

Phyllis is a member of a proud African American family of Taliaferros. The most notable of whom is Booker Taliaferro Washington. Since 1898 Phyllis's family has maintained the Lucy Taliaferro Estate in Colonial Beach, Virginia. Phyllis's great-grandmother purchased the property. Prior to World War II, Phyllis's family moved to Baltimore where she was born. Following the war, Phyllis along with her parents and sister moved to New York.

Phyllis is a graduate of Amityville Memorial High School on Long Island. She earned her bachelor's degree at Morgan State University and received her master's degree in Social Welfare at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She has also studied at the University of Ghana at Legon and at St. Ann's Psychiatric Hospital in Rosekilde, Sweden. In the United States, she took post-graduate courses at the Lenox Hill Hospital Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy program and at Beth Israel Hospital. She has held faculty positions in the State University of New York Agricultural and Technical College and at Old Westbury and Euro College.

In her professional life, she is focused on improving mental health treatment for women and children. She runs a group for women called "He Ain't All That." She has been honored by the Visiting Nurse Service, the Society for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, and the New York Black Psychologists. She is a Past President of the New York Association of Black Psychologists.

Phyllis is also the executive producer of the "The Phyllis Taliaferro Show—The Psychology of Everyday Life" on Brooklyn Community Access Television. Previously, on Starrett City Television, she was a producer and host of "Perceptions and Insights." Additionally, she made frequent appearances on Dr. Jeff's early television show, "A Hipper Shrink" and Dr. Brown's show, "Psych on Call." Phyllis has had guest spots on several radio shows as well as including "The Dr. Watkins Show," "The Gary Byrd Show," and "Hit It."

In addition to her work in the mental health field, she is actively involved in several local civic organizations. She is a member of the National Women's Political Caucus, the Brooklyn Women's Caucus, the National Political Caucus of Black Women in Politics, and the Central Committee for Al Sharpton. She is also a member of Church Women United and the auxiliary at Kings County Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, Phyllis Taliaferro is dedicated to her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

HONORING ANNE HESTER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anne Hester on the occasion of her being selected as a recipient for the 2002 Common Threads Award. Common Threads is a joint venture of the Agricultural Education Foundation, California State University, Fresno's College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, and AG ONE Foundation. The award is given to women who have made

a remarkable and visible contribution to the enhancement of their communities with their time and/or contributions. Honorees must live in Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, or Tulare County. They should have past or present roots in agriculture while showing outstanding involvement in a variety of community activities in addition to agriculture. The honorees make a difference with their philanthropic giving while serving as visible and credible role models for other women.

Anne married into a 3rd generation farming family, and she and her husband, Gary, are principles in Hester Orchards. Anne has played a major role in her and her husband's diversified orchard crops, nut processing, and farm management companies. She is actively involved in the operation and manages the administrative office.

Anne has been active in many agriculture and education organizations. Mrs. Hester served as chairperson for the Tulare County Farm Bureau and acted as the driving force for its Ag Education, Youth Leadership, Fundraising, and Scholarship committees. She recognized that Ag needed to reach out to student leaders and educate them about agriculture and its importance before they went on in their education. Because of her commitment to youth, Anne was also involved in a program at Farmersville High School where she helped at-risk kids get jobs in an effort to redirect their lives. Mrs. Hester's philanthropic devotion to helping the education of youth and her active involvement in the farming industry make her a significant part of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Anne Hester for her superior service to the public and her leadership in the agriculture community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Anne many years of continued success.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF MARVIN L. LAWVER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Marvin L. Lawver upon the death of this outstanding person; and

Whereas, Marvin L. Lawver was born November 6, 1925 and in 1943, at the age of 17, Marvin L. Lawver answered his country's call to duty and enlisted in the United States Navy; and

Whereas, during his overseas service, including Pearl Harbor, he became highly decorated earning the American Campaign Medal, Victory Medal, and Asiatic Pacific Area Campaign Medal; and

Whereas, for his service to our country we owe him a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid; and

Whereas, Marvin L. Lawver will certainly be remembered by all those who knew him because of his personal sacrifices of time and energy to family, friends, and community; and

Whereas, the understanding and kindness to which he gave to others will stand as a monument to a truly fine person. His life and love gave joy to all who knew him;

Therefore, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family and friends of Marvin L. Lawver.

