

## TRIBUTE TO JUDGE TOMIE GREEN

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African-Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Today I rise to pay tribute to Judge Tomie Green. Judge Green received her primary education from the Jackson public school system. Upon completing, she entered Tougaloo College where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree. She then earned a Master of Science degree from Jackson State. Judge Green then received her Doctor of Jurisprudence from Mississippi College School of Law. In April of 1999 Judge Green then continued post-graduate training at the National Institute of Trial Advocacy and the National Judicial College, University of Nevada Reno.

Judge Green served in the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1992–1998. She served as Vice Chair of Ethics and a sub-chair of the Judiciary Committee. While serving in this position Judge Green aided in passing several monumental laws. Judge Green also participated in the creation of the laws that established the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Mississippi Court of Appeals, and the Mississippi Torts Claim Board.

Judge Green practiced law for fifteen years before taking the bench. On January 4, 1999, Judge Green took the oath of office to become the first woman elected to the Hinds County Circuit Court. She also continues to be an adjunct law professor as Mississippi College School of Law.

## TRIBUTE TO VERA RISON

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing an outstanding humanitarian, Vera Rison. Vera is being honored Thursday night at a Community Tribute and Retirement Dinner in my home town of Flint Michigan.

Vera Rison is one of my dearest friends. I treasure her wisdom, her common sense, and her ability to go to the heart of a dilemma and seek a solution. The many years she spent working at Genesee Memorial Hospital gave Vera insight into the problems faced by average families. She has never stopped working to ease the burdens faced by so many. Through the positions she held as chair of the Service Employees International Union Local 79, director of human resources at Amy Jo Manor Housing Complex, the Genesee County Community Mental Health Board, the Substance Abuse Services Board and the Jobs Central Workforce Development Board, Vera has always maintained her vision and commitment to a better future for everyone.

Through her work as a Genesee County Commissioner and a State Representative, Vera was able to see some of her ideas be-

come concrete, working plans. She sponsored a bill to reduce the number of abandoned houses. She also was the driving force behind the renovation of the Amy Jo Manor Housing Complex. In addition, Vera worked tirelessly for individuals in trouble. She frequently advocated on behalf of persons sentenced to prison. She arranged for basic services to be provided for the handicapped and devoted many hours to ensuring the uninsured received health care.

The Genesee District Library paid Vera an awesome compliment when they named the Beecher branch of their library the "Vera B. Rison Library." It is a tremendous tribute that the library, where all persons of every age can come and improve their minds and lives through knowledge, is named for the woman who spent a lifetime witnessing the potential in all persons and pushed them to achieve their personal best.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring a dear friend, Vera Rison. She is an inspiration to me and I wish her the best as she starts the next phase of her life.

## REMEMBERING MS. ESTHER JONES LEE

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this day, during Black History Month, to pay tribute to a trail blazing civic leader, Ms. Esther Jones Lee. I take pride in honoring Ms. Jones Lee for her lifetime of dedication to organizing and empowering the African American community, particularly African American women, in their struggle to secure the purportedly unalienable rights promised to the people of this nation at its founding.

Born in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1885, the daughter of Ms. Mary Wanzer Jones and the Reverend J.W. Jones, Ms. Jones Lee inherited her family's unyielding commitment to serving God and her community. The monumental integrity and deep compassion that came to characterize Ms. Jones Lee's legacy were deeply rooted in the lessons she learned growing up in her father's ministries. After graduating from high school in Chillicothe, Missouri, Ms. Jones Lee was trained in pedagogy and taught high school in Macon, Missouri. In 1904, Reverend Jones and his family relocated to the San Francisco Bay Area, where he was charged by the American Baptist Association with establishing the McGee Avenue Baptist Church, still a vibrant spiritual community to this day. Married in 1908 to Mr. George E. Lee, Ms. Jones Lee had three children, of whom only one, Ms. Esther Lee Higgs, survived infancy.

