

It gave everyone the opportunity to step away from a potentially explosive moment and get on with the challenging business of government.

Mr. Speaker, under the leadership of President Reagan, the United States rebuilt her intelligence and national security structure from 1980–1988. This was not done without controversy, but it was done. Morale was restored at the Central Intelligence Agency and elsewhere in the Intelligence Community. Capabilities were improved.

The military, too, regained a new pride and strength following the disasters in Vietnam and Iran. Members of the armed forces felt their service was respected by the Commander in Chief, and they valued his support. They loved his patriotic speeches, and were eager to follow his lead.

And yet for all of his accomplishments as a national and world leader, President Reagan never lost the personal touch. When I departed Washington, DC in early 1985, I left with a personal letter of thanks signed by the President.

This letter hangs in my office even today as a proud reminder of what President Reagan and Congress were able to accomplish during those difficult but historic years. It is also a clear symbol of a man who never allowed the trappings of high office obscure his view of the “little people” who constitute the strength of our government and Nation.

Now as we remember the life of Ronald Reagan, and as his casket lies with honor under the Capitol dome, it is my turn to thank him for his distinguished service to our country and to the world. He left us a better people and he left the world a better place.

The man will be missed, but the memory lives on in all of us who were touched by his life and his leadership. I yield back the balance of my time.

TRIBUTE TO ROSALIE GORDON-MILLS

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, it was my privilege to know Rosalie Robinson Gordon-Mills, a community leader and distinguished citizen of Florida's 7th Congressional District. Her recent death is a great loss to St. Johns County and the State of Florida because of Mrs. Gordon-Mills' many contributions to our school system, civil rights, and community service. I join others in paying tribute to this special woman. It is my honor to include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives the rich history of her life and many contributions from a recently published obituary.

Mrs. Rosalie Robinson Gordon-Mills, 96, died April 20 at Flagler Hospital following complications of a collapsed lung. A retired educator and counselor for 44 years with the St. Johns County School System, she was head of the English Department at Excelsior School and director of guidance and college placement at St. Augustine High School.

In addition to her teaching career, Mrs. Gordon-Mills was a civic leader and politician, having been the first black woman in 400 years to run for public office in St. Au-

gustine, for which she is currently listed in the Florida history books. In 1986, she received a Presidential Award from President Reagan for Private Sector Initiatives because of her outstanding leadership role with the St. Augustine Council on Aging in procuring the site and establishing the first multipurpose senior citizen's center in St. Augustine.

Mrs. Gordon-Mills was born in Tallahassee, to Arthur Howard Robinson, owner of a dairy business, which exported dairy products interstate. Her mother, Callie Eliza Ferrell, was a school teacher with her own school, as was her grandmother, Henrietta Robinson, the first licensed black teacher in the state of Florida. In the 1920's, her parents moved to St. Augustine, where her father became the head of the Agriculture Division of Florida Normal College and her mother became the dean of women. They came at the invitation of President Collier, who had met them in Tallahassee.

Mrs. Gordon-Mills attended the Model Laboratory School of Florida A & M, where she graduated with highest honors. She then realized her dream of attending college at Boston University, where she majored in chemistry and physical sciences. During her years at Boston University, she was a member of the varsity broad jump and pole vaulting team, as well as the debating team. She also pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority-Epsilon Chapter and was a member of The Aristos, a Boston social club. She would later return to Boston University and receive her master's degree in guidance and counseling in 1947.

When she returned to St. Augustine following graduation to visit with her parents, she met her future husband, Dr. Rudolph Nathaniel Gordon, America's first black maxillo-facial surgeon, who was researching a location for his practice. They met at an Episcopalian Church picnic, were married and were together for 25 years prior to Dr. Gordon's death in 1959. Together they were a formidable force in the St. Augustine community. Education and care of the children of Lincolnville was a top priority. They encouraged young people to attend four-year colleges and often took them to college and paid their tuition. He established a free dental clinic for Lincolnville children and a Boy Scout troop for the boys of the community. After Dr. Gordon's death, Mrs. Gordon-Mills would marry Dr. Otis J. Mills, longtime friend and member of the family that owned the famous “Iceberg” drugstore and manufactured the popular “Smooth As Silk” ice cream. They had a wonderful 12-year relationship before he succumbed to Alzheimer's disease.

