

TRIBUTE TO KANSAS PROFESSOR
OF THE YEAR TAMARA AGHA-
JAFFAR

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Tamara Agha-Jaffar of Kansas City Community College, who today is receiving the Professor of the Year Award for Kansas from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, CASE, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Since 1981, the U.S. Professors of the Year program has rewarded outstanding professors for their dedication to teaching, commitment to students and innovative instructional methods. It is the only national program to recognize college and university professors for their teaching skills. The program is sponsored by CASE and The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, which hosts the final round of judging and sponsors the cash award given to U.S. national winners. CASE works with Carnegie and 26 other higher education associations to direct and promote the program.

The primary characteristic the judges consider is an extraordinary dedication to undergraduate teaching, which should be demonstrated by excellence in the following areas:

Impact on and involvement with undergraduate students;

Scholarly approach to teaching and learning;

Contributions to under-graduate education in the institution, community, and profession; and

Support from colleagues and current and former undergraduate students.

Tamara Agha-Jaffar, Ph.D., has been a full time faculty member in the English Department of the Kansas City Kansas Community College since 1987. A graduate of the Beirut College for Women and the American University of Beirut, with a Ph.D. in English literature from Washington State University, she previously was an instructor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Johnson County, Kansas, Community College. During the most recent academic year she has taught courses in composition, world mythology, introduction to women's studies, world literature, and women in literature. She also has been active in organizations serving our community, including: the LULAC/USD 500 Latino Task Force; the Joyce Williams Shelter and Safehome, both serving battered women; the Kaw Valley Children's Center; and the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault.

I am proud to represent Dr. Tamara Agha-Jaffar in Congress and I commend to my colleagues the personal statement which she submitted to CASE as a part of her nomination process for this award. I include it in the RECORD and I hope that all who read it will be as inspired by it as I was.

PERSONAL STATEMENT OF TAMARA AGHA-
JAFFAR

It was some time in 1994. I was in my office with one of my Composition 2 students. She had been very distraught during class, so I did what I am prone to do: I invited her to my office to talk. I listened as this young, intelligent, articulate female sobbed quietly

and blurted out her story. Her boyfriend had woken her up at dawn that morning, placed a loaded gun in her mouth, and threatened to pull the trigger. He had terrorized her in this manner for several hours before allowing her to leave. Then, to my utter amazement, this young, intelligent woman proceeded to find ways of blaming herself for this horrifying experience. My jaw dropped.

I teach at Kansas City Kansas Community College, an urban college located in an economically distressed community. Over 60% of our students are female. Many of our students have to contend with previous or current drug abuse, single parenthood, sexual abuse, gangs, violence, and economic hardship. I have yet to experience a semester in which I haven't had at least one student in some sort of social, psychological, emotional, or economic crisis. But that morning in 1994 was different. I experienced an epiphany of sorts. I realized that as an educator, I have a moral, social, and ethical obligation to do more than just offer compassion and a Kleenex to my students as I hear their heart-wrenching stories. I didn't know what I could do, but I was determined to find out. Several months and a labyrinth of procedures and committees later, Women's Studies at KCKCC was born. I have been teaching the course since 1995. Students who successfully complete it tell me it is a transformative experience. They leave the class armed with knowledge, voice, a greater sense of empowerment, and increased self-esteem. My immersion in the subject matter of Women's Studies and subsequent volunteer activities inform my life and influence the pedagogy and content of all the classes I teach.

I include service-learning as an optional assignment in my Women's Studies class. Because I wanted to increase my effectiveness as a teacher, in 1998, I embarked on my own extensive volunteer training program. I learned to respond to crisis situations at the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault, at two local shelters for battered women, and at the Kaw Valley Children's Center for abused and/or neglected children. My volunteer work at the battered women's shelter prompted me to seek and establish a two-year scholarship for tuition and books for eligible shelter residents. I taught survival skills classes at the shelter and to homeless women at a local church. Students in all my classes are demonstrably impacted when I share stories that I have heard through my volunteer activities.

Student testimonials and evaluations of Women's Studies reinforced what I already knew to be true: the empowering impact of its subject matter. My desire to make this material available to others served as the catalyst for initiating a new form of collaboration with an area high school. In 2002, as a result of my efforts, KCKCC started offering two women's studies classes for college credit at the high school location. Although tuition is comparatively modest at the college, I knew it would be an issue for these students, most of whom would be the first generation in their families to take a college class. So I successfully authored a grant to cover the cost of their tuition and books. My goal in this venture was fourfold: to expose high school students to material that is empowering and immediately relevant to their lives; to encourage them to continue with their education after high school; to demonstrate that their community college faculty care and are eager to work with them should they decide to pursue their education; and to impress upon them that they can succeed in an institution of higher learning.

