

He is honored by a graduate assistant scholarship fund that has been established in his name at A&M. While he is looking forward to slowing down a bit, his remaining on part-time status after his retirement will be welcomed by those who have come to depend on him.

"I have heard people introduce him as the dean of cotton," said Billy Tiller, who farms west of Littlefield. "I take my hat off to him for serving us for all of these years. What would we do without him?"

IN MEMORY OF HANNAH H. HAGIN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a dear friend and constituent, Hannah H. Hagin, who passed away in Cincinnati on August 30, 2004.

There are special people in our lives, and Hannah was one of them. It is especially hard to lose them. She brought love, laughter, and happiness to everyone she met. She was funny and modest and giving. Hannah had an enormous number of devoted friends who adored her. People loved her because her kind of compassion, generosity and dignity is rare.

Hannah's real legacy is her wonderful and accomplished family. She took tremendous pride in them, and she has a special place in each one of their hearts. This is true of her husband of nearly fifty years, Joe; her two sons, Joe and Hunt; her daughter-in-law, Lauren; and her twin granddaughters, Lily and Kate. Hannah was a very proud grandmother, and loved nothing more than spending time with Lily and Kate.

Hannah grew up in Lexington, Kentucky, where she met Joe, whom she married during their junior year of high school. She later attended the University of Kentucky, where she majored in history.

Hannah was also active with gardening, knitting and needlepoint. She was a member of the Indian Hill Garden Club.

All of us in Cincinnati who knew Hannah are grateful to have had her in our lives. She made all of us better human beings.

JOE SERNA, JR.

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, shortly following what would have been former Sacramento Mayor Joe Serna's 65th Birthday, to join with his friends and family in helping to honor Joe's lifelong commitment to bettering the lives of his fellow citizens through the dedication of the Joe Serna Jr. Amphitheater at Delta College.

The great labor leader, Cesar Chavez, once said, "You knock on twenty doors or so, and twenty guys tell you . . . that they haven't got time. But maybe at the fortieth or sixtieth house you find the one guy who is all you need."

Joe was one of those remarkable men Cesar Chavez was looking for. He was a

much rarer breed than one in forty or one in sixty. Joe was, at the very least, one in a million.

He answered this call to service and action at an early age, losing his job at a manufacturing facility by endorsing a strike. He continued this fight on behalf of his fellow man for the remainder of his life. He was often called upon to lend assistance to his mentor, Cesar Chavez, and did not once turn down such a request.

His devotion to others was remarkable and unrelenting; whether as a worker in a trailer factory, as a labor leader, as a volunteer in the Peace Corps, as the civic leader of California's capital city, or as a husband, father and grandfather.

It is fitting that Delta College is naming a building for him. Once Joe had decided to answer Chavez's call and take the path of self-sacrifice and dedication to his community, Delta College was the first place he turned to hone the skills that would allow him to be the most effective advocate he could be.

We can only hope that future generations passing through the campus will have some measure of the integrity and dedication to his fellow man as Joe Serna Jr. displayed his entire life. We are all the better for his efforts and it is my honor to recognize and pay tribute once again to this fine American.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND JESSE LANGSTON BOYD, JR.

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the exceptional accomplishments and extraordinary life of the Reverend Jesse Langston Boyd. This remarkable gentleman merits both our recognition and esteem as his impressive record of leadership and his invaluable service has done much to improve the lives of our people.

Reverend Boyd's standing within our community is rivaled by few others. He was a dynamic preacher whose counsel was infused with a spiritual fire that moved all of us to do what was right. He lived his life on the front lines of progress and proved to be a powerful champion of economic and social justice. His indomitable spirit carried him through many of life's challenges and molded a life of genuine accomplishment.

Jesse Boyd began his life in St. Louis, Missouri and settled in Los Angeles during the height of the civil rights movement. He joined the Reverend Jesse Jackson's Operation Breadbasket and organized the city's Operation PUSH. In the early 1970's, he spent two years as a missionary in Zambia building schools and houses. He later studied at the Center for the Study of Religions in Jerusalem and earned a degree in divinity from Harvard University.

Reverend Boyd came to our community in 1978 and was pastor of Shorter African Methodist Episcopal Church for over twenty-six years. As a spiritual leader, he advanced the social and educational development of our youth and burnished a reputation as a powerful advocate for civil liberties, inclusion and expanding opportunities for all people. Under

Reverend Boyd's leadership, Shorter A.M.E. became a beacon of hope and remains a positive force in the spiritual and civic life of our community.

