

As the city's first African American mayor, Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr. continues to represent the past, present and future of civil rights and the cultural and intellectual diversity that symbolizes San Francisco's history of acceptance.

Mayor Brown has been a mentor and a friend since the early 1970's. He has been consistent in championing the rights and the plight of those shut out of the American dream, and he has never forgotten his humble roots in Mineola, Texas.

I had the privilege to serve with Mayor Brown while in the California Legislature. As speaker of the Assembly, Mayor Brown led our state through many challenging years. He was my "shadow Governor" and made sure that communities of color, women and the poor had a seat at the table.

As a skilled legislator, Speaker Brown guided me with my very aggressive and successful legislative agenda, which I continue to embrace with pride and humility.

Mayor Brown leads with his head and his heart. His intellect, his wisdom and his spirit is something to behold.

As one whose life and work has been enriched by this giant of a man, I say thank you, and Godspeed. Enjoy this next glorious chapter of your life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on November 20, 2003, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on Roll Call Number 654 on H.R. 1828, the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes."

RECOGNIZING WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize December 1, 2003, as World AIDS Day. On this day, many around the globe will celebrate the progress made in the battle against AIDS while raising awareness to the challenges that remain.

Worldwide, an estimated 42 million people are living with the disease; 11.8 million are young people aged 15 to 24. Furthermore, more than half of those newly infected with HIV are between 15 and 24 years old—six thousand new infections each day, or 4 every minute.

In Latin America, in 2001, approximately 130,000 adults and children were infected with HIV and 80,000 died of AIDS. Unfortunately, young people and women are becoming increasingly vulnerable.

As we recognize World AIDS Day and celebrate the successes achieved, let us remember that our young people are at the center of this global crisis. They are our greatest hope in fighting this deadly disease and we should

do all we can to deliver effective treatments and prevent new infections.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district had I been present, I would have voted yea on the following roll call votes:

Roll Call 650 (H.R. 1), Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act—On Motion to Instruct Conferees;

Roll Call 651 (H.R. 2660), Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004—On Motion to Instruct Conferees;

Roll Call 652 (H.J. Res. 63), Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003;

Roll Call 653 (H. Con. Res. 209) Commending the signing of the United States-Adriatic Charter, a charter of partnership among the United States, Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia;

Roll Call 654 (H.R. 1828), the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003; and

Roll Call 655 (H.R. 253), National Flood Insurance Reauthorization.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 82nd annual celebration of American Education Week, a time for us to acknowledge and praise the important role of education for our social and economic future. In the United States, the public school system provides the backbone of our youth's education, a system that deserves our active support and continued respect.

In 1919 the American Legion and the National Education Association joined together in concern over illiteracy rates among World War I draftees. The two groups agreed to support a national effort to increase awareness of the importance of education. The first American Education Week was observed from December 4–10, 1921. In many parts of our state, literacy remains a great challenge, and the need for a strong public education system is more important than ever.

Each year American Education Week focuses on a different issue; this year's theme is "Great Public Schools for Every Child—America's Promise." The week's co-sponsors include the United States Department of Education, National PTA, and various national educator associations.

Every child deserves the opportunity to attend a quality public school where he or she can learn and excel in a safe, stable environment. Students should receive an education that teaches not only practical skills and specific knowledge, but that also passes down our nation's core values. Public schools nurture American traditions such as tolerance, free-

dom, and equality that create productive citizens.

Public schools in Texas continue to show great progress in many areas. According to statistics compiled by the NEA, Texas ranks in the top ten states for 4th graders scoring well in math tests. More and more Texas schools are offering advanced placement courses, and Texas now ranks first in the nation for the proportion of students taking advanced math courses. Texas stands among the top four states nationally for the percentage of public primary schools offering foreign language immersion. Excellence in math and language are not only important personal education skills, but they are critical to our future economic growth.

At the same time, challenges remain. The Administration and the Congress have failed to make the financial investments needed to expand the areas of progress and provide the quality education needed by all of America's children. Elementary schools in Texas are overcrowded and many are desperately in need of major repairs. Quality teachers, our most valuable educational resources, are becoming more and more difficult to recruit and retain.

Despite the promise to leave no child behind, the current federal leadership has adopted policies that break the commitments to reform and accountability in the No Child Left Behind Act. Rural and inner city schools will suffer the most, as will children with special needs and challenges. The President's budget and congressional appropriations are underfunding the No Child Left Behind Act by as much as \$8 billion. Similarly, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) remains woefully underfunded, leaving states and school districts with the burden of complying with the important federal goal of providing a public education to all students.

This lack of funding contributes directly to the problems facing Texas schools and schools across the Nation: larger classes, schools closing earlier, cutting out after school and summer programs, and laying off teachers and staff. What is the response to this starvation diet by the Administration and congressional leaders? Private school vouchers . . . Blame the public schools for meeting standards without providing resources to comply . . . Failure to make the commitment to provide all students, of all backgrounds and needs, with the education they deserve and we as a society need.

The best investment in America's future is an investment in our children's education. We should take this week to give special attention to promoting quality in our nation's public schools; however, our vigilance should not end this week, but continue until every child has the chance to realize his or her educational potential.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LARRY CORNMAN, ROBERT SHARMAN, AND PAUL POLAK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to three

brilliant scientists from my home State. Larry Cornman, Robert Sharman, and Paul Polak have an impressive grasp of the most technical aspects of science, and they are using those talents to improve the quality of life of millions of people throughout the country and the world. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing these three gentlemen and their tremendous service to the global community.

