

and her husband Bill moved to San Francisco. Shortly after moving to California, Jane hosted and produced a television cooking-show that aired in San Francisco and San Jose, where she demonstrated easy meals that one could make on an average night for the average family. By 1963, the Bakers had settled in San Mateo, where they have resided ever since.

Mr. Speaker, Jane had always participated in community events, being very active in her local Parents Teacher Association (PTA) and the Girl and Boy Scouts. Her commitment to save open space on Sugarloaf Mountain in San Mateo from overdevelopment prompted her to run for the San Mateo City Council in 1973. Her historic victory, at that time only the second woman ever elected to a City Council seat, was made more dramatic by the fact that she captured more votes than two male incumbents. Jane's traditional smashing ways continued when she became the first-ever female mayor of the city of San Mateo. During the twenty years that Jane Baker served on the San Mateo City Council she remained devoted to public service and although people encouraged her to run for higher offices, such as State Senate and Congress, Jane declined because she recognized the value of local government and the closer relationship to the public that comes with it.

Jane Baker's commitment to community service did not merely stop at being an elected official, as her drive and energy led her to serve on many boards and commissions. The number of boards and commissions that Jane served on is incredible. She represented the cities of San Mateo on the Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission and served as Chair from 1993 to 1995. Jane also chaired the San Mateo County Transportation Authority for two years and was a member of the Joint Powers Board-CALTRAIN. Additionally, she served on the Association of Bay Area Governments for ten years, from 1975 to 1985.

In addition to her dedication to local government service, Jane was an active member of various statewide and national organizations. The litany of those organizations is too large to list in its entirety, but includes; the Board of Directors of the National League of Cities, the State Job Training Coordinating Council, the American Association of University Women, California Elected Women for Education and the Women's Association of the First Presbyterian Church of San Mateo.

As one would expect, Jane Baker has been honored for her numerous achievements by many of the organizations, including being named Safety Woman of the Year by the San Mateo Safety Council. She was also chosen as an Outstanding Graduate by the Purdue University School of Consumer and Family Services and inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, Jane Baker was often hailed as a maverick mayor because she wasn't afraid to speak her mind. In an era where women were often seen and not heard in City Hall Jane helped shatter the glass ceiling. A true pioneer for women's rights, Jane Baker has diligently served San Mateo for over 20 years. I know that I will not be the only one to miss her presence in our city government. I extend my very best wishes to her and hope she finds the future as rewarding as her years of public service.

JUDGE WILLIAM B. BRYANT
ANNEX TO THE E. BARRETT
PRETTYMAN FEDERAL BUILDING
AND UNITED STATES COURT-
HOUSE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this bill has an unusual origin. The Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, for himself and the members of the trial court, visited my office to request that the annex under construction for the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Building be named for senior U.S. District Court Judge William B. Bryant. Judge Bryant was unaware of the desires and actions of his colleagues, who unanimously agreed to request that the annex be named for the judge. It is rare that Congress names a courthouse or an annex for a judge who has served in that court and even more rare for a judge who is still sitting. Judge Bryant's colleagues, who know his work and his temperament best, have found a particularly appropriate way for our city and our country to celebrate the life and accomplishments of a great judge. I know Judge Bryant personally, I know his reputation in this city and on the law, I know that the request to name the annex for Judge Bryant reflects deep respect for his unusually distinguished life at the bar.

Judge Bryant began his career in private practice in the segregated Washington of the 1940s and 50s, when African-American lawyers were barred from membership in the District of Columbia Bar Association and from using the Bar law library. He established his legal reputation as a partner in the legendary African-American law firm of Houston, Bryant and Gardner and taught at Howard University Law School. His reputation as an extraordinary trial lawyer led to his appointment as the first African-American Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. He rose to become the first African-American to serve as Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court whose members now ask that the annex be named for Judge Bryant.

For his representation of criminal defendants in private practice, Judge Bryant was admired as one of the city's best and most respected lawyers. Among his many notable cases is the landmark *Mallory v. United States*, 354 U.S. 449 (1957), where the Supreme Court ruled that an arrested person must be promptly brought before a judicial officer.

Judge Bryant graduated from D.C. public schools, Howard University and Howard Law School, where he was first in his class. After graduation, Judge Bryant served as chief research assistant to Dr. Ralph Bunche when Bunche worked with Gunnar Myrdal, the famous Swedish economist, in his studies of American racial issues. Judge Bryant served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was honorably discharged as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1947.

