

Colored people with a Pictorial Stamp Cancellation; and,

Whereas, *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* is recognized as the Civil Rights Case of the Century by overturning *Plessy v. Ferguson*, and deciding that "Separate is not necessarily equal"; and,

Whereas, this Nation has become a great Nation because of the contributions of many people of different races and nationalities, all giving their best to make our Country what it is today; and,

Whereas, frequently we become so involved in our daily tasks that we neglect to say "Thank You" to those who give their time and energy to benefit others.

Now, therefore, the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Shawnee, Kansas, meeting in regular session on this 15th day of May, 1997, does hereby proclaim May 17, 1997 as McKinley L. Burnett Day in Shawnee County and invite the participation of every section of the population regardless of race, color, creed, or religion.

#### STATE OF KANSAS

Whereas, The late McKinley L. Burnett would have been 100 years old on January 31, 1997; and

Whereas, On May 17, the Kansas Committee to Commemorate *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* and *Bias Busters* of Kansas will observe the 43rd anniversary of the Historic Supreme Court Decision. At the Committee's annual observance, a special tribute will be paid to McKinley L. Burnett with a Pictorial Stamp Cancellation; and

Whereas, The original 1942 charter for the Topeka Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will be on display at the Topeka-Shawnee County Library on May 17, 1997; and

Whereas, *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* is recognized as the Civil Rights Case of the Century by overturning *Plessy v. Ferguson*, and deciding that "separate is not necessarily equal"; and

Whereas, This Nation has become a great nation because of the contributions of many people of different races and nationalities, all giving their best to make our country what it is today;

On behalf of the citizens of the State of Kansas, I would like to recognize McKinley L. Burnett and invite the participation of all citizens, regardless of race, color, creed, or religion.

BILL GRAVES,  
Governor.

#### MCKINLEY BURNETT IS FORGOTTEN BUT PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN BROWN CASE

(By John Hanna)

TOPEKA.—Most folks know about Linda Brown, the young black girl who was barred from attending a school near her home because of her race. Many also have heard of her father, Oliver Brown.

His name appeared first on one of the U.S. Supreme Court's most famous cases. The May 17, 1954 ruling in *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka* declared school segregation unconstitutional.

But few people have heard of McKinley Burnett. People who do know about him think his anonymity is a shame, because he played a key role in the Brown case.

Burnett served as president of the Topeka chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People from 1948 to 1963.

And his anger at the local school board's refusal to end segregation in elementary schools helped fuel a small but persistent movement that led to the Brown case in February 1951.

"Quite frankly, McKinley Burnett was one of the primary catalysts," said Cheryl Brown

Henderson, a daughter of Oliver Brown, who is now president of the Brown Foundation. "It's very important that people have their rightful place in history."

Local activists scheduled a ceremony for Saturday at Topeka's public library to honor Burnett, marking the 100th year since his birth and the 43rd anniversary of the Brown decision. On display will be family memorabilia, pictures and letters.

Burnett was born in Oskaloosa in January 1897. He became an activist early in life, said a son, Marquis Burnett.

"When they had school plays, the only parts he could get were being a dancer or a butler," Marquis Burnett said.

McKinley Burnett worked in the Santa Fe railroad shops, as well as at the Veterans' Administration hospital as a stock clerk, one of the better jobs available for blacks in those days. People understood that some jobs simply were closed to blacks.

Letters the family displays from its collection show the harshness of discrimination. Some are from McKinley Burnett to various Kansas officials, complaining about the refusal of companies to hire blacks.

In November 1950, he wrote about his conversation with the sales manager of a Topeka bakery, which had an opening for a route man.

"He told me that he could not hire a Negro for such a job and that such had never even been considered, neither had they ever had such a request before," Burnett wrote.

In 1948, Burnett and other NAACP officials began pushing for integration of Topeka's elementary schools. State law allowed segregation in cities as large as Topeka but did not mandate it.

Topeka High School was integrated but had separate sports teams and clubs for whites and blacks.

At the time, the city had 18 all-white elementary schools and four for blacks. The district's superintendent believed in segregation; the school board agreed.

One board member challenged McKinley Burnett to a fight. Charles Baston, another local NAACP member, remembered in a 1992 interview for the Kansas State Historical Society that the board was rude. It forced NAACP members to wait until the early hours of the morning to voice their concerns.

"It was rather disgusting, because a lot of times, a board member would go through their agenda, and then they would sit and laugh or joke about something to try to extend the time," Baston said. "We never left."

By 1950, McKinley Burnett had enough. He and a small group met at the home of Lucinda Todd, the local chapter's secretary, to plot strategy.