Larry, Robert and Paul were recognized recently with three of the year's top fifty science and technology awards by Scientific American magazine. Larry and Robert, of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, developed a computer program that allows the Doppler radar on commercial airplanes to see turbulence at the edges of a storm. This system will serve to increase the safety and comfort for all future commercial air flights. Paul, who is the President of International Development Enterprises, helped to create a low-cost drip-irrigation system for Third World farmers. The system has the potential to aide more than 30 million rural farm families to escape poverty.

Mr. Speaker, Larry Cornman, Robert Sharman, and Paul Polak are bright, enthusiastic individuals who dedicate themselves to the noble endeavor of improving the lives of citizens around the world. These three men have demonstrated a passion for science that resonates in their extraordinary achievements. I am honored to pay tribute here today to these devoted scientists before this body of Congress. Congratulations on your awards, gentlemen. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA CARMICHAEL, FORMER NORCO CITY COUNCILMEMBER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Norco, CA are exceptional. Norco has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Barbara Carmichael is one of these individuals. After 13 years of service to the city, Barbara will step down as a councilmember.

Barbara moved to Norco in 1980 and quickly became involved in the community as a 4-H leader. As an honorary FFA Chapter farmer Barbara truly fit in to the rural lifestyle of Norco. Barbara has been involved with many community organizations including the Chamber of Commerce Fair Committee, a Foundation Board Member for Corona Regional Hospital and member of the Riverside Community Hospital college advisory board. She has also represented the City of Norco as a Mosquito Abatement Trustee, on the Economic Development Advisory Council, the Ad Hoc Committee for the retention of the Naval Warfare Assessment Center. She is a member of the Corona/Norco School Advisory Board and the host of monthly Senior Town Hall meetings. She is also the current President of the Norco Seniors and Pet Relief organization and is a

Charter and active member of the Norco Horsemen's Association.

Barbara was first elected to the Norco City Council in November 1990, was elected Mayor in 1992 and 1998. She has served as Mayor Pro-Tempore three times. During her tenure on the Norco City Council Barbara has accomplished an enormous amount for the residents of Norco including the construction of five low-to-moderate income homes; a pilot curbside recycling program and the Sixth Street Façade program; a Directional Sign Program for new homes was approved; a new City Hall was opened; an agreement was reached with the City of Jurupa for the purchase of desalter water; the Lake Norconian Club and central hotel were designated as historic landmarks; the second phase of senior housing was approved; a new senior center was completed; the Animal Keeping Ad Hoc Committee was formed; the proposal to purchase Hidden Valley Golf Club was rejected and barbed wire was prohibited adjacent to equestrian trails.

Barbara's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Norco, California. She has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she steps down from the Norco City Council.

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE DAY

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an issue that is too often overlooked in our society: the problem of suicide

According to the Centers for Disease Control, a suicide occurs once every 18 minutes. In the year 2000, we lost 29,350 people to suicide. It is the third leading killer of children ages 10 to 14 in the U.S., causing 7.2 percent of the total deaths in that age group. For children ages 15 to 19, the percentage jumps to 12 percent. When most people are starting a family and beginning their careers, between the ages of 25 and 34, suicide is the number two cause of death.

Too often suicide has been stigmatized as a weakness or character flaw. Instead, suicide must be viewed as it truly is: a symptom of mental illness. Viewing suicide as such allows us to recognize the warning signs (including depression, reckless behavior, substance abuse, and a drastic change in attitude and behavior) and helps encourage people to seek help.

While the number of males who commit suicide is about four times higher than the number of females, it is important that we pay special attention to suicide attempts among females, especially teenage girls. It is estimated that women attempt suicide at a three-to-one margin. In the case of teenage girls, these attempts are often a cry for help at a very confusing time in their lives.

We lose one person to suicide every 18 minutes. To put this in perspective, this

equates to nearly 13,000 more deaths per year than homicide. We must do more to educate people about suicide, thereby helping to prevent it. For this reason I am sponsoring a Concurrent Resolution in support of National Survivors of Suicide Day and the ideals it upholds. This resolution recognizes and praises the work that numerous public and private sector groups carry out to raise awareness about suicide and provide treatment for depression.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRAIL ACT

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to reintroduce the Camino Real de los Tejas National Historical Trail Act. This legislation would recognize the historical significance of the oldest highway system in Texas.

Translated, camino real means "royal road" and was used exclusively to describe roads between economically important Spanish towns and Spanish capitals. In keeping with its roots, the Camino Real de los Tejas was the first overland route from the Rio Grande to the Red River Valley in Louisiana, and contributed enormously to the settlement and development of the Texas frontier. First traveled in 1689, for the next 300 years the road was worn by traders, immigrants, mail carriers, missionaries, cattlemen and their herds, soldiers, and settlers into an early-day "super-highway".

We would not only pay homage to our ancestors by designating the Camino Real as a National Historic Trail, but also develop a positive tool for economic development and historical preservation in the many towns and cities along the route. By promoting the preservation of this historic resource, the public will gain an opportunity to learn and small, rural communities will have greater opportunity for cultural tourism.

The bill I am introducing today contains special provisions to ensure that trail designation will not impair private property rights. Unlike prior versions of the bill, this one designates the trail only on public lands. Land condemnation is prohibited, and only willing sellers will be approached for acquisition purposes. No private lands will be included in the trail designation unless the private property owner affirmatively opts in.

Spanish conquistador Cabeza de Vaca, the first European to explore Texas, ventured up and down this trail. Both Davy Crockett and General Santa Anna journeyed to battle at the Alamo by way of the Camino Real.

The trails deserve national recognition for their tremendous historical and cultural value. In marking the trail, we honor our history and heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support and cosponsor the reintroduction of the Camino Real de los Tejas National Historical Trail Act. Join me in building up communities rich in history and economic opportunities.