As a faculty member at a community college, I am called upon to perform many roles. Through them all, I try to impress upon my students the benefits, importance,

relevance, and transformative power of a good education. I listen to their voices; offer support, encouragement, and compassion; provide course material that is empowering and relevant to their lives; and continuously seek new ways to extend means, access, and opportunity to those who have been historically marginalized.

A lot has happened since that day in 1994 when I first heard that young woman's story. I have changed. The college has changed. And my students have changed. Over the years, I have seen an increase in the number of students in crisis. Or maybe it is because they seem to flock to my classes and office in increasing numbers. As always, I listen to their stories. But now I do more than just offer compassion and a Kleenex. I am better trained and better equipped to provide the guidance, direction, resources, encouragement, and support they need to move forward with their lives.

As for that young woman who served as the catalyst for my personal and professional odyssey—I convinced her to phone her parents before she left my office that day and to tell them what had transpired. She was smiling the next time she came to class. Her father and older brother had helped her to move back home, and, with their support, she was pressing charges against her former boyfriend.

HONORING G. WILLIAM CADDELL

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Doctor G. William Caddell upon his retirement after 23 years of service to the citizens of Oakland County, Michigan.

A chiropractor by profession, Doc heeded the call to public service and was elected to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners in 1979. As a county commissioner Doc served on the Board's Finance Committee and served as its chairman.

In January of 1993, Doc was appointed Deputy Clerk/Register for Oakland County by Clerk/Register Lynn D. Allen. During his tenure as Deputy Clerk/Register, Doc supervised day-to-day operations and made a commitment to bring the latest technology to the office in order to better serve the citizens of Oakland County.

In 1998, Doc became the Clerk/Register of Deeds. The primary responsibility of this elected office is to record, store and retrieve documents for future use and to preserve them for historical purposes. Doc continued to introduce technology to enhance the efficiency and service of the Clerk/Register Office. Significant improvements include the scanning of legal documents so they are available to the public at the counter and to county prosecutors in their offices, thus saving significant staff time; the scanning of approximately two million birth, death and marriage records which may now be ordered by the public on the internet; the ability to apply for a passport at the county office, including photographs; the establishment of eRecording of land records; and the utilization of a geographic information system to accurately draw property lines. Because of Doc's innovation, the Oakland County Clerk/Register of Deeds Office is recognized throughout the state as the "model" office.

Professionally, Doc was very active with state organizations. He was appointed in 2003 by Michigan Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land to a 30 member State Plan Advisory Committee formed to address election reform pursuant to the federal Help America Vote Act. He is president of the Michigan Association of County Clerks. He is a past president of the Michigan Chiropractic Council and has served on the Board of Directors for the International Chiropractors' Association.

Mr. Speaker, I extend our entire community's sincere appreciation and gratitude to G. William Caddell for his fine service to our community and our country; and wish him, his wife Beverly, son Jonathan, son Geoff and daughter-in-law Heather, and grandchildren Clinton Derek, Luke Jordan, and Sydney Adelaide, the brightest future of continued blessings the God Lord allows.

LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR NANCY P. GILBERT

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I introduced private legislation to posthumously promote Nancy Gilbert, formerly of Marietta, Georgia, to the position of Supervisory Investigator at the Atlanta District Office of the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. While this legislation would not confer any additional pay or benefits to Mrs. Gilbert's family, it would rightly recognize her service at the EEOC and rightly recognize that she was worthy of a promotion for which she was passed over in July 2001.

Nancy Gilbert began her career with the EEOC in 1979 in Memphis, Tennessee. Her career with the EEOC saw her ably perform in assignments in Washington, D.C., Miami, Florida and Atlanta, Georgia. During her career, she was awarded a Masters Degree in Race Relations and a Bachelors Degree in Sociology. Her last assignment was in the Atlanta District Office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("ATDO"). While in this office, Mrs. Gilbert served in several units involving Enforcement, Intake and Mediation. Her last Government service level was as a GS 12, Step 10. By all accounts and by her record of consistent promotions, Mrs. Gilbert's service to the government was competent and admirable.

In April 2001, the position of Supervisory Investigator, GS-13, in the ATDO became available. Mrs. Gilbert made the decision to apply for this position and her name was placed on the Merit Promotion Referral List. After an extremely brief and truncated interview process, Mrs. Gilbert was passed over for this position, which was awarded to another EEOC employee. Mrs. Gilbert, believing she had been discriminated against on the basis of her race, gender and age, requested a hearing, which she was granted (Agency Case No. 0-0100067-AT) before Administrative Judge Richard H. Fine on August 29 and 30, 2002. Judge Fine, after a thorough examination of the evidence, determined that Mrs. Gilbert had been unlawfully discriminated against when she was denied the promotion to the position of Supervisory Investigator.