Judge Bryant, who is 92, took senior status in 1982. He raised a family but, as Chief Judge Thomas Hogan wrote, "lost his beloved wife, Astaire and now lives alone—with this Court and the law as the center of his life."

I am grateful to our judges of the U.S. District Court here for the thoughtful proposal that

the annex to their court be named for Judge William B. Bryant. The residents of this city that Judge Bryant has served so well and the members of the bar here would be particularly pleased. I am delighted that Senator PATRICK LEAHY, ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has agreed to sponsor this bill in the Senate and I urge rapid approval to give honor to one of the great judges of our court.

TRIBUTE TO FORREST L. WOOD

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an Arkansan who loves this country as much as any person I've ever met. Forrest L. Wood is an entrepreneur who has proved Americans can get as far in life as their talents will take them.

It was his own fortitude that made Ranger Boat Company what it is today. The company was founded in 1968 and almost as quickly was destroyed by fire in 1971. With no insurance and armed only with 60 salvaged boat orders, the Wood family nailed a telephone to a scorched tree, cleaned off the blackened site and began rebuilding. Within 40 days the company was back in operation building boats.

Mr. Wood's simple business philosophy continues to drive the Ranger Boat Company today, "You must build a good product—price it fairly—let folks know you have it, and treat your customers right."

In addition to his many business achievements, all leading to revolutionizing the Bass Fishing Boat industry, Mr. Wood is an aggressive conservationist. His efforts to save the environment for sportsmen are as legendary as the equipment he provides them to enjoy those lands. As a result, in 1998, he was named to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Mr. Wood, his wife, Nina Kirkland, and their four daughters work together, simultaneously running a cattle ranch, construction company, and fishing guide operation. Unlike so many other business success stories, Mr. Wood's drive is based on a true desire to further his community and this country. On behalf of the Congress, I extend gratitude for all the Wood family does to make the world a better place.

RECOGNIZING AN EXTRAORDINARY CITIZEN, DR. NEARI FRANCOIS WARNER

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary citizen from the Fifth District of Louisiana, Dr. Neari Francois Warner, who will soon be retiring as acting President of Grambling State University. Dr. Warner's tireless service and genuine commitment to education, and to GSU, her alma mater, are remarkable and inspiring.

In January 2001, Dr. Warner became the first female to hold the title of acting president

of Grambling State University, a position she held with great honor and distinction for three years. In this short period of time, Dr. Warner successfully obtained 100-percent accreditation of Board of Regents-mandated programs, from 87 percent when she accepted the position. Under Dr. Warner's leadership, six endowed professorships and a mini college by the Division of Continuing Education were established. She also took the leading role attaining the unconditional reaffirmation of Accreditation by Southern Association Colleges and Schools at Grambling State University.

Dr. Warner has shown many noteworthy accomplishments throughout her tenure at GSU. The Fall 2003 enrollment showed the first increase in three years, and retention rates increased system-wide and campus-wide. Under her leadership, funding was raised and groundbreaking began on the new Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building and Multi-purpose Center. Additionally, Dr. Warner signed several strategic partnerships in distance learning and created student and faculty computer labs.

I thank Dr. Warner for her outstanding contributions to the university and to our community and am proud to recognize her notable accomplishments and manifold contributions. I extend congratulations to Dr. Warner and best wishes for her future endeavors as she retires from acting president of Grambling State University.

RECOGNIZING MAY AS HEALTHY VISION MONTH

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Healthy Vision Month and to highlight the important recommendations of the Vision Problems Action Plan, a National Public Health Strategy as a way to prevent blindness and vision loss.

As Proverbs 29:18 states, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

As the son of an optometrist and someone who has focused carefully on proper eye care, I know that good vision is critical to conducting activities of daily living. Vision not only affects our ability to learn and work, but it also affects our ability to adequately communicate with others. Therefore, it is essential that we in Congress have the foresight and insight to put forth measures that will improve our eyesight. And, by encouraging awareness, early diagnosis and prevention of eye disorders, I am confident that we can.