HONORING ANGEL GONZALEZ

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my youngest and bravest constituents, Angel Gonzalez. Angel is California's Ambassador to Foresters Champions Across America and the Children's Miracle Network program that honors remarkable children who have triumphed despite severe medical challenges. Today, Angel enjoys the fun and games of most five-year olds, but it wasn't long ago that would have seemed impossible.

Angel was standing with his Grandmother outside the oil change shop where his Mom works in Salinas, California, when a car in one of the service bays suddenly accelerated and crashed through the closed door of the shop. Angel was hit by the car and suffered severe head trauma and internal injuries. After emergency surgery and 10 days in a coma, there were no doubts that Angel was truly a fighter. He pulled through not only because of the good work of his surgeons and nurses, but because of determination and will power. His courage and determination has been crucial in his progress on the long and difficult road of rehabilitation. Over the months, Angel has made remarkable progress, gradually regaining his speech and motor skills. Through the continuing and laborious physical therapy, Angel has maintained his positive attitude and brought a playful approach to the challenges of his continuing recovery.

Angel's recovery is a remarkable testament to his strength and perseverance and the wonderful treatment he received at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital. As California's Ambassador, Angel has traveled to Washington, DC to bring hope to other children who are fighting for their health, and to recognize the important role that children's hospitals play in providing specialized care for kids. I would like to congratulate Angel on his amazing recovery and his position as an inspiring role model to all people who face adversity. I am honored to be able to recognize the resolve and support of Angel, his family, and their community.

A TRIBUTE TO LYSTRA MOORE-BESSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor of Lystra Moore-Besson in recognition of her contribution to her family and her community.

Lystra was born to Henry and Alice Moore in Trinidad & Tobago. She immigrated to the United States in 1975 to further her education. In 1980 she graduated from Brooklyn College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting. After graduation, she pursued a career in banking. She is presently Vice-President and Branch Manager of HSBC Bank USA and holds her securities licenses from NASD.

During her twenty-years in banking, she has received several awards including the "Chairman's Award for Sales Excellence" at HSBC Bank USA. She also sits on the African American Diversity Sub-Committee for Mentoring

and Career Development. Throughout her banking career, she has mentored employees and neighborhood youth, both personally and professionally.

Lystra is deeply involved in her community. She has been a member of the Brooklyn Canarsie Lions Club since 1995. She was elected Treasurer in her first year, a position she still holds. She also serves on the Board of Directors and is the funding co-advisor of the Brooklyn Canarsie Leos Club, which lends its support to the Guide Dog Foundation and the Vacation Camp for the Blind. She is on the Board of Directors of Canarsie By Choice and has supported the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, National Conference for Community Justice, and National Association for Breast Cancer.

Lystra has also lent her banking expertise to the community through various financial seminars in credit, insurance, investment, and homeowners' information. Small businesses have also benefited from her personal counseling and expertise. Lystra has also participated in several civic causes, working with the Office of Senator John Sampson and helping to elect HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON to the Senate.

Lystra is married to Ian Besson. They have three daughters Habika Zwen, Zakiya, and Tabia, and a granddaughter Lystra Daniella.

Mr. Speaker, Lystra Moore-Besson is devoted to serving her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

HONORING ELIZABETH MCCABE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth McCabe on the occasion of her being selected as a recipient for the 2002 Common Threads Award. Common Threads is a joint venture of the Agricultural Education Foundation, California State University, Fresno's College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, and AG ONE Foundation. The award is given to women who have made a remarkable and visible contribution to the enhancement of their communities with their time and/or contributions. Honorees must live in Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, or Tulare County. They should have past or present roots in agriculture while showing outstanding involvement in a variety of community activities in addition to agriculture. The honorees make a difference with their philanthropic giving which serving as visible and credible role models for other women.

Mrs. McCabe's life has been dedicated to the growth of agriculture and education. Elizabeth has spent countless hours involved in 4-H Club and Future Farmers of America (FFA) activities. In 1972 she and a friend began the Mission 4-H Club. A leaders for 15 years, Elizabeth assumed the responsibility of making sure the kids traveled to five fairs a year. She is a 20 year member of the Merced Chapter, California Women for Agriculture and served as their President. She remains very active in 4-H, FAA, and California Women for Agriculture activities.