"Going to court was their last recourse," said Henderson, the Brown Foundation president.

NAACP officials recruited parents with schoolchildren to be plaintiffs. Legend has it that Oliver Brown's name was listed first because it was first alphabetically, but in fact his daughter suspects it was because he was the only male parent.

In her interview for the state historical society, Mrs. Todd remembered how concerned some blacks were. Black teachers had been told by one school official that integration would end their jobs.

"A lot of people had jobs—they worked for the city—and didn't want to cause trouble," Marquis Burnett said. "It wasn't really popular."

In the fall of 1950, 13 black families tried to enroll their children in white schools across the city. All were turned away. The NAACP had counseled them to have a witness and to document what had happened.

The lawsuit was filed in February 1951. The U.S. Supreme Court consolidated it with four other cases before issuing its historic ruling.

"At that time, he never thought, 'I'm going to do something to make history,'" Marquis Burnett said of his father. "He was just doing what he had to do."

McKinley Burnett greeted the ruling with jubilation, telling reporters in Topeka: "I say, thank God for the Supreme Court."

Burnett battled leukemia throughout his life and retired as NAACP president in 1963. He died five years later, at the age of 71.

May 17 remained a special day for him.

"That became McKinley Burnett's personal holiday, and he would not work for anyone on that day," said Baston, the NAACP board member.

#### MCKINLEY BURNETT—A CIVIL RIGHTS HERO

In any worthy struggle, there are those who doggedly go about the task at hand without fanfare. McKinley Burnett was just such a man.

The Topekan got his due, albeit late, recognition Saturday at a ceremony and special pictorial postal cancellation at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library.

Although Brown and often Scott are the names most often mentioned in the landmark 1954 school desegregation ruling, Burnett had built the foundation on which it was based. His effort started back in the 1930s and focused not just on schools, but also other forms of segregation, including movie theaters, restaurants, court-houses and other facilities.

But Burnett saw the schools as the best place to initiate the changes, and he worked diligently for that cause. When years of effort failed to move the Topeka Board of Education, Burnett in 1950 finally threatened to sue. The march toward *Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education* began.

Brown refers, of course, to the family that alphabetically headed the list of plaintiffs. Scott is the name of the family of lawyers who argued the case. But make no mistake, Burnett is also an important part of the suit.

Saturday's special cancellation attests to that. Done in recognition of the 43rd anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling, the cancellation cites the suit filed by the NAACP on Feb. 18, 1951, that led to the ruling. Burnett, who is pictured on the cancellation, was president of the local NAACP at the time and this is the 100th anniversary of his birth. He died in 1968.

It's unfortunate his contributions weren't more highly recognized during his lifetime. By all accounts, however, Burnett valued results more than personal glory. A true hero.

#### CONGRATULATING MS. GWENDOLYN MASTIN

#### HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Gwendolyn Mastin, founder and CEO/President of the New Phoenix Assistance Center located in the Second Congressional District of Illinois, which I proudly represent. I would like to congratulate Ms. Mastin on being chosen for the 2004 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership award. She is one of just ten outstanding individuals who have been honored this year by the foundation for innovatively bringing health care to communities whose needs have been ignored and unmet.

Gwendolyn Mastin founded Chicago's first scattered-site housing program for homeless

women infected with HIV or AIDS and their children. Her program also provides housing for homeless pregnant teens and those with children. In addition, Ms. Mastin also developed a pregnancy prevention program that embraces cultural traditions and encourages creation of family support networks. Since its founding in 1991, the program has served more than 5,700 people in the Metropolitan Chicago region.

Presently, Ms. Mastin sits on the Illinois State Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Prevention. On this committee she continues her service to the community by effectively advocating on behalf of much-needed housing programs and supportive services, as well as family reunification programs for homeless minors.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Gwendolyn Mastin for her tremendous contribution to our community.

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IN RECOGNITION OF BARBARA BOSCH

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 2004*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, America's future is contingent upon the leadership, vision, and commitment of teachers, and a life dedicated to the education of our children is one that should be both acknowledged and praised. Thus, I would like to recognize Ms. Barbara Bosch, an educator in the East Rutherford school district in New Jersey and a member of the New Jersey Education Association, who will be retiring this June after 41 years of teaching.

Ms. Bosch's devotion, creativity, and resourcefulness as an educator helped her to meet the diverse needs of her students in the continually evolving field of education over the past several decades. Her dedication to her students was displayed in part by the many hours spent with them both inside and outside the classroom. Ms. Bosch's dedication and strong character allowed her to fulfill her professional responsibilities at the highest level, and serve as a role model for her students and colleagues. Such achievements in the field of education were so admired and respected by her colleagues, that the East Rutherford Educational Community has proclaimed June 2004 as "Barbara Bosch Month."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Barbara Bosch as a person who served our Nation as a distinguished educator of our children for 41 years. We are all deeply indebted to Ms. Bosch and teachers like her for their service to our Nation's schoolchildren. Along with all those students, parents, and other educators in East Rutherford who have come to know Ms. Bosch, I wish Ms. Bosch much happiness in her well-deserved retirement.

