

Teddy was educated in Los Angeles Catholic parochial schools, including St. Mary's Grammar School at 4th & Chicago in Boyle Heights, and later graduated from Catholic Girls High School. Immediately following graduation Theresa enlisted in the United States Navy Women's Auxiliary (WAVE's) Corps during the height of World War II, and was stationed in Washington, DC performing clerical duties for the Navy Department.

Upon her Honorable Discharge from the Navy following the war, Theresa married her childhood sweetheart Robert H. "Bob" Fuentes, also a Los Angeles native. Together they had 10 children, Christina Marie, Roberta Theresa (married to James F. Buescher), Charles Patrick (married to Linda L. Unruh), Andrea Elizabeth (married to Robert C. Kunkel), Cecelia Catherine, Robert Henry III (married to Cynthia Vetter), Mary Carole (deceased), Christopher Francis, Joseph Aloysius (married to Amy D. Boothe), and Caroline Bernadette "Buffy" (deceased), and made their home in Norwalk and later Cerritos.

A devoted homemaker and helpmate, Teddy immersed herself in the education and development of her children, amply demonstrating her talents as an accomplished artist and painter, expert seamstress, first-rate cook, as well as noted hostess in furtherance of her husband Bob's political career. After the untimely death of Bob Fuentes at age 50, Teddy took up the mantle of family matriarch and entered the workforce as a Sales Representative for Coca-Cola Bottling Company, retiring in 1991 after 14 highly successful years.

Teddy Fuentes has made many outstanding contributions to church, civic and community endeavors, including service as Grand Regent of the Santa Teresita Court of the Catholic Daughters of America, and active memberships in the American Business Women's Association, Native Daughters of the Golden West, Past Grand Knights Association of the Knights of Columbus Council 3678, Gadabouts Senior Club, and Cerritos Senior Citizens.

A world traveler par excellence, Teddy has traveled throughout the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East including several trips to Israel where she was baptized in the Jordan River, and Egypt where she rode camels at the pyramids and Sphinx.

Theresa Marcella Palomares Fuentes celebrated her 80th birthday on January 16, 2004 together with her large family and numerous friends including her six grandchildren Jennifer Marie Hood, Holly Alana Hood, Ryan Anthony Kunkel, Lauren Elizabeth Kunkel, Laurel Frances Fuentes and Robert Henry Fuentes, IV. I take great pleasure in noting the wonderful life and achievements of Theresa Marcella Palomares Fuentes, extend sincere best wishes on the happy occasion of her 80th birthday and wish her continued happiness and good health.

HONORING RICHARD SILVER

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Silver, a public servant who has dedicated his life to caring for and comforting our country's veterans.

Dick Silver has worked in various capacities for the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs for more than fifty years. During that time, he has served as the director, assistant director, administrator, and personnel services officer at VA hospitals in Massachusetts, Washington D.C., New Jersey, North Carolina, and eventually, in Florida.

Dick was appointed Director of the James A. Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa, which is near my congressional district, in 1979. The hospital, and its associated outpatient clinics, nursing homes, and domiciliaries, serves many of my constituents and has grown dramatically during his tenure. He has guided the hospital through trying times with humor, grace, and an abiding respect for the men and women who seek care at his facilities.

I worked closely with Dick over the past decade to build a spinal cord injury unit at the Tampa VA. Dick's guidance, wisdom, and knowledge were instrumental in helping me secure the necessary Federal funding for the project. He oversaw construction of the unit which, in the words of VA Secretary Principi, provides the best care in the country for veterans with spinal cord injuries and dysfunction.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to know and have worked closely with Richard Silver for so many years. His leadership, dedication, and professionalism have been an asset to me, our country, and those for whom he and his staff care.

HONORING HATTIE HALL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hattie Hall, a resident of my Fifth Congressional District of Florida and a woman who has become something very few of us ever will. Mrs. Hall is a centenarian and at 101 she is a mother to 5 sons, a grandmother to 10 grandchildren, and a great-grandmother to 19 and has 3 great, great-grandchildren!

Hattie was born in Savannah, Georgia and went to school at Savannah State College. Following school, she worked as a school teacher and a nurses' aid. She describes her happiest moments as going shopping with her uncle, her mother and her brother. One of her favorite activities is painting pictures.

After 101 years, Hattie says she only wished she had learned to paint at a younger age. When asked what advice she'd give to young people she says, "always do the right thing and remember to pray." She says the best thing about growing older is having a good son to take care of her.

Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, I ask that you join me in honoring Hattie Hall today. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as she has. She is truly a great lady and someone with an appreciation for the importance of family and friends.

HONORING ARLINE WHITAKER

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and colleague who has played a major role in local government in my district, Arline Whitaker. As the Chair of the Farmington Town Council for the past 7 years, Arline has served her town with distinction and dedication.