Mrs. Gordon-Mills was an enthusiastic participant in the civil rights movement and supported all efforts of Lincolnville to work with Dr. Martin Luther King. She also befriended Mrs. Peabody, who came from Massachusetts to support the movement in St. Augustine. During this time, she ran for the City Council against six males and, after winning the primary, finished third in the final election, making her the first black woman to run for public office. She always felt a strong commitment to the future of St. Augustine and wanted to promote racial harmony. A member of one of Florida's most illustrious families, she was a direct descendant (through her maternal grandmother, Henrietta Robinson) of “The Great Antonio Proctor,” who was born in 1743 and was the recipient of 185 acres in St. Augustine from the Spanish Governor of Florida for his work as an interpreter between the Creek Indians and the Spanish when Florida was still under Spanish rule.

Mrs. Gordon-Mills' elder years were as filled with activity as her early years. A woman of intellectual brilliance, impeccable

character and determination, she continued to be active as a lifetime member of the Board of the Council on Aging; an officer of the Board of Echo House—a tutoring and community center she started—and an active member of St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, where she was a member of The Daughters of The King and a member of the Vestry. She was the active C.E.O. of the family real estate business until the week of her death, spending each day problem-solving, meeting with her management crew and ensuring that her tenants and her properties were well cared for. Her considerable business acumen was respected by all of the business people whom she encountered. (She made recent trips to Tallahassee to meet with the State Historical Society to present grant requests for her Echo House project).

Her social life was equally active. As a founding member of the Daytona Beach chapter of the Links, Inc., she attended meetings and activities regularly and participated in their many scholarship fund-raising efforts for regional students. In addition, she administered the scholarship fund set up by her dear, deceased friend, Mrs. Bemis, of St. Augustine, that enables deserving and talented students to attend Bethune Cookman College. She enjoyed the regular gatherings of the Clique Club and Venetian Club, to which she had belonged for many years.

Mrs. Gordon-Mills loved her family; her daughter, Dr. Carlotta Gordon Miles and her son-in-law, attorney Theodore A. Miles, of Washington, D.C. (Her beloved son, Rudolph N. Gordon II, predeceased her in 1967.) Her grandchildren were the loves of her life and she had a special relationship with each of them—Dr. Wendell Gordon Miles and Miss Lydia Carlotta Miles, of Washington, D.C., and Mrs. Cecily Miles Slater and her husband, Ramael Slater, of Hollywood, CA. Her brother, Dr. Arthur J. Robinson, and his son, Arthur J. Robinson Jr., of Palm Coast; her sister-in-law Verna C. Robinson of Washington and her niece, Angela Robinson Witherspoon, and her husband, John Witherspoon, of Los Angeles, CA, and her nephew Elbert C. Robinson, of Washington. Her first cousins, Celestine Nicks of Mandarin, and Ida Mae Harrison, of Columbus, GA. Her family looked to her for guidance, advice and as an example of a Christian life well-lived.

Born into a privileged family, Mrs. Gordon-Mills had a deep sense of obligation to her fellow man and an unflinching determination to make a difference with her life. She had a deep devotion to all children, a strong sense of racial pride and a commitment to the concept of “From those to whom much is given, much is expected.” Her selflessness and generosity to others was unequalled. She believed that love should be put into action and faith in God is the foundation of life.

Mrs. Gordon-Mills was fortunate in having a circle of loving friends who, in the last years of her life, joined her family in making these years especially joyful. W.D. McCoy, a former student and “son,” was a devoted and concerned companion; Dorothy and Rudolph Israel and Maggie and Pat Patterson were ever present and supportive in whatever she chose to undertake. Otis and Myrtis Mason made it possible for her to continue her Links Inc. participation. Father David Allert and the members of the St. Cyprian's congregation admired and respected her wisdom and her spirituality. Arthur Schewecke, her neighbor and “son;” and Joe Logan and Janis Brown, her business manager, helped her continue her corporate activities. Josephine Quarterman, Lena Callueng and John Gilbert enabled her to continue to maintain her household and lifestyle until the end.

