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAX BURNS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an explanation for my absence during three votes yesterday evening.

During yesterday's votes of roll Nos. 460, 461, and 462, I was en route to the Capitol from Savannah due to weather delays in the Washington area. Had I been present, I would have voted in the affirmative for each.

RECOGNITION OF THE 13TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABIL- ITIES ACT INTO LAW

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a landmark civil rights anniversary in American history, which passed after we had adjourned for the District Work Period in July. Thirteen years ago, the first President Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law, launching a new era in our nation's everlasting journey towards equal opportunity for all.

This long-overdue legislation finally breathed life into the principal that every American has the right to be a full and equal participant in our society.

As Florida's Secretary of State, I was blessed to have the opportunity to apply the mission of the ADA to the cause of election reform. Beginning with my appointment of a Select Task Force in 2001, we worked to remove the obstacles that prevented persons with disabilities in Florida from enjoying the sanctity of the secret ballot and the civic majesty of going to the polls on Election Day.

Thanks to powerful advocates from Florida's disabilities community like Pam Dorwarth, Doug Towne, and Richard LaBelle as well as the skilled leadership of Colonel Charley Price in mobilizing our veterans with disabilities, Florida became the first state in the nation to pass wide-ranging legislation vindicating the voting rights of persons with disabilities.

As we celebrate how far we have come, we must not forget how many miles we still must travel to truly secure for every American the rights and privileges that most of us take for granted.

AMERICA HAS LOST A GREAT WARRIOR AND HERO: GENERAL RAY DAVIS

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I mourn the loss of retired U.S. Marine Corps General Raymond G. Davis, who passed away yesterday in Atlanta, Georgia.

With his birth on January 13, 1915, in Fitzgerald, Georgia, Raymond Gilbert Davis began a life of service to his fellow Americans. His military career, for which he is best known, commenced after his graduation from the Georgia School of Technology in 1933, where he participated in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps unit. In 1938, General Davis resigned his commission with the U.S. Army Infantry Reserve to accept an appointment as a U.S. Marine Corps second lieutenant.

It was General Davis' bravery while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps that proves how this ordinary man was truly one of America's extraordinary heroes. During the Korean War, then Lt. Col. Davis gave this country his most famous demonstration of his unparalleled leadership during the 1st Marine Division's historic break out of the Chosin Reservoir area. During that campaign, in the face of treacherous weather conditions and overwhelming enemy numbers, he led a battalion of Marines to prevent the annihilation of a beleaguered Marine rifle company and secured a mountain pass for the safe deployment of two additional Marine regiments while keeping his own forces intact.

Following this act of bravery, President Truman, who presented the Medal of Honor to Lt. Col. Davis on November 24, 1952, wrote, "his valiant devotion to duty and unyielding fighting spirit in the face of almost insurmountable odds enhance and sustain the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service."

General Davis once jokingly told me that was the biggest mistake he ever made because every time Marines were trapped they sent for him. He, of course, was pleased to do whatever his country asked him to do.

General Davis, who also served in World War II and the Vietnam War, culminated his service with an appointment as the Assistant Commandant to the Marine Corps. Following his service in this capacity, General Davis retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in 1972, and became America's most highly decorated living veteran. His decorations include: the Medal of Honor; the Navy Cross; the Distinguished Service Medal with Gold Star in lieu of a second award; the Silver Star Medal with Gold Star in lieu of a second award; the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" and Gold Star in lieu of a second award; the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V"; the Purple Heart; the Presidential Unit Citation with four bronze stars indicative of second through fifth awards; the Navy Unit Commendation; the American Defense Service Medal with Fleet clasp; the American Campaign Medal; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one silver star in lieu of five bronze stars; the World War II Victory Medal; the National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star; the Korean Service Medal with four bronze stars; the Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze stars; the National Order of Vietnam, 4th Class; the National Order of Vietnam, 5th Class; the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with three Palms; two Korean Presidential Unit Citations; the United Nations Service Medal; and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

General Davis' devotion to his fellow Americans did not end with his retirement. General Davis was instrumental in the design, funding and construction of the U.S. Korean War Memorial located here in Washington, DC. I was there on the day it was opened. I was as proud of my friend on this occasion as I have

ever been. It struck me that while he was a genuine hero as a military leader, his greatest contributions to his nation may have been what he did over the last 31 years for his fellow veterans. He loved them for their service and they revered him for his leadership.