Arline has been an active, constructive voice in the Farmington community for decades and first entered local government in 1979, serving as a member of the Farmington Town Council from 1989–2004. In addition, she chaired the Conservation Commission from 1988–1989. She continued to serve in various capacities in local government while also contributing her keen mind and boundless energy to develop many local organizations, including the Hill Stead Museum, the Stanley Whitman House, Friends of the Farmington Library, the Farmington Garden Club, and Services for the Elderly, among many others.

In her 7 years serving as chair of the Farmington Town Council, Arline has provided the leadership, enthusiasm, and long hours of hard work to accomplish an impressive list of projects. She led the initiative to build a new senior center, police station, and expand the Farmington library, while also acquiring 554 acres of land for open space preservation. She was involved with the creation of a new upper elementary school that provides our children needed classroom space. In addition, her relentless effort to seek State and Federal funding for local road improvements and the Rails to Trails project has brought new opportunities to Farmington residents to keep fit and enjoy their remarkable, scenic, and historic town.

Arline's long service to the town of Farmington is notable and commendable because it both preserved and protected a rich and wonderful history and prepared Farmington to continue as a strong community for decades to come. As a friend of Arline's, I wish her good health, high energy and joy in all she undertakes, with the time released from her many public responsibilities. My thanks for her public service, the high standards to which she held herself, and for her personal friendship.

CONGRATULATING ALYN KIEL ON HER ESSAY REGARDING PURPLE LOOSESTRIPE, AN INVASIVE SPECIE

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an essay written by Alyn Kiel, an 11th grade student at Montague High School in Montague, MI. The essay is titled "Purple Loosestrife: A Beautiful Killer," and it is an excellent discussion of a very serious but commonly overlooked environmental problem around the Great Lakes and throughout the Nation.

Purple Loosestrife is one of the most common invasive non-native species in the United

States and Canada. Imported from Europe in the early 1800s, this plant is virtually impossible to eradicate, and its vegetative dominance often crowds out native plants and animals.

Ms. Kiel's essay is the winner of a recent essay contest for Michigan high school students sponsored by the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network and The Muskegon Chronicle. Students were asked to propose a creative, realistic and environmentally sound plan for managing an aquatic non-native invasive species in the Great Lakes.

As a Member of Congress whose district borders roughly 200 miles of beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline, I have observed firsthand the devastation invasive species can cause to the ecosystem and the economy. I am pleased to insert this essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and I hope that its presentation will continue to raise awareness of this serious environmental problem.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE: A BEAUTIFUL KILLER
(By Alyn Kiel)

Imagine a quiet walk along the lakeshore after a long absence. As you stroll along, you notice clusters of lavender flowers, and remark at their beautiful appearance. But as your journey continues, you see that most of the usual flora and fauna you would have observed a decade ago have completely disappeared. The culprit? The supposedly innocent plant you remarked upon earlier: purple loosestrife.

Purple loosestrife, or *Lythrum salicaria*, was brought to the eastern United States in the early 1800s by settlers as a medicinal herb and in the ballast holds of European ships. The spread of purple loosestrife increased with the construction of waterways, railways and canals. By the 1930s, it had moved inland [and could be found in most states and provinces] in the United States and Canada.

One of the most recognizable features of this marsh monster is a ridged, square stem. One plant can produce up to 30 stems from one central root mass. Leaves are smooth and attached directly to the stem. Flowers appear between late June and late September, and are purple in color.

Over 3 million seeds can be produced by one mature plant. Seeds are small, light and easily dispersed by wind. Each seed has high viability (nearly 100 percent germination rate) and remain so after years of being buried under soil or submersion under water. Seeds can be transported by animals, clothing, vehicles and rainfall, which carries them into river systems and wetlands.

Nicknames for purple loosestrife—beautiful killer, marsh monster and exotic invader among them—are extremely illustrative. Purple loosestrife easily establishes itself within urban and rural wetland areas. Once it's present, it's nearly impossible to destroy. It has a tendency to dominate native vegetation. This change in species composition has drastic effects on the wildlife population. Loosestrife [frequently] blocks water flow in ditches and irrigation canals.

No herbicides are currently approved to control loosestrife,** but small outbreaks can be removed by hand digging, as long as all pieces of root tissue are removed. However, for large scale infestations, this is costly and time consuming, and therefore is not a practical solution.

One innovative option being used in many wetlands across Canada and some areas of North America is Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Through this form of biological control, purple loosestrife is reunited with its natural enemies. Four insects are cur-

rently being used—two leaf eating beetles, a root mining weevil, and a seed weevil. These plant eating insects do not harm any other native plants or the natural environment. In certain areas of North America, IPM is providing total control of loosestrife. Through this method, purple loosestrife is effectively destroyed and herbicides and chemicals do not have to be used in sensitive areas.***

A second method of biological control is the removal of garden varieties of purple loosestrife. Although it was originally believed that garden varieties of loosestrife were sterile, recent scientific studies have shown that they are indeed capable of seed and pollen production. These varieties of loosestrife can exchange pollen with other cultivars and the wild population. The majority of wild infestations of purple loosestrife are the result of garden escapes.