Elizabeth has a great respect for education which is why she works diligently for the Friends of the Library and is a strong supporter of organizations which fund scholarships. She has served as President for the Merced County School Board Association, the United Methodist Women, and as Treasurer for the Merced Senior, Inc. Elizabeth is a leader of philanthropy in her community and a guiding light to all.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Elizabeth McCabe for her outstanding service and commitment to education and agriculture. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Elizabeth many years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY SWEARENGEN STRONG

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dorothy Swearingen Strong, a dynamic woman who had committed 45 years to advocating for the educational and developmental needs of African American children, especially in relation to mathematics. Making it a priority to equip at-risk youth with essential mathematics skills, she has worked tirelessly to ensure that all children are prepared to master standards-based mathematics and traditional basic skills simultaneously.

She began teaching in 1958 and has remained true to her philosophy that all children can and must complete Algebra by the end of eighth grade, in addition to attaining four years of college preparatory math by the end of high school. Strong has diligently worked from her vision of high expectations, full access, quality instruction and high achievement for all students. Always innovatively finding new ways to educate. Strong is currently directing and piloting the BiMathematics Project. This program will connect multiple definitions of curriculum faced by school districts, high stakes assessment and key mathematics principles to restructure and consolidate the mathematics curriculum for grades K-12. The project includes extended professional development, parental and community involvement components.

Impressively, Strong had developed and implemented several initiatives aimed at making math both exciting and educational for students. She has coordinated three major Mathematics and Science Motivational Projects with NASA that highlighted the achievements of African American astronauts. In an effort to increase academic achievement for inner-city students, she pioneered the MathCounts Competition, which celebrates their participation in statewide mathematics competitions.

She strives to empower students to always be prepared, be active participants in today's society and become lifelong learners. Leading by example, Strong has devoted many hours as founder and past president to the Benjamin Banneker Association. This Association provides a forum for mathematics educators and mathematicians to discuss learning and teaching math with respect to African American children. She has also developed a series of Bible Mathematics books and a Mathematics Tutor Training Manual to help Black South Af-

rican students prepare for their University Examination.

Mr. Speaker. It is with great honor that I recognize Dr. Dorothy Swearingen Strong today before Congress. She has been referred to as the Mother of Modern Day Mathematics. Her outstanding leadership and commitment to efficiently educating students makes her more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I urge that my colleagues join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

HONORING SEAMAN 1ST CLASS JOSEPH MCKENNA

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, our veterans have made America the strongest nation on earth. Their stories serve as a reminder of the costs that our nation has endured to ensure peace and freedom. I believe that it is vitally important to acknowledge the commitment and achievement of every veteran who put his or her life on the line to protect this nation.

I want to take this opportunity to share the story and bravery of Seaman 1st Class, Joseph McKenna Jr., of Melville, New York, a veteran of World War II.

In the spring of 1943, Joseph McKenna was serving as a United States Navy armed guard on the tanker, *MS Panam*. The *Panam* was making a trip from Norfolk to Lake Charles, Louisiana when it developed engine trouble. After becoming separated from the rest of the convoy, a German U-Boat attacked. The first torpedo ripped through the engine room, killing two crew members. The engines were destroyed and water started to rush in.

At the time of the attack Joseph McKenna was on the bridge. His commander, Arley Zinn, met him there and told him to return to the gun deck. At this point, McKenna realized that his buddy, Seaman 1st Class Earl Mayle, was missing and he went to find him. The door to their quarters was shut; it wouldn't budge. McKenna kicked in the bottom panel of the door and, on his hands and knees, made his way through the opening to Mayle, who was wedged under a bunk. Amazingly, McKenna, a man of only one hundred and thirty two pounds, was able to drag Mayle to what he thought was the safety of the gun deck.

Upon reaching the deck, McKenna was injured when another torpedo stuck the *Panam*. Thankfully, McKenna made it to a lifeboat with Mayle. After floating in the open ocean for six hours, the Coast Guard cutter *USS SC664* finally picked them up.

McKenna lost touch with Mayle for fifty-six years. In 1999, he tracked down Mayle's wife Shirley. She told him that Mayle passed away in 1993. She said that all Earl would speak about was McKenna saving his life. "Thank God for Joe McKenna," Earl would say. "If it wasn't for him I wouldn't be here."

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you to recognize Seaman 1st Class, Joseph McKenna Jr. In honor of him and his act of bravery, I have flown a flag over the United States Capitol.