In the Bay Area, Ms. Jones Lee provided skillful and passionate leadership to a plethora of organizations and clubs, especially the National Association of Colored Women (NACW), which she served for three terms as president of the state chapter. In 1918, Ms. Jones Lee was appointed by the President of the NACW, Ms. Mary Burnett Talbert, to lead California's efforts in the Anti-Lynching Campaign, working closely with State Senator William Knowland to introduce the successful legislation that out-

lawed this heinous practice. Ms. Jones Lee also served as: Vice President of Child Welfare for the Civic Center of San Francisco, the predecessor of the Big Sister Movement; President of the Women's Work Baptist Association of the State of California; a founding member of the Fannie Wall Children's Home, the area's first home to care for African American orphans; a founder of the Linden Branch YWCA, the area's first YWCA open to all girls, regardless of race; and head of the Women's Division of Northern California for the 1928 Herbert Hoover Campaign.

During her lifetime, the promises of equality, and justice for all made by our nation's framers were not extended to Ms. Esther Jones Lee. Born into a world in which she could neither vote nor hold public office, she found power by raising her voice and taking action where her conscience deemed it necessary. Inspiring and empowering those whose lives she touched, she rose to positions of leadership from which she challenged the status quo, contributed to policy reform, and advocated for equality. While partaking in the club activities expected of women of their social stature, Ms. Jones Lee and her fellow organizers became fierce, courageous, and compassionate political forces, needing no one's permission but their own. I take great pride in joining Ms. Esther Jones Lee's family and the people of California's 9th Congressional District in honoring her memory and celebrating her legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to include in the RECORD the following articles regarding Ms. Esther Jones Lee.

[From the Oakland Tribune, May 30, 1926]

## ACTIVITIES AMONG NEGROES

(by Delilah L. Beasley)

## WELCOMING SPEECHES

Mrs. Esther Jones Lee, as president of the northern section of California, will have the honor of welcoming the distinguished group of women to Oakland and Mrs. Corrine Bush Hicks, of Pasadena, state president of the California Federation of Colored Women's clubs, will welcome them to California on the night given over to state. Notwithstanding, the great task there are citizens in the east who have visited Oakland, notably Miss Hallie Q. Brown, who have faith in the citizens rally to the assistance of these brave women and helping them in this great effort which will mean much as an educational development of the race.

The following are appointments given to California women by the national president, Mrs. Mary McCloud [McCleod] Bethune: Regional chairmen for northern section—Temperance, Miss Masterson of Stockton; kindergarten—Mrs. L.-J.-Williams, Vallejo, headquarters for the national in Washington, D. C., Mrs. H. B. Tilghman; physical education, Esther Jones Lee, Oakland; state chairmen—Peace and foreign relations, Mrs. Irene Bell Ruggles, San Francisco; citizenship, Mrs. Frank Henry, Oakland; temperance, Mrs. Lillian Smith, Oakland; hygiene, Mrs. L.J. Williams Vallejo; arts and crafts, Mrs. Melba Stafford, Oakland; social work and recreation, Esther Jones Lee, Oakland. She is also local chairman of arrangements for the national.

[From the California Voice, Friday, December 30, 1960]

## FEDERATED WOMEN CLUB NOTES—(CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION)

Maker of History—This is a brief, historical sketch of a personality of pronounced individuality who helped put over remarkable

undertakings in all phases of club, church and community work. Mrs. Esther Jones Lee of 1548 Parker Street, Berkeley, began club work in California in 1913 as a member of Mothers Charity Club. Prior to her residence in California, she worked with the Fannie B. Williams Club in Buxton, Iowa, where she was United States post office clerk. Later she taught school in Macon, Missouri.

Mrs. Lee served in every department of the California State Association and was elected to the presidency of the State Association in 1926, becoming the thirteenth president. Following the election to the presidency, she joined Fannie Jackson Coppin Club.

Mrs. Lee was Chairman of Affairs during the Fifteenth Biennial Convention of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc., in 1926. She was one of the California women accorded special credit for her influence in obtaining the keys to the City of Oakland for this gigantic meeting—the largest and finest group of colored women that had ever crossed the Continent. At the next National Convention which convened in 1928 in Washington, D.C., Mrs. Mary McCleod Bethune, the national president, fittingly referred to Mrs. Lee as "the local chairman of the National in Oakland, California." Mrs. Lee was overwhelmingly elected a member of the Board of Control. Mrs. Bethune appointed Mrs. Lee as her special representative to the Y.W.C.A. Biennial Convention which was meeting in Sacramento, California.

Mrs. Lee attended the Seventeenth Biennial Convention in Hot Springs, Arkansas in 1930. She was delegated to give the response to the address of the Arkansas governor, local officials and others. During the Hoover-for-president campaign, she was head of the Women's Division of Northern California.

