

TRIBUTE TO JANET JUNKIN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize a remarkable woman from my home state of Colorado. Janet Junkin was recently recognized as one of four finalists for Colorado's Teacher of the Year Award. Janet has dedicated her life to the betterment of young people and I am proud to call the attention of this body of Congress and our nation to her outstanding contributions.

Janet has been teaching for over two decades. In that time, she has helped to develop the minds and character of countless young people. At the root of Janet's teaching philosophy is her belief that education is a catalyst to creating opportunities for young people. Each of her students has had their future enhanced by Janet's unwavering devotion to their best interests.

In addition to traditional subjects, Janet also works to teach her students the importance of contributing to their community. Each year, Janet's classes undertake various community service projects. This past November, Janet and her class collected 52,000 cans of food for homeless families in the Denver area. By integrating classroom lessons with real life service to others, Janet imparts timeless values to her students that will help them develop into service-oriented adults.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Janet Junkin. Janet's selfless dedication to her students contributes to the betterment of those in her class and society as a whole. Thank you Janet for your service.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES F. MCNAMEE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, Charles F. McNamee was born on January 11, 1911 in the old O'Conner Hospital in San Jose, California. His family had to travel there for the birth because it was the closest hospital to their farm in Hollister 50 miles away. His Irish mother, Agnes Hudner, was born on her family's ranch in Hollister in 1871. His father, Charles, was born in 1874 in Ireland and was brought to the United States at the turn of the century to work as a haberdasher in Hollister. Charlie's uncle John was married to Molly Breen, daughter of Patrick Breen of the ill fated "Donner Party". James Hudner, his grandfather, came to the United States after the potato famine in Ireland. He settled in Hollister by purchasing his land from Col. Hollister in 1868.

Charlie attended Hollister's Sacred Heart Elementary School in the fall of 1916 and later graduated high school there with a class size of eight! He attended Santa Clara University in 1928. There he was able to meet many founders of local industry and government. Dutch Hamann, eventually city manager and largely responsible for the evolution of San Jose from 1950-1969, and was a close friend at the Uni-

versity. It was Dutch who advised him many years later to move to Almaden Valley "as fast as you can" when Charlie's three children evolved to four and outsized his small home in Santa Clara. Vincent Thomas, elected to the California assembly in 1940, was his roommate for his last two years at Santa Clara. Charlie lived in an era that allowed tutoring by Fr. Cornelius J. McCoy, president of the University. Tuition was a "steep" \$400 per semester (including room & board), but being the depression era, he got a half scholarship working in the board of athletic control as a typist. He graduated with a B.S. in Political Economics in May 1933.

After graduation he returned shortly to Hollister to work at the Grangers grocery as a delivery boy until about July 1934. Sounds like a meager job after a college education, but these were hard times where jobs, graduate or not, were just not available. With hay fever and asthma, he soon decided that ranch life was not to his liking and moved to San Jose taking a mail clerk job at Sunsweet Growers (where the Fairmont hotel currently resides). He switched to Western Pacific in the fall of 1940 with a job as a stenographer clerk and a year later transferred to the Western Pacific Main Office in the Mills Building on Montgomery Street in San Francisco.

He resigned Western Pacific in May 1942 to accept a commission as Lieutenant Junior Grade in the U.S. Naval Reserve at the bottom of Broadway in Oakland, California. In San Diego he was assigned to the Port Director's office. Commander Earnest transferred him to the Fleet Post office on Navy pier in San Diego. In 1943 he became Officer in charge of the Fleet Post Office at Terminal Island near San Pedro. In the fall of 1944 he was transferred to 7th Amphibious Force in the South Pacific on board the USS *Henry T. Allen* as Postal Officer. He was later promoted to Lieutenant Commander. After the war subsided, he returned to Pearl Harbor in December 1945 and was honorably discharged.

In 1946 he returned home to Hollister. After reminiscing with some Navy buddies down south, he returned to Sunsweet eventually becoming their Traffic Manager.

On October 26, 1946 he married Genevieve Washburn at the old St. Leo's church and began the first year of a fifty-three year marriage. He had three daughters and a son. His Catholic faith saw him assist with the building of three local churches: St. Justin's, Holy Spirit and St. Anthony's. He first settled in Campbell, moved to Santa Clara in 1952 with the arrival of a son and then to Almaden Country Club in 1961 after the arrival of his 3rd daughter and final child.

He was diagnosed with cancer in 1972 and given a few months to live by his doctor at O'Conner hospital. The tumor was too large to remove so no operation was performed. He retired immediately from Sunsweet. With faith and an herbal remedy, the tumor diminished and he soon returned to good health. He then got interested in the "Sons in Retirement" (SIRS) and held several positions there including the CEO post called "Big Sir". In 1996 he received an honorary life membership for his work.

Charlie began to enjoy golf at Almaden as a charter member when his children entered adolescence but had to wait until his 80th year to score his first hole-in-one. Ironically he had his second one a decade later at 90 years of

age! Charlie still drives, plays golf three times a week, and leads a very active life at 93 years of age.

HONORING HARRY NASH SYKES

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2004

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in Starkville, Mississippi and honored a native son and civil rights leader, Harry Nash Sykes. During his life he overcame adversity to excel as a public servant, educator, and athlete.

Sykes was born on April 1, 1927 to Marie Hall Sykes and P.K. Sykes in Starkville, Mississippi. He spent his early childhood years there and when he was 16, his family, led by his father P.K. Sykes, a tenant farmer and part-time minister, moved to Chicago.

While still in school, Sykes worked in a can factory for 72 cents an hour to help support his family. After World War II, he combined athletics with academics and became a four-sport star in high school, graduating in 1948 to attend Kentucky State University on a basketball and track scholarship. Sykes earned a bachelors degree in physical education from Kentucky State and later earned a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Minnesota.

After graduating from Kentucky State University in 1952, Sykes joined the world famous Harlem Globetrotters through the 1954 season. From 1954 until 1962, he taught high school mathematics for the Lexington Public School System at Dunbar High School and coached the Junior High School's basketball team. Sykes built a diverse business career as an insurance salesman, the Business Development Officer for Second National Bank, a real estate broker, and the Contract Compliance Officer with Frankfort, Kentucky's Department of Finance.

In 1963, Sykes was elected as the first African American councilman for the city of Lexington. He was reelected in 1965, 1967 and 1969. Between 1967 and 1969, Sykes also served as Mayor Pro-Temp. In 1971, he ran for Mayor of Lexington, but lost by a narrow margin. From 1972 to 1974, he served as Acting City Manager and, from 1974 until 1975, worked as the Acting Chief Administration Officer (CAO) for the Urban County Government.

Sykes served his community on various boards and commissions including the Board of Management of the YMCA and the Historical Pleasant Green Baptist Church. In 1968, he founded the Lexington-Fayette County Urban League and served as president until 1972. Sykes has been honored with numerous awards, including the Outstanding Citizen's Award by the Council of Christians and Jews in 1969.

Sykes is married to Geraldine Higgins Sykes and has five children: Harry, Melvin, Paula, Kevin and Kermit and members of their extended family still live in Starkville and Oktibbeha County, where Sykes is remembered and proudly called a son of Mississippi.