These special friends will always be remembered with gratitude and deep affection by her family.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF WAVERLY

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Village of Waverly in Tioga County, New York, which is part of the 22nd Congressional District that I proudly serve. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of Waverly. I am pleased to recognize the Village of Waverly and the important contributions it has made to Tioga County and to the State of New York on its sesquicentennial anniversary.

Located along the majestic Susquehanna and Chemung Rivers, the Village of Waverly is nestled in the Town of Barton and the heart of Tioga County. The Cayuga and Onondaga tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy originally inhabited present day Waverly and its surrounding areas prior to European settlement. Incorporated in 1854, Waverly was named by businessman Joseph Hallet after Sir Walter Scott's famous series of novels. Early inhabitants included settlers from Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and New York. The most prominent was John Shephard, who in 1796 purchased a one thousand acre plot upon which the whole of Waverly now stands.

By the nineteenth century, Waverly had attracted a wide array of businesses, most notably the Novelty Furniture Works, the Butter and Oyster Pail Manufactory, and the Sayre Butter Package Company. Waverly was still deeply connected to agrarian life, which flourished in the form of grist and flouring mills, saw mills, creameries, and wagon and blacksmith shops.

The early twentieth century saw the brief but historic appearance of the J.E. Rodeo. In 1938, Colonel Jim Eskew bought the Loomis Farm on Talmadge Hill that would soon be known as the "Rodeo Capital of the East." The opening performance was a sign of the good fortune ahead, as traffic was backed up for a mile and half prior to the show. Over the years, it was not uncommon to see authentic cowboys around the Village of Waverly. Visitors came from hundreds of miles away to see the "Rodeo Capital of the East." The annual Fourth of July celebration was highlighted by a special rodeo performance and was attended by young and old alike. However, with the advent of television and the onset of WWII, the rodeo eventually faded away and now is just a happy memory for the residents of Waverly.

Waverly's vibrant history is evident today. The village boasts many beautifully restored structures, seemingly on every corner of Broad Street and beyond. Waverly continues to offer its visitors breathtaking scenery and views of the Susquehanna and Chemung Rivers. Small villages like Waverly are an essential component of our nation's past, present, and future, and deserve to be honored and recognized for their numerous contributions. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the Village of Waverly, New York as it celebrates the 150th Anniversary of its founding.

THE MIDDLE CLASS SQUEEZE ON
HISPANIC FAMILIES

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, Hispanic families in America are being left out of the American

Dream, thanks to the Bush administration's failure to create jobs and fund the programs essential to health and education. Thanks to the Bush tax cuts that favor the rich and the privileged, middle-class families in America are struggling to get by.

Over 1.4 million Hispanic workers are still looking for a job. Over \$1 trillion will be spent over the next 10 years on additional tax cuts for the rich, instead of creating jobs here at home. The unemployment rate for Hispanics is now 25 percent higher than when President Bush took office. This money should be used to create jobs for hardworking and dedicated individuals, instead of being used to give a break to the wealthy.

If things do not change, not only will there be no jobs for our students when they enter the real world, but they will graduate unprepared for today's job market. Over 27 percent of Hispanic students drop out of high school, yet the President's budget will eliminate funding for dropout prevention programs. The Bush budget will essentially freeze funding for bilingual education, even though the number of students with limited English proficiency is growing rapidly. These children need English skills to help them achieve the American Dream and we cannot neglect to teach them this basic tool.

The squeeze on Hispanic families does not stop there. The Bush budget cuts funding for the Office of Minority Health by 15 percent and neglects to make health care affordable for the over 12 million Hispanic Americans without health insurance. In the richest nation in the world, every American should be able to have access to health care.

We must not leave our families behind. We need a budget that will make sure that average Americans have jobs, an education and health care. We do not want one that rewards the rich and the privileged.