Mrs. Lee has given valuable information on numerous historical facets for the State Association's records—two of them being the inadvertent birth of the unit called "Northern Federation," and the founding of Fannie Wall Children's Home, and how and why it was named.

During the presidency of the late National President, Mrs. Mary D. Talbert, 1916 to 1920, Mrs. Lee was appointed regional official for California of the Anti-lynching Campaign.

Mrs. Lee has been prominently identified with the women's work of the General Baptist Association of California, its auxiliaries and also fraternal orders, the honor of Club Mother for 1954 was conferred upon her by Fannie Jackson Coppin Club.

Mrs. Lee's service in important offices on the National State, Regional and local club levels have blazed a trail and laid a foundation upon which we are pursuing and building. The potency of her character, intellect, personal energy and Club fealty, has guided the State Association and Fannie Jackson Coppin Club in paths of high purpose and achievement.

RECOGNITION OF KATHERINE  
TOMLIN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Katherine Tomlin, 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 1002, 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 résumés, 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, Katherine made lap blankets for the hidden Lake Care Center.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Katherine Tomlin 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 LANDRES CHEEKS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African-Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Retired 1st Sergeant Landres Cheeks graduated from Madison County Training School in 1940. He received his Clerk Typist Certificate in 1946 and his NCO Certificate in 1947, from the United States Army NCO Academy.

Ret. 1st Sergeant Cheeks was a 1st Sergeant for 23 of the 30 years in the U. S. Army. He was a personnel sergeant major, medical Intelligence non-commissioned officer, postal clerk during WWII, facilitated driving testing station for non-commissioned officers, served one tour of duty in Vietnam, served four tours of duty in Germany, and served one tour in France. Cheeks was the first black staff non-commissioned officer of the 69th artillery division in Fort Dix, New Jersey. He was the first black 1st Sergeant of the 33rd station hospital in Bremen haven, Germany and the first black 1st Sergeant of the 54th truck company in Hanau, Germany. Cheeks assisted soldiers in absentee ballot voting from 1951–1974.

During 1974–1992 Sergeant Cheeks was owner of Wynn & Cheeks Grocery Store where he managed accounts payable, accounts receivable, ordered stock, supervised daily operation of the business. Cheeks also registered people to vote in the grocery store.

Retired 1st Sergeant Landres Cheeks was the first black appointed layman to become a Member of the Board of Trustee of Madison General Hospital in Canton, Mississippi during 1985–1988. He also was Chairman of the board of the Madison County Voters League

which would organize campaign fundraisers, voter registration, absentee ballot, and provide transportation to polls during 1988–1998.

At the present time, Cheeks juggles being Commander of the Boy Scout and Cub Scout of America, fundraiser for Madison County Women for Progress, and Utility Commissioner, City of Canton.

SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution supporting the goals of International Women's Day. International Women's Day is celebrated each year on March 8 by the United Nations and millions of people around the world in recognition of the contributions of women and men throughout history who have worked for gender equality and in acknowledgement of the work that has yet to be done.

I am proud to be joined in this effort by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), the gentlewoman from California, our distinguished Democratic Leader (Ms. PELOSI), and the gentleman from California, the ranking Democrat on the International Relations Committee (Mr. LANTOS), and several other members. I also want to acknowledge the assistance my colleague from Illinois, the distinguished Chairman of the International Relations Committee (Mr. HYDE), has given me.

Women all over the world contribute to the security and well-being of their communities, families, and nations. Yet, women still have yet to achieve full political and economic equality and millions of women continue to face discrimination, abuse, and violence in their daily lives. International Women's Day serves as a time to recognize this reality and to join together across cultures, languages, nations, ethnicities, and income levels to celebrate a common commitment for equality and justice.

It is my hope that this Resolution will find unanimous support in the House of Representatives as a demonstration of the commitment members share to working for fairness and justice for all people around the world.

I urge the House leadership to schedule this measure for a vote next week so that the members of the House may join our international partners in recognition of International Women's Day.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL PEACE  
CORPS DAY, FEBRUARY 28TH 2003

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, this Friday is National Peace Corps day. All over the country, former Peace Corps volunteers are bringing their skills, knowledge and experience to