The best way to remove loosestrife from a garden is through hand digging. All pieces of root tissue should be removed and plant material should be dried out thoroughly before disposal. Root masses can be treated with an herbicide, such as Round-Up. All plant material should be placed in a dark colored garbage bag and secured tightly to prevent infestation of the landfill.

In Canada, an exchange program has been created to exchange purple loosestrife for an environmentally safe native plant. Experts dispose of the loosestrife correctly, and residents are given native plants similar to loosestrife to replace in their gardens. A program such as this would be beneficial for Western Michigan. In this way, the purple loosestrife population is controlled, and the rebuilding of native habitats is promoted.

In order to prevent infestation of native habitats, it is necessary for informational programs to be created and promoted further within this area. As community members are informed of the danger of loosestrife, the greater amount of supporters will be gained for its control. If the entire community works together to exterminate this problem, [we will come] closer to rebuilding our wetlands.

*A healthy, mature plant can produce up to 2.7 million seeds per year.

**Currently, glyphosphate, sold under the trade name RODEO, is the only effective purple loosestrife herbicide that is registered for aquatic use. However, it is non-selective and will affect the vegetation surrounding the target plant.

***Based on studies, three insects have been approved for release in the U.S., including one root boring weevil and two leaf eating beetles. The use of a pest's natural enemies to regulate its population and reduce damage is referred to as biological control. Biological control is only one method of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which is a strategy to control a pest using a combination of methods.

Source: Purple Loosestrife in Michigan: Biology, Ecology, and Management, 1997, produced by Michigan Sea Grant and Michigan State University Extension.

HONORING JAMES OWEN RUSH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an Irish Catholic and New Deal Democrat, Jim Rush. Beloved husband of Joan, Jim passed on January 2, 2004 after a hard-fought two year battle against cancer, surviving much longer than the doctors had ever predicted.

James Rush was born December 9, 1938, at Providence Hospital in Oakland, to two veterans of the Oakland General Strike, Eugene Rush and Esther Kelly-Rush. He attended and graduated Sacred Heart and St. Elizabeth's High School in Oakland. Just like his father, he lived his entire life at 472 & 474 W. MacArthur Boulevard, in the houses his grandfather, Owen Code Rush built sometime near 1870.

After high school, Jim was the night-manager at Doggie-Dinner's in Oakland. In 1962 he joined Teamsters Local 70 and was elected Chief Steward at Sears in 1969. He was arrested 3 times in the Coors Strike in Alameda in 1970. In 1972, he led the Sears Strike and was also elected Recording Secretary of Teamsters Local 70. Jim was injured on the job in 1980 and joined the law offices of John E. Hill, investigating "Serious & Willful Fraud of Injured Workers by Employers & Insurance Companies."

In 1981, Jim became interested in Palmistry & Tarot Card Reading, eventually becoming a world-renowned spiritualist and author. Published and broadcast under the name Jay Owen Swift, he founded Oakland's Palmistry Academy of Ancient Wisdom and until 2001, hosted the "Mystic-Eye," a spiritually oriented radio show on KEST in San Francisco.

In 1985, Jim was elected to the board of directors of the Instituto Laboral De La Raza, a non-profit community organization dedicated to assisting Latino immigrant working families in San Francisco, where he remained an Advisory Board Member until his death. In 1996, Jim was elected to the Executive Board of SEIU Local 616 after organizing the staff of his law firm into the union. He was appointed as a delegate to the Central Labor Council of Alameda County AFL-CIO in 1997 and elected by his fellow delegates to the Council's Union Label and Credentials Committee. On September 20, 2002, Jim was awarded the Instituto's "Santo Patricio Award." James P. Hoffa, General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters traveled from Washington D.C. to make the presentation.

Finally, I want to honor him for being an exemplary role model, community leader, and friend. I take great pride in joining Jim's family, friends and colleagues to recognize and salute the accomplishments and contributions of James Owen "Jimmy" Rush.

HONORING ROSE DERGIN

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rose Dergin, a resident of my Fifth Congressional District of Florida and a woman who has become something very few of us ever will. Mrs. Dergin is a centenarian and at 101 she is a mother to one child, a grandmother to three grandchildren, and a great-grandmother to five great-grandchildren!

Mrs. Dergin was born in New York City but went to School in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. At 17 she worked as a long distance telephone operator and following school, she worked as a bookbinder. She describes her happiest moment as her wedding day. Today