Then, General Davis played a crucial role in creating U.S.-Korea 2000, an organization that reached out to almost 40,000 veterans of the Korean War in order to allow them to participate in ceremonies associated with the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. In my home state of Georgia, he devoted his time and energy to the construction of the Georgia War Veterans Memorial Park in Rockdale County.

Through the years I have known Ray Davis, not only as a fellow veteran, but also as a friend. His courageous devotion to his comrades, his unyielding fight for the American veteran, and his love for and service to the United States itself are all examples of what it truly means to be an American.

While his military service was exemplary, his post military service deserved just as many medals. I generally open a speech with the request for all veterans in the audience to stand. When they do, they are met, without exception, with the grateful applause of the rest in attendance. Ray Davis taught me that.

When I am in a campaign I always target veterans since, as Ray always reminded me, I should be proud that I am one and should share that fact.

When the Republican Party is in a presidential race, whether 1988, 1992, 1996, or 2000, I could always expect Ray Davis to be escorting our candidate around veterans groups. Indeed, there was no military leader, with the possible exception of Omar Bradley, more revered by the troops, then my friend Ray Davis.

Let me hasten to add that he was never satisfied with our efforts. I was the proud recipient of many letters and phone calls from this American hero reminding me of how many veterans there were and what patriots they were and how little we were doing to appreciate them. I may have disagreed with him once or twice, but I do not recall it. My prayers go to Willa and the family.

America has lost a great warrior and hero. And I have lost a great friend. I shall miss him.

MOTHER TERESA: A MODEL FOR US ALL

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, in 1948, Mother Teresa came across a half-dead woman lying in front of a Calcutta hospital. She stayed with the woman until she died. From that point on, she dedicated the majority of her life to helping the poorest of the poor in India. If everyone in the world able to help the poor would donate a small fraction of their time in the spirit of Mother Teresa, the world would be a much better place.

It takes an extraordinary person to "see God in every human being." Almost 50 years later, her Missionaries of Charity has grown from 12 sisters in India to over 3,000 in 517 missions throughout 100 countries worldwide. For 50 years, this remarkable woman has

touched the lives of so many that were in dire need of help.

As we members of Congress go about our daily routines, we would be well served to use Mother Teresa as an example of how we should conduct ourselves. Our duty is public service, and there was no greater servant to mankind than Mother Teresa.

RECOGNIZING MR. ALBERT G. HORTON, JR. OF CHESAPEAKE, VA

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Mr. Albert G. Horton, Jr. of Chesapeake, VA for his seemingly endless dedication to the veterans of Virginia.

On September 8, 2003, we will break ground in Suffolk, VA to establish a new National Veterans Cemetery, due largely to the perseverance of Al Horton. In 1996, as a Virginia State Delegate, I created the Virginia Veterans Liaison Committee in an effort to bring veterans together and to give a unified voice to their issues. Al Horton was a member of that committee and that is how I first came to know Al.

In 1997, Al contacted me and asked me to introduce legislation to have a National Veterans Cemetery constructed in the Hampton Roads area. Thus, I began a long fulfilling relationship with this very special man.

During 1998, as a result of a bill I introduced as a member of the Virginia General Assembly, a study was conducted to establish if there was a need for a new National Cemetery within the region. The study concluded there were 173,700 veterans living in the Hampton Roads area who would benefit from such a cemetery. The distance to the closest alternative cemetery site in Amelia is two and a half hours away, and the study concluded that this distance had been a deterrent to veterans' families who wanted to be able to visit the gravesites of their loved ones.

Based upon that study, I worked with Al in his new role as Chairman of the Hampton Roads Veterans' Cemetery Committee to find a site to serve as a final resting place for our nation's veterans. An area in Suffolk, VA was selected and \$650,000 in state-appropriated monies was used to secure purchase of the land. Additional money was appropriated for the design and engineering of the cemetery, but all those funds were to be reimbursed by the federal government through the Department of Veterans' Affairs in the form of a short-term Treasury loan. The effect of these actions would therefore result in a Veterans' Cemetery for Virginia Veterans that would cost approximately \$8 million with Virginia only paying approximately \$650,000.

Al Horton worked tirelessly, with the help of veterans around the state, organizing, leading and overcoming many hurdles to make his vision of a veterans' cemetery in Hampton Roads a reality. He even wrote a book, "Grass Roots Politics, If You Don't Like It—Change It!!" which details his experience as an ordinary citizen accomplishing the goal of getting something as great as the Veterans Cemetery at Hampton Roads accomplished.

I only wish Al was still with us to see the result of all his hard work. He passed away on