Regrettably, the EEOC, determined to use its own power to deny its wrongdoing, overturned Judge Fine's well-reasoned and clearly delineated decision in Mrs. Gilbert's favor. In so doing, the EEOC not only undermined but disregarded the very legal process instituted to protect the integrity of its employment decisions. Ironically, the very agency designed to ensure justice and fairness in hiring for our nation's workforce denied justice and fairness to one of its very own employees—not once, but twice. It is difficult to imagine a fair process in which the loser in a legal proceeding is given the opportunity to unilaterally overturn the result. However, this is the very thing the EEOC did in the case of Mrs. Gilbert.

After the Judge's decision was overturned by the EEOC on appeal, the last option available to Mrs. Gilbert was to appeal this adverse agency decision to U.S. District Court. Sadly, before she could seek justice in her case in our federal courts, Mrs. Gilbert became ill and passed away earlier this year. To her credit, and in spite of the EEOC's actions against her, Mrs. Gilbert continued her faithful service as an investigator, carrying out her duties on behalf of others. It was only when her illness made her unable to work that she ultimately retired from her position.

In honor of Mrs. Gilbert's faithful service to our country and with respect for the rule of law, I introduced this legislation. Mrs. Gilbert should be posthumously promoted to a GS-13, the position she deserved before her passing. While this bill would not confer any benefits, financial or otherwise, upon her family, this bill would fulfill Mrs. Gilbert's pursuit of justice that was tragically cut short by her untimely passing. The agency responsible for ensuring equal opportunity to all Americans in the job market must be held to account when it fails to live up to that mission with its own employees. This legislation would do just that by recognizing Mrs. Gilbert with the government service level she deserved and bringing justice for Mrs. Gilbert's family and loved ones who stood with her through her fight against discrimination.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO BALLREICH'S POTATO CHIPS ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR INCLUSION IN THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to Ballreich's Potato Chips in Tiffin, Ohio on their inclusion in the Guinness Book of World Records. On August 8, 2003, a team of Ballreich's Potato Chip makers created the world's largest bag of potato chips, weighing in at 1,082.5 pounds.

Ballreich's Potato Chips has been synonymous with Tiffin, Ohio since its founding in 1920. Ballreich's Chips was formed by the thirteen Ballreich children and quickly grew. Ballreich's processes more than eight million pounds of potatoes into two million pounds of chips each year.

To celebrate the 150th birthday of the potato chip, Ballreich's created the world's largest potato chip bag at the 150th Ohio State

Fair. The bag, weighing 1,082.5 pounds, measured 8 feet tall, 5 feet wide and 5 feet deep. The ingredient's used were 700 pounds of soybean oil, 80 pounds of salt, and of course, 4,250 pounds of Ohio potatoes. The event was recorded for the Food Network and aired on the "Unwrapped" show.

Mr. Speaker, Ballreich's was recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records for the creation of the world's largest bag of potato chips. However, Ballreich's does more than make great chips and earn world records. Ballreich's is a loyal employer of Tiffin citizens, a family owned business, and a mainstay in the Fifth District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ballreich's Potato Chips for their recognition by the Guinness Book of World Records and their 84 years of service to the people of Tiffin, Ohio. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize the great achievements of Ballreich's Potato Chips. We wish the employees and management of Ballreich's continued success into the future.

CELEBRATING 35-YEAR CONGRES- SIONAL CAREER OF THE HONOR- ABLE PHILIP M. CRANE OF ILLI- NOIS

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD M. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Representative PHILIP M. CRANE. Let me share with you remarks by Edwin J. Feulner, President of The Heritage Foundation that express his gratitude to a man who has given so much to Eighth District of Illinois and the House of Representatives.

Phil Crane's Congressional colleagues will expand on his extraordinary 35-year record of legislative achievements. Others will speak of his unswerving commitment to sensible conservative economic policy based on the principles of limited government and federalism. Still others will discuss his contributions to developing sound American foreign and defense policy.

For me, however, Phil Crane will be the Member of Congress who has—more than any other Member I've known in my forty years in Washington—fundamentally understood the power of ideas and the relationship of ideas to changes in the laws that govern the American people.

Philip M. Crane is a man of ideas. His first book, published in March 1964, is entitled *The Democrat's Dilemma*. The book jacket notes the influence of extremist views and organizations on the Democratic Party. If this sounds familiar to every American who has been awake for the last several months, it's because Phil Crane's message is as timely today, for the 2004 election, as it was then, for the 1964 election.

In the foreword to *The Democrat's Dilemma*, Jameson G. Campaigne, the then-editor of the Indianapolis Star, wrote, "Revolutions are normally organized and engineered by small groups of men and women." Phil's book is an insightful account of how a small band of dedicated souls changed the world. While Phil recounts in fascinating detail the growing influence of the Fabian Socialists on the Democratic Party, even