He served as President of the Black Ministerial Alliance and in the mid-1980's, he helped create People Against Racism at Coors after William Coors, board chairman, was quoted in the Rocky Mountain News as saying that blacks lacked "intellectual capacity." The newspaper later retracted the story and a suit filed by Coors against the newspaper was also retracted. His civic accomplishments included building a fifty-unit housing development and establishing a park near Shorter A.M.E. Church.

Reverend Boyd was no stranger to political and community activism. He served as director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and chaired the boards of directors of Denver Metro PUSH and the Rainbow Coalition. Former Governor Roy Romer appointed him to the Colorado Wildlife Commission and he co-chaired the state campaigns for the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Gary Hart and Michael Dukakis.

It comes as no surprise that the Muscular Dystrophy Association honored Reverend Boyd with the 2004 Personal Achievement Award for his extensive religious, social and political contributions. Recently, Mayor John Hickenlooper proclaimed June 24th, 2004, as "The Reverend Jesse Langston Boyd Day."

We are indeed grateful for the life of Reverend Boyd and for his inestimable contribution to the spiritual life of our community and to the causes that elevate the human condition. He was a fervent defender of the civil liberties which have deep roots in our republic and we are all diminished by the passing of the remarkable gentleman. His contemporaries, including the Reverend James Peters, the Reverend Paul Martin and the Reverend Gil Caldwell recently noted that Reverend Boyd "was a spiritual giant in our community" who "helped us blaze the trail" and "dared challenge America to become a land 'with liberty and justice for all'." I would simply add that I believe Reverend Boyd's message to us would be that we must be ever vigilant and continue to affirm the values of equality, inclusion and tolerance—the values which define us as Americans. Please join me in paying tribute to the life of Reverend Jesse Langston Boyd, a distinguished spiritual and civic leader. His service, accomplishments and leadership command our respect and serve to build a better future for all Americans.

REGARDING PRESENTATION OF THE MILITIA AWARD TO DEBRA WADA

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, as we return to session following a productive August among the people we represent, it is worth remembering that for the most part, the staff of the House has been here and working through the month.

I believe we do not recognize often enough those dedicated public servants, who get lumped into that antiseptic word "staff."

Among the staff of the House are leading experts in their fields, prize winners, men and women noted in their own right for achievements both professional and prosaic. Many know far more in their fields of expertise than any Member of Congress ever will. And yet they bite their lips and say "Yes, sir," when we hear their counsel yet choose to go another way.

Perhaps the greatest tribute to the selflessness of the staff is the fact that almost any one of them could leave this place tomorrow for jobs with better pay, better recognition, and much better hours, yet their dedication to the common weal binds them to this House. And we Members all wind up looking the better for it.

Fortunately, while we may not say "thank you" often enough, others sometimes take up the slack. And so it is with Debra Wada, a member of the Armed Services Committee staff.

Debra handles matters concerning military personnel for the committee, and does so with zeal and knowledge and grace. She is always looking out for the common soldier. Millions of Americans in uniform owe the improvement of their pay and benefits to Debra and her foresight and dedication. I trust her guidance, and even more admire the energy with which she works and lives.

I am not alone in that sentiment. Not long ago, Debra was recognized by the National Guard Association of the United States, who presented her with their Militia Award. In their words, she was selected "for her exceptional dedication and effort to improve the status, welfare and professionalism of the enlisted members of the National Guard of the United States." That is indeed an honorable achievement, particularly at a time when military personnel are working so hard on our behalf.

While the Association did not formally recognize the effervescent personality that suffuses her work and brings joy to those around her, I have no doubt that those qualities played a role in her selection as well.

Debra has overcome a great obstacle to get where she is today; she was formerly employed in the other body of Congress. I compliment her on surmounting this challenge.

Mr. Speaker, people wonder how Members of Congress can vote one minute on education, the next on health, the next on defense, and understand so many issues in enough depth to make good decisions. The answer is that we are all fortunate to be surrounded by an ocean of talent. People like Debra Wada make our job possible. I salute her not only for her award, but for the unrecognized work that she and other staff professionals perform all year round.

AN APPRECIATION AND TRIBUTE TO NANCY WILSON

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to salute and pay tribute to Nancy Wilson, a living American legend. When one thinks of Nancy Wilson, the word that immediately comes to mind is sophistica-

tion. She is one of the last in line of elegant entertainers who performed naturally onstage exuding refinement, poise and grace.

For years her style has blurred the lines between jazz, R&B and pop, redefining the essence of good music. With a career that has transformed, been translated, and ultimately survived over forty years in the music industry, Nancy Wilson has proven herself as more than merely an entertainer—she is a world-class interpreter of everything from blues and gospel to Broadway showtunes. She is just as at home in front of a full orchestra as she is in front of a jazz quartet. Her multifaceted stage presence has undoubtedly contributed to her staying power.

