

qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, troop 1815, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in girl scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include: 1. earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration; 2. earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip; 3. earning the senior girl scout leadership award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills; 4. designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote girl scouting, and; 5. spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a girl scout gold award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Shauna updated a refurbished girl's locker room.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Shauna Bryant for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

**JULIE DASH—DIRECTOR'S GUILD
AWARD NOMINATION, THE ROSA
PARKS STORY**

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my pride over the nomination of Ms. Julie Dash for a prestigious Director's Guild Award for her work on *The Rosa Parks Story*. She was nominated in the category of Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Movies for Television for 2002. The winners will be announced at the 55th Annual DGA Awards Dinner on Saturday, March 1, 2003 at The Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles. Ms. Dash is the only female nominated in this category this year.

The *Rosa Parks Story* stars Angela Bassett, Cicily Tyson and Dexter Scott King, the son of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The film brings to life the peaceful dissent an exhausted Rosa Parks showed on a crowded Montgomery, Alabama bus in 1955, and the Civil Rights Movement that ensued. The movie originally aired on television on February 24, 2002.

It seems appropriate that Ms. Dash would be nominated for this award during Black History Month. African American actors, directors and others in the industry are hard-pressed to find meaningful, quality projects. Given these challenges, I am even more proud of Ms. Dash's achievement today.

Ms. Dash's own story of success is also very inspiring. She was born and raised in New York City, and in 1992 became the first African American woman to have her film,

Daughters of the Dust, receive a full-length theatrical release. In 1994 Ms. Dash was chosen as one of the 100 Fearless Women by *Mirabella* magazine.

She has received numerous awards, including The Sojourner Truth Award from the New York Chapter of the Links, the Maya Deren Award from the American Film Institute, a Candace Award from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and the prestigious John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship.

I was honored to host a congressional screening of the film, *The Rosa Parks Story*, last year prior to the film's television debut. I had the good fortune then of meeting Ms. Dash, along with Ms. Cicily Tyson, Ms. Angela Bassett, and many others who were instrumental in the success of this movie.

This film has held meaning and significance for me personally, and it brings me great joy to see Ms. Dash's work recognized by the Director's Guild of America. I wish her the best at the awards ceremony on March 1st!

HONORING EARL F. BROWN, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Earl F. Brown, Jr. has been a true leader in South Carolina for decades, with a long history of service to his community and country. I want to commend him for his tireless work and take a look at his history.

From 1973 to 2001, Mr. Brown was employed with the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission, SCHAC. While at SCHAC he served as Executive Assistant to the Commissioner for External Affairs, Director for Community Relations and Director of Compliance and Investigations.

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Mr. Brown was educated in the public schools of Duval County. He was accepted at Savannah State College on a basketball scholarship and played the point guard position on the 1952 Southeastern Athletic Conference Championship Team. After completion of the Bachelor of Science in Political Science, he was drafted in the U.S. Army and served as a military aide to Brigadier General Frank F. Bowen, Jr. He received an Honorable Discharge in 1956.

Upon leaving the military in 1956, he joined the staff of the Afro-American Insurance Company in Jacksonville, Florida as an Insurance Counselor. Mr. Brown began his community activities as a volunteer in 1957 with the local NAACP as its Public Relations/Chairman of the Voters Registration Drive for Duval County and later served on the statewide voter registration team. He served as a community organizer and community leader for eight years in the struggle for equality and employment.

In 1964, he enrolled in Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina and received an A.B. Degree in Social Science and Psychology in 1966.

Mr. Brown's career as a public servant took flight when in 1966, he assumed the position as a public school teacher at W.A. Perry Junior High School. In 1967, he was offered a position as Probation Officer and Counselor for the Richland County Family Court System. In

April 1969, he was awarded a Ford Foundation Scholarship to study at the Duke University Institute of Developmental Administration and Management System. In 1971, he completed Harvard University's Institute of Educational Management program. In 1977, he received a MCJ Degree from the University of South Carolina with a concentration in "Court Administration".

Mr. Brown is a 1987 graduate of Leadership Columbia, a graduate of the Governor's Leadership School of South Carolina in 1988, a 1996 graduate of the Executive Institute, and a Certified Labor Arbitrator by the South Carolina Labor Department.

Earl Brown's professional and civic activities as well as his awards and honors are numerous and have included: Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Chairman of the Board of Commissioners—Richland County Airport; President, Capital Senior Center, Inc.; Southern Regional Vice President-National Association of Human Rights Workers; Chairman of Cooperative Ministries of the Midlands (SC); Vice-President of The Brookland Foundation; Chairman of Board of Directors-Central Midlands (SC) Councils of Government; President of Richland/Lexington (SC) Chapter State Employees Association; Chairman of American Red Cross Blood Service, Board of Directors for South Carolina Region; Chairman of Columbia Housing Development Corporation, Inc.; President of College of Criminal Justice Alumni Association, University of South Carolina; Member of United Way of Midlands (SC); Member of Richland County School District 1 (SC) Education Advisory Committee; Member of American Arbitration Association; Outstanding Citizen Award from the National Council of Negro Women (1980); President's Award for Outstanding Service to Savannah State College (1980); The Southeastern Providence Achievement Award 1971 "Man of the Year"; Elected to "Who's Who in America" 15th Edition (1975); and President's Award for Outstanding Services and Leadership to the American Red Cross Blood Services for the South Carolina Region (1995).