First, it's about having the foresight to recognize the problems associated with eye disorders. Unfortunately, far too many people are at risk for losing their eyesight. In fact, more than 80 million Americans have a potentially blinding eye disease, 3 million have low vision, 1.1 million are legally blind, and an additional 200,000 are more severely visually impaired. In my state of North Carolina, over 6 million people over the age of 18 have some case of vision impairment or age-related eye disease. However, despite the fact that half of all blindness and some eye disorders can be prevented, far too many people do not access the care they need. If nothing is done, the number

of blind and visually impaired individuals will double by 2030.

That is why it is so important that we have the insight to address these concerns now. And, what better way to do that than to highlight May as Healthy Vision Month—a national eye campaign to raise awareness about the various conditions that can affect eyesight and cause vision loss. A component of Healthy People 2010, this initiative will undoubtedly serve as a catalyst to highlight the horrors of serious vision problems.

Additionally, it is important that we highlight the recently released report, Vision Problems Action Plan, a National Public Health Strategy. Developed by a coalition of leading eye health experts, including Prevent Blindness American, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Lighthouse International, the American Optometric Association, and the American Academy of Ophthalmology, this report will provide our nation with a framework for preventing vision loss.

In addition to its focus on preventing vision loss, this groundbreaking study also recommends that in order to reduce the occurrence of vision loss and its accompanying disabilities, our nation must concentrate on access to care and treatment including rehabilitation and research. The report also states that we must ensure that vision problems at the National Eye Institute and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have the resources they need to improve communication and education campaigns and prevention research.

To better ensure access to and the availability of treatment and rehabilitation services for individuals with vision loss, the report recommends the importance of supporting programs at the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services and the Department of Health and Human Services that remove barriers and improve access to eye exams currently covered under Medicare, such as diabetic eye exams and glaucoma detection for high risk populations.

The report also recommends bolstering our research efforts to improve our understanding of the eye and visual system in health and disease, as well as developing the most appropriate and effective means of prevention, and access to treatment and rehabilitation.

Finally, it's about improving our eyesight. Working in conjunction with Healthy Vision Month, the Vision report will undeniably provide the roadmap that is necessary to raise awareness about vision loss, provide individuals with the tools they need to prevent it, and give hope to the millions already suffering from vision loss that better treatments can and will be found. I applaud those who played an integral role in developing this report, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to adopt its recommendations.

As a member of the Congressional Vision Caucus, I recognize the severity of eye disorders and the risks associated with not having regular check-ups. At the very least, proper eye care should be a basic component of adequate health care. Today, I stand committed to making it a national priority.

CINCO DE MAYO

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to reflect on this important day in history where a relatively small group of valiant men met and overcame tremendous odds to bring hope and unity to a struggling nation.

On Cinco de Mayo, 1862, General Zaragoza led an untrained and outmatched group of 2,000 Mexican fighters to defend the town of Puebla against the French. Under the command of Napoleon III, these 6,000 French soldiers were among the best-trained and best-equipped armies in the world. However, their sophisticated armor and weapons were no match for the iron will and solidarity of the Mexican people.

Their victory became a symbol of the pride and patriotism of the Mexican people, who defended themselves against a superior force. In the United States, Cinco de Mayo has become a celebration of the achievements and rich contributions Hispanics have made to our great nation, as well as a reminder of the values and freedoms all Americans hold so dear.

Hispanics in my Congressional District, and across the nation, have added much to the cultural fabric of our country. As the fastest-growing minority population in the nation, they are a driving force in the U.S.—economically, politically, and socially.

That is why I am proud to cosponsor House Concurrent Resolution 163, a resolution which recognizes the historical significance of Cinco de Mayo and calls upon the American people to observe the date with appropriate festivities. I know in West Texas, folks are participating in local festivals and gatherings to commemorate Mexico's victory at Puebla.

Hispanics share with other Americans the common goals of freedom, opportunity, and a chance to build a better life. I am happy to be here and remember this momentous day as we are reminded that all people—regardless of their race, color, creed, or gender—deserve the opportunity to experience liberty, freedom and the right to self-determination. America stands behind these ideals and appreciates the contributions of Hispanics everywhere.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE COUNCIL HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT— MAKE A HISTORICAL SITE MORE ACCESSIBLE TO TOURISTS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site Boundary Adjustment Act. This is the original home of the National Council of Negro Women founded by the great Mary McLeod Bethune. Ms. Bethune is also the legendary founder of the historically black college, Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute for Negro Girls, now Bethune-Cookman College, and she played a powerful role in the Roosevelt Administration.