

service he gave to our nation. May his memory and the ideals he fought so hard to protect be preserved so future generations of working people are assured of basic rights and protections in a vastly changing workplace.

A NATIONAL MEMORIAL FOR
EDMUND S. MUSKIE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing two bills to designate the Edmund S. Muskie Memorial, located in Rumford, Maine, as a national monument. Surely, the incredible accomplishments of this distinguished American deserve national recognition.

Edmund S. Muskie was born March 28, 1914, in Rumford, Maine, the second of six children and the son and grandson of Polish immigrants. Ed Muskie attended public schools in Rumford, graduated as valedictorian of his high school and with cum laude honors from Bates College. After Cornell University Law School, he began practicing law in Waterville. In 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served as a Lieutenant in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

Ed Muskie began his political career in the Maine House of Representatives, where he served from 1946–1951. Later he went on to be twice elected as Governor of Maine and then to the United States Senate, where he served for twenty-one years. During his tenure in the Senate, Ed Muskie served on the Foreign Relations, Governmental Affairs, and Environmental and Public Works committees, and was the founder and first chair of the Senate Committee on the Budget.

Joining Democratic Presidential nominee Hubert H. Humphrey, Ed Muskie ran for Vice President on the Democratic ticket in 1968, and then made his own bid for the Presidential nomination in 1972. After retiring from the Senate in 1980, he was made Secretary of State by President Carter, practiced law in Washington, D.C., and was named to President Reagan's Special Review Board to investigate the Iran-Contra affair.

Few people served this nation as long, or as honorably, as Edmund Muskie. His dedication to public service was obvious and his commitment to environmental issues ahead of his time.

I have introduced a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the memorial to Edmund S. Muskie located in Rumford, Maine, as a unit of the National Park System. I have also introduced a bill to then officially designate the memorial as a national memorial. I am hopeful that these bills can be considered and passed soon so that we can have a fitting, national tribute to Edmund Muskie.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 6, Wednesday, July 7, and during the morning

of Thursday, July 8, I was unavoidably detained due to official international election monitoring efforts I took part in and was not present for rollcall votes on those days.

Had I been present I would have voted the following:

Rollcall 326, recognizing the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, I would have voted "yea";

Rollcall 327, expressing the sense of Congress that the President should posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harry W. Colmery, I would have voted, "yea";

Rollcall 328, on the Manzullo amendment, which would provide \$79.1 million for the Small Business 7(a) loan program to finance more than \$13 billion in small business, I would have voted "yea";

Rollcall 329, on the Flake amendment, which would prohibit the use of funds to implement the Commerce Department's new restrictions on gift parcels to Cuba and the amount of personal baggage allowed for travelers to Cuba, I would have voted "yea";

Rollcall 330, on the Weiner amendment, which would increase COPS funding by \$107 million and offsets that funding by cutting funding for the Census, I would have voted "no";

Rollcall 331, on the Hefley amendment eliminating funding (\$174 million) for the re-engineered design process for the 2010 short-form only Census, I would have voted "no";

Rollcall 332, on the Kucinich amendment, expanding the membership of the President's "Manufacturing Council" to include representatives from unions and the steel industry, I would have voted "yea";

Rollcall 333, on the Paul amendment prohibiting funds to pay expenses for any U.S. contribution to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, I would have voted "no";

Rollcall 334, on the Farr amendment prohibiting funds from being used to prevent states from implementing state laws authorizing the use of medical marijuana I would have voted "yea";

Rollcall 335, on the Paul amendment prohibiting funds from being used to pay any U.S. contribution to the United Nations or any affiliated agency of the United Nations, I would have voted, "no";

Rollcall 336, on the rule providing for consideration of Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004, I would have voted, "no";

Rollcall 337, on the rule providing for consideration of the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act of 2003 I would have voted, "no"; and

Rollcall 338, on the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004, I would have voted, "yea."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CAROL
SEALE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to recognize the life and passing of Carol Mae "Peppy" Seale of Durango, Colorado. As one of the founders of

women's athletics at Fort Lewis College, she was dedicated to the nation's youth and committed to establishing greater opportunities for the nation's female youth population. She will forever be remembered as a pillar of her community, and as her family and community mourn her passing, I believe it appropriate to pay tribute to this exceptional woman before the body of Congress and this nation.