Mr. Brown is a member of Brookland Baptist Church in West Columbia, South Carolina. He is the father of two children, Kim and Felton.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Brown for setting an example for reaching out to a community in need, and working to make the lives of those around him better. He is an inspiration to South Carolina and the Nation.

**INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO
BUILD A NEW BRIDGE NEAR
FOLSOM DAM**

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, in the 1950s a new artery opened that has helped alleviate traffic in the booming Sacramento region for close to half a century: the Folsom Dam Road.

Built to provide both flood protection and water reserves, a road also runs across the top of the Folsom Dam, thus providing better access to the growing communities in Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado Counties.

In recent years I have often argued that the growth in the region demands a new, bigger

bridge to handle the more than 18,000 commuters who traveled across the dam each day.

In addition to the congestion on the narrow dam road, I argued that in the wake of the September 11 attacks, providing an alternative to traffic became a security risk as well. With the dam so close to Sacramento, the access to the dam was a tempting target to terrorists who might want to attack my hometown and community. Security was increased at the dam—the only facility in the nation with a public road running across it besides the Hoover Dam, and the only one adjacent to a heavily populated area. But many of us still had concerns.

Last week, the Department of the Interior through the Bureau of Reclamation—which runs the dam—came to the same conclusion: allowing traffic on the dam is too dangerous. Last Thursday they announced the closure of the dam road to all vehicle and foot traffic, effective this Friday, February 28, 2003. Said a spokesman for the bureau, “In order to protect the facility and the 900,000 people below it, we have decided to take this step.”

Unfortunately, there is still no new bridge to provide an alternative to the tens of thousands in the region who used the bridge as their avenue through the area. Those of us who live and commute in the area have less than a week to adjust our patterns.

Last year, my colleague Representative JOHN DOOLITTLE and I introduced legislation to build a new bridge. This bill passed the House Resources Committee. Today, Representative DOOLITTLE and I reintroduce this language with even greater necessity. The Bureau of Reclamation unilaterally decided to close the road. But they provided no alternative. They have assured me that they support an effort to provide an alternative and restore a method for crossing the region in the form of this new bridge. Chairman POMBO has already indicated that he will give this bill its proper consideration.

I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in supporting the effort to provide a safe and secure way for all those traveling in the Sacramento region—home to an international port, airport and two interstate highways—to continue to cross through this beautiful and productive region by passing this legislation and building a bridge to replace the Folsom Dam Road.

RECOGNIZING MARY JO ELWELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mary Jo Elwell, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 3248, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement Attainable in girl scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, (1.) earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration, (2.) earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip, (3.) earning the senior girl scout leadership award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills, (4.) designing a self development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote girl scouting, and (5.) spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Mary Jo organized and ran a T-Ball program.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mary Jo Elwell for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

TRIBUTE TO DR. VELMA LAWS-CLAY FOR HER SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF GREATER BATTLE CREEK

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Velma Laws-Clay as Scene Magazine's Woman of the Year.

I am pleased to pay tribute to a woman whose vision, intellect and commitment to community service has made her one of Battle Creek, Michigan's best known and most respected citizens. Whether working quietly behind the scenes or out front leading the charge, Velma's positive attitude and strength of conviction serve as an inspiration to all who know her.

Velma has been described as the consummate community volunteer; giving generously of her time, talent and resources. She serves on numerous boards and committees including NorthPointe Woods, the Art Center of Battle Creek, and the Battle Creek Community Foundation, where she became the first African-American to serve as Board Chairman. One of her more prominent roles was serving as chairman of the year-long sojourner Truth 200th Anniversary Celebration and the Sojourner Truth Monument dedication, events which paid tribute to the historic legacy of one of Battle Creek's most famous citizens.

As her affiliation with the Art Center might suggest, Velma has a passion for the arts. It is this passion, along with her knowledge and admiration of her cultural heritage that led her, along with her sister Vivian, to assemble a vast private collection of African American art and artifacts. The collection, known as the “Journey to Freedom”, encompasses over 300 pieces, ranging from prints and drawings to mixed media and sculptures. It provides individuals the opportunity to experience and learn about the history of African Americans through the eyes and works of the artists.

Velma has been the recipient of many well-deserved accolades. In 2001 she was named Alumnus of the Year by Kellogg Community College and received an Alumni Achievement Award from Western Michigan University. She was also recognized as a George Award winner for her outstanding service to the community, and most recently, was presented with the prestigious Athena Award by the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce.

Those who know and have worked with Velma state that her energy is contagious. She is a positive, motivating force that inspires the best in others. Through her actions and deeds, Velma serves not only as a strong community leader and visionary, but also as a tremendous role model for others in the community.

I am honored to recognize Dr. Velma Laws-Clay for her passionate devotion to promoting and improving the community in which she lives and for truly exemplifying service above self. I join with the citizens of Battle Creek in congratulating her on being named Scene Magazine's Woman of the Year.