Born in Chillicothe, Ohio in 1937, Nancy Wilson came of age to the sounds of Nat "King" Cole, Louis Jordan, Dinah Washington, Jimmy Scott, Bull Moose Jackson, Ruth Brown, Billy Eckstein, and LaVern Baker. At age 15 she entered a voice contest with other high school students and so impressed the judges that she won her own television show, Skyline Melodies. Later in her career, Ms. Wilson was a popular guest of TV variety shows from Johnny Carson and Andy Williams to Flip Wilson and Arsenio Hall. Her series' appearances include I Spy, Room 222, Hawaii Five-O, The Cosby Show, New York Undercover, and the films The Big Score and Meteor Man. Noting Wilson's versatility as an artist, her acting talent should be no surprise. As she once said: "Each song is a little play; a little vignette." Her acting simply turned an outstanding career to a stellar one.

Since her beginnings, Nancy Wilson has given voice to those ineffable feelings of heartache, heartbreak, and those first soul-stirring moments when one falls in love. Songs like "Guess Who I Saw Today," "Save Your Love For Me" and "Like in Love" sung in that sultry signature tenor, have given the world a soundtrack for the love experience. Her songs have personified love; but more than that her songs have given us the assurance that someone else has experienced love deeply.

Nancy Wilson has without question served us all well from the stage and on the airwaves—her voice a soothing balm to life's multiple wounds. But her service extends beyond the entertainment realm. Over the years she has contributed her time and energy to causes such as the Martin Luther King Center for Social Change, the Cancer Society, and the National Heart Association. She has been the recipient of numerous awards from the United Negro College Fund, CORE, and the NAACP including the NAACP Image Award. She is an Essence Award winner and has been honored with the Paul Robeson Humanitarian Award. She has received honorary degrees from the Berkeley School of Music and Columbus Central State College.

As we honor this great entertainer, this great artist, and this great American, we give thanks for the inspiration future artists will find in her voice, her life, and in Nancy. Although we know no one will ever fill the shoes of Nancy Wilson, we already find traces of her—the voice of pure velvet, the self-assured performance, and the entrancing gaze—in the burgeoning songstresses of today. We only find traces—bits and pieces of her and never the whole because there will only ever be one Nancy Wilson.

TRIBUTE TO LUCIOUS WOOTEN,
ROSIE BRAISHER, IRENE CHAR-
LOTTE SMITH, ELSIE LOUISE
LAROEY AND BESSIE GILMORE

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to five residents of the South Haven Nursing and Rehabilitation Community, in southwest Michigan who have achieved the great milestone of 100 years of life. This grand feat is especially important today, since these very special individuals have lived for a century or more and in two different millennia.

The vast experiences and accomplishments of these five people is awe-inspiring. I can only imagine the wonder and amazement of watching our country progress and grow through two world wars, international flight, the Internet, cell-phones, and the many other advances that have occurred over the last century.

It is my fortunate honor to extend my very best wishes to Lucious Wooten who became 107 years old on February 6, 2004, Roxie Braisher who became 100 years old on February 22, 2004, Irene Charlotte Smith who became 100 years old on June 1, 2004, Elsie Louise LaRoy who became 100 years old on June 29, 2004, and Bessie Gilmore who became 102 years old on July 16, 2004.

Along with the entire Sixth District of Michigan, it gives me great pleasure to send wishes for much love, health, and happiness to each in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO YU-AI-KAI'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and commend Yu-Ai-Kai, a Japanese American Community Senior Service, based in the San Jose enclave of Japantown on their 30th anniversary of providing services to the senior citizen community.

Yu-Ai-Kai's mission is to advance the health, education and well being of older adults in the community. Yu-Ai-Kai does this by developing cultural programs, providing educational resources about ailments affecting older adults, and making all of its services available in various languages. These services are open to all. No one is excluded.

The activities hosted by Yu-Ai-Kai are as varied and diverse as the community they serve. Activities such as their annual crab and spaghetti feed and springtime walk/run race help fund Yu-Ai-Kai's efforts to provide a healthy and supportive environment for senior citizens.

In addition, Yu-Ai-Kai's volunteers assist in outreach to homebound seniors and provide invaluable services such as transportation to doctor appointments, shopping, and regular visits just to make sure no one is too isolated.

My district office is located within a few blocks of Yu-Ai-Kai, and I can tell you from first-hand experience that I am proud of the