Peppy first moved to Durango in 1969 after she received her teaching degree from Carroll College and her master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado. She then went into coaching women's athletics at Fort Lewis College. She committed herself to the volleyball team for fourteen seasons, acting as the coach for the squad as well as providing all the transportation for the team to and from competitions. During her tenure as the head volleyball coach, she led the team to 148 wins. In addition, she spent time coaching other sports, including the basketball, softball, skiing and tennis teams. Outside work, Peppy had a love for the farm she lived on and the animals that inhabited it.

In recognition of her dedication to athletes and her success as a coach, Fort Lewis has inducted her into the Fort Lewis Athletic Hall of Fame. For her work advancing the cause of women in women's athletics she was named by the Women's Resource Center as an Extraordinary Woman of the Community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to celebrate the life and achievements of Carol Mae Seale before this body of Congress and this nation today. She played an important role in founding athletic programs for women at Fort Lewis College, and was a valuable asset to the Fort Lewis community. My thoughts go out to Peppy's loved ones in this difficult time of bereavement.

A TRIBUTE TO SHARON DEVONISH-
LEID

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Sharon Devonish-Leid in recognition of her dedication to strengthening the community.

Sharon is a Community Relations Specialist for the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office in the Community Relations Bureau. In this capacity, she serves as the link between the community, the police, and the DA's office. Ms. Devonish-Leid is responsible for four police precincts (93rd, 69th, 73rd, and 75th), and two police service areas (1 and 2).

In this capacity, she has developed the Young People's Law program in the Community Relations Bureau. This program is an off-spring of the People's Law School program, which District Attorney Hynes developed to educate adults about the criminal justice system. She is also responsible for developing the East New York College and Career Fair at Maxwell High School. Additionally, she has implemented other informational fairs and conferences that bring important information to our communities.

Sharon has always had a passion for the field of law. In fact, she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, with

merit, from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Even as an undergraduate, she participated in community programs that helped others. These experiences helped her develop her interest and skills in community relations.

Prior to joining the Community Relations Bureau, she worked as a senior paralegal in various bureaus in the District Attorney's office. She worked as a legal secretary in the Eastern District office of the United States Attorney General.

Sharon's biggest love is working with our community's young people as she is always willing to volunteer her knowledge and experience to help others. Remarkably, she plans to serve as an example to our students by continuing her education in law school.

Mr. Speaker, Sharon Devonish-Leid has been a shining star in the community by bringing residents and law enforcement together. 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 person.

HONORING JERRY PRETE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the Elderly Housing Development & Operations Corporation and the people of Chicago in honoring the late Jerry Prete with the dedication of the "Appreciation Garden" at North Park Village in Illinois. A man who committed himself to helping his fellow citizens, Jerry Prete lived life to its fullest. His family, friends and the seniors of the Chicago area are testament to the quality of his character, honor and integrity.

Jerry Prete achieved his success through hard work and determination. He dedicated his life to public service and the people of Chicago. An active member of the Christian Family Movement since 1950, he assisted in developing leadership training and motivation for them until the 1970s. In the 1960s, the Chicago Senior Senate was formed and expanded into 400 chapters with Jerry's leadership.

In this quest, Jerry united with the National Council of Senior Citizens to submit a proposal to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the funding of subsidized living at North Park Village. Today, the Prete, Senate, and North Park Village Apartments are considered some of the finest senior citizen apartment buildings in the Nation.

Jerry made a lifelong commitment towards helping seniors gain access to affordable housing—eventually assisting the implementation of about 30 multiple dwelling units around the United States. He was a champion of many causes for seniors including the expansion of Social Security and Medicare benefits, lowering the cost of prescription drugs, lowering taxes, and working toward the creation of the Circuit Breaker program.

Aside from working to help seniors, Jerry was a passionate advocate for the religious community. From the mid-1950s until 1995, Jerry and his wife Anne operated the Alverno Bookstore, which they established to meet the needs of the local Christian community.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the Elderly Housing Development & Operations Corporation and the seniors of North Park Village in honoring Jerry Prete. Today, numerous Chicagoans have reaped the benefits of one man's heroic dream. May God bless the Prete family and the memory of a man who was truly loved by his friends, his community and his family.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF MR. BILL THURSTON OF VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to call to my colleagues' attention the recent passing of a good friend, an outstanding educator and public servant, and a wonderful husband, Bill Thurston of Vallejo, California in my congressional district.