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PORT OF ENTRY NEEDS

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 2004*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, aviation security is a top national security priority. This

critical sector of interstate commerce must continue for our entire national economy to function.

As the representative of one of our Nation's largest hub airports, Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas, I can say that the ability of commercial aviation to function properly is at risk due to the inconsistent performance of security functions by the federal government.

First, I have been pushing for increased Bureau of Customs and Immigration Enforcement personnel coverage for Houston Intercontinental for several years now.

The situation has been improving unevenly, with wait times still reaching 90 minutes during peak times of the year. Why is the wait so bad? Because we only have 59 out of 86 authorized inspectors for Houston, according to the last workforce report.

That in itself is unacceptable, but with a new international terminal set to open in January 2005, we must make sure that the federal government is living up to its responsibility to safely and securely process incoming passengers.

This new facility is going to require a doubling of our international arrival screening capacity, and we will have to resort to legislation if the Bureau cannot do its job properly.

In addition, with Transportation Security Agency cutbacks forced by our budget deficits, Houston Intercontinental is at serious risk of losing its ability to properly process passengers boarding commercial airline flights.

This is not a mere matter of inconvenience to air travelers. These delays have a serious economic impact on the aviation industry which has to extend the times planes sit on the ground, reducing operating margins.

As numerous press and financial reports demonstrate, aviation operating margins are already under a tremendous amount of stress from \$40 per barrel oil, international turmoil, and continuing glut of capacity resulting from post-September 11th aviation bankruptcies.

Put simply, hundreds, perhaps thousands of employees are at risk of being laid off, furloughed, or facing salary and benefit freezes and cuts if the federal government does not properly perform its responsibility to provide security for interstate commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with you ensure smooth operation of the Bureau of Customs and Immigration Enforcement at Houston Intercontinental.

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RECOGNIZING GARY LEE DICK FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA AT THE TIME OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 2004*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gary Lee Dick, who is retiring as Police Captain of Clearlake, California. Gary's outstanding contributions and dedication to our community are truly appreciated.

Gary began his career in law enforcement in Calistoga, California in September 1975. He then went on to work in the Petaluma Police

Department until 1981, before moving to the Clearlake Police Department.

Gary not only has an AA degree but also has graduated from the FBI National Academy and has earned several professional certificates. He spent 4 years serving our country as a member of the U.S. Army. Gary and his wife Patty are blessed with three daughters and two sons.

Gary has made many contributions to the community outside his official duties in the police department. He served as President of the Rotary Club of Clearlake between 1999–2000. He also served as Chair and Co-chair of many projects that were completed by the Rotary Club of Clearlake. As a volunteer coach for little league baseball teams, Gary has been able to share his love of baseball with countless others. In his retirement he hopes to visit every major league baseball stadium.

Mr. Speaker, Gary Lee Dick is the standard of dependability, bravery and hard work in our community. His commitment to our community has been shown time and time again. For these reasons and countless others, it is most appropriate that we honor him at the time of his retirement today.

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INTRODUCTION FOR A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE EASTERN NEW MEXICO RURAL WATER AUTHORITY FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE EASTERN NEW MEXICO RURAL WATER SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 2004*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I am very pleased to introduce a bill that will authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to help communities in eastern New Mexico develop the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System (ENMRWS). A companion to this bill, S. 2513, was introduced in the Senate by my colleague Senator BINGAMAN on June 9, 2004. There has long been a recognized need for a reliable and safe supply of potable water for this region. After years of drought and ever increasing population growth, this water supply project is now absolutely critical for the continued economic well-being of Curry, Roosevelt and Quay counties in eastern New Mexico.

The Entrada and the Southern High Plains, or Ogallala, Aquifers currently provide 100 percent of the municipal and industrial water supplies and the vast majority of agricultural water for communities in these east central New Mexico counties. However, both the quantity and quality of these groundwater reserves have declined severely in recent decades. Despite voluntary conservation efforts and improvements in agricultural water-use efficiencies, these groundwater supplies will not sustain current use levels in as little as 12 years and may be functionally depleted within 25 years.

The water supply project that would be authorized by this legislation builds upon more than 40 years of research, planning, and design. In 1959, after recognizing the water supply problems in eastern New Mexico, the New