I urge my colleagues to read the article that follows below about Mr. Thurston's life, his passion, and his significant contributions to the city of Vallejo and the greater Solano County community. Bill was a longtime history and political science instructor at Solano Community College and a member of its board of trustees. He served on the county and state Democratic Central Committees for 22 years, and served eight years on the Democratic National Committee.

He was a friend and supporter to my father for his work in the state legislature and he was a mentor to me about the education of children and the needs of our community.

To Bill's wife of over 25 years, Rosemary Thurston, and to all of Bill's family I offer my sincere condolences at this time. For the many of us who were lucky enough to know Bill and to call him our friend, our lives are richer for it and we will always carry a place for him in our hearts. May he rest in peace.

[From the Vallejo Times Herald, July 7, 2004]

LONGTIME VALLEJO EDUCATOR AND ACTIVIST
DIES AT 74

(By Robert McCockran)

Bill Thurston, a longtime history teacher, state Democratic Committee leader and Solano Community College trustee died Tuesday. He was 74.

A family member said Thurston, 74, was having shortness of breath (about 10:25 a.m.) and had to be rushed to (Kaiser Permanente Medical Center) and collapsed in the hospital.

Another family member said Thurston's wife, Rosemary, was distraught and unable to talk about her husband's death.

"We can say that he's gone and we can say that he didn't suffer," the family friend said, adding that a memorial service will be arranged.

For 20 years, Thurston taught political science and history at Solano Community College.

"I feel very sad, very sad," said Pam Keith, a fellow trustee. "He was just a very special person to me and I'm going to miss him very, very much."

"There will be a lot of people turn out for this guy, whatever the situation is. He's got 500 children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, (and) great-great-grandchildren. And he's touched so many lives over the years, one way or another. People that you don't even know about," Keith said.

Another fellow board member, Willie McKnight, called Thurston "a great educator" and noted that they were fraternity brothers, having joined Alpha Phi Alpha in 1979.

McKnight said Thurston loved music, although he didn't play any instrument and, he often spoke at his church. "He always was willing to speak and was always trying to uplift our black boys and girls."

Pelton Stewart, executive director of the Continentals of Omega Boys and Girls Club, said when he first came to Vallejo Thurston took him under his wing and "told me some pitfalls to avoid politically in our little city."

"He was a real long time dedicated supporter of the Boys and Girls Club. He and his wife were always at our banquets, always supporting. He was just a great man," Stewart said.

"He gave a lot back to the Vallejo community. He was very proud of his African ancestry and helped with the African American library in Oakland and very proud of the education system here in Solano County."

Thurston was born Jan. 15, 1930 in Logtown, Mississippi. As a young child, he once recalled watching police wake a sleeping African-American man at a train station. They kicked him, then shot him in cold blood, Thurston told an interviewer.

Thurston's family moved to California in 1944, and at age 17, he joined the military. He served in Korea, Germany, the Philippines and Okinawa before leaving the service in 1964.

Thurston earned an AA degree at Solano Community College and a BA at California State University at Hayward. In 1972, he began teaching at Solano Community College.

"I never taught a class without dealing with reality," he once told a reporter.

"In all the U.S. history classes I taught, I always included segments on the failures of Reconstruction after the Civil War and on the struggles of women. I taught the bad things and the good."

In January 1985, Thurston was elected vice-chairman of the California Democratic Party.

He served on the county and state Democratic Central committees for 22 years, retiring in 1994. He also served eight years on the Democratic National Committee.

In May 1988, Thurston was a delegate for presidential nominee Michael Dukakis.

But Thurston was not so partisan that he ignored weaknesses of his fellow Democrats. He once referred to Oakland Mayor and former California governor Jerry Brown as a "flake" and said he was not overly impressed with former President Bill Clinton.

Frank Jackson, former president of the Vallejo Chapter NAACP, said of Thurston: "We go way back. Bill and I were real close friends."

Jackson said he served with Thurston on an affirmative action committee at Solano Community College.

"The thing I liked about Bill, he was fair and equitable. When something wasn't right, he'd say 'this isn't right' or 'this is the thing that we're doing,'" Jackson said of his fellow NAACP member.

"Any time I would call on him and ask him to do anything he was always willing to help out. And, anytime anybody called me about anything political, I would tell them to call Bill Thurston," Jackson said.

Mel Jordan, an architect for the Vallejo City Unified School District who designed Jesse Bethel High School, said he was very close to Thurston.

"Basically, Bill Thurston is almost like a second father to me. In other words, a mentor. He really assisted me in a lot of decision-making types of things for my own personal life," Jordan said.