

face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." Our prayer today is that America would be a nation that daily seeks You and that our ways would be pleasing in your sight and that You would indeed heal our land.

We ask all these things in the name of your son Jesus. Amen.

# HONORING PRESIDENT HARRY S TRUMAN

## HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, May 8, 2004, will mark the 120th anniversary of the birth of Harry S Truman in the town of Lamar, Missouri. He would go on to serve in the military in World War I and hold elected office as judge, United States senator, Vice President, and President of the United States. His is a story and a life that we can all learn from.

Harry Truman answered the call to duty in World War I. He helped organize the 2nd Regiment of Missouri Field Artillery. The regiment was called into Federal service, renamed the 129th Field Artillery, and sent to serve on the battlefields of France. Earning the confidence of his fellow soldiers, Truman rose quickly to the rank of captain and was given the command of the regiment's Battery D, a regiment that still exists today in the Missouri National Guard.

Truman entered elected office in 1922, successfully seeking the position of Jackson County Court judge. Following winning campaigns for presiding judge of the Jackson County Court in 1924 and 1930, Judge Truman sought and won the office of United States Senator for Missouri in 1934.

Senator Truman won reelection in 1940. In the Senate, he distinguished himself in the passage of the Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938, the Transportation Act of 1940, and as the chairman of the Senate Special Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program.

In July, 1944, the Democratic Party nominated Harry Truman to run for Vice President with President Franklin Roosevelt. With President Roosevelt's unexpected death, Harry Truman was sworn in as President only eighty-two days after taking the vice-presidential oath.

President Truman's first year saw some of the most significant events of the twentieth century. The death of Adolf Hitler and the end of the European front in World War II was soon followed by Truman's courageous decision to drop two atomic bombs on Japan, bringing a quick surrender and an end to the war. Truman's first year also saw the creation of the United Nations and the first steps into the century's next great struggle: the Cold War.

Truman tackled the Communist challenge with a singular determination. The Truman Doctrine enunciated the willingness of the United States to provide military assistance to countries determined to fight Communist forces. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization created a wall between the free nations of Western Europe and the communist forces of the Warsaw Pact. As President Truman

sought to guarantee Western Europe's physical security, through the Marshall Plan he worked to secure the economies of America's European allies. In the ultimate show of his resolve to fight Communism on every front, President Truman responded with military force to an invasion of South Korea.

Following his years as President, Harry Truman returned to Independence, Missouri. He took to calling himself "Mr. Citizen". His daily walks became a popular local story that soon spread nationwide. After all of the extraordinary events he witnessed and in which he participated, Harry Truman desired no more than to return to a simple life.

Mr. Speaker, President Truman left us with the phrase, "the buck stops here". It is a philosophy of life that all Americans could learn from and is one reason why he has the respect of both Republicans and Democrats today. Harry Truman was a valuable leader and a great president. I know my fellow Members will join me on this day in remembering his important contributions to the United States of America.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall votes 142, 143, 144, 145, and 146. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 142, 144, and 146. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 143 and 145.

## TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CORINTHIAN NUTTER

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 50th anniversary of the Brown vs. Topeka, Kansas, Board of Education decision, I rise today to note the recent passing of a civil rights pioneer who resided in the Third Congressional District of Kansas.

Corinthian Nutter, an African-American teacher whose rejection of degrading conditions in her Kansas school during the 1940s led to an important role in our nation's desegregation struggle, died on February 11th at her home in Shawnee, Kansas, at the age of 97.

Nutter was an important witness in a 1949 lawsuit that helped open the courthouse doors for Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, the landmark 1954 case in which the U.S. Supreme Court declared segregated schools unconstitutional. A Texas native, she was the only certified teacher at Walker Elementary School in Merriam, Kansas, in the late 1940s. Only black children attended Walker, where eight grades studied outdated textbooks in two classrooms in a run down school lacking indoor plumbing.

In 1947, administrators in school district No. 90, which included Merriam, built a new school with the proceeds of a \$90,000 bond election. Unlike Walker, the white students-

only South Park Elementary School had indoor plumbing, an auditorium and a cafeteria. It also had one teacher and one classroom for each of its eight grades, along with a music teacher and a kindergarten.

When the black parents of Walker Elementary School demanded that their children be admitted to the new school, the school district leadership refused, contending that enrollment was based on the attendance areas drawn for each school. A local NAACP chapter then aided the families in filing suit against the school system, while Nutter, who received only a small financial stipend from the NAACP for her work, taught 39 children whose parents withdrew them from Walker for the duration of the trial.

In 1949's Webb v. School District 90, the lawsuit filed on behalf of the 39 families, Nutter was the key witness, detailing the many inadequacies of the separate and unequal facility. "I just told them the truth," Nutter said in an interview with the Kansas City Star in 2002. "The school was dilapidated. We had no modern conveniences, had to go outside to go to the toilet. . . . Schools shouldn't be for color. They should be for the children." The NAACP's victory in this case paved the way for the Brown decision five years later.

After the Webb decision, Nutter moved to nearby Olathe, Kansas, where she taught and later became principal at Westview Elementary School, despite being the only African-American on the school's staff for decades. After retiring from education in 1972, Nutter received the YWCA of Greater Kansas City's first Racial Justice Award for 2003, was named to the Rosa Parks Wall of Tolerance, and was inducted into the Mid-America Education Hall of Fame at Kansas City, Kansas, Community College.

Mr. Speaker, I am placing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD two recent articles concerning Corinthian Nutter: an article from the Kansas City Call regarding her induction into the Mid-America Education Hall of Fame and her obituary from the Kansas City Star. I am pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to this important, yet unheralded, resident of the Third Congressional District of Kansas.

[From The Call, Oct. 17, 2003]

CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER CORINTHIAN NUTTER  
INTO EDUCATION HALL OF FAME  
(By Alan Hoskins)

Corinthian Nutter knew at an early age she didn't want to follow in her mother's footsteps scrubbing floors.

But no one could ever foresee the profound effect she would have on the world of education and her deserved induction into the Mid-America Education Hall of Fame at Kansas City, KS, Community College November 1.

The third of five children born 96 years ago in Forney, Texas, Mrs. Nutter realized early that she wasn't going to get much of an education—particularly when she was held out of school when the cotton got ripe. Her mother, who scrubbed floors and took in white people's washing, never saw the inside of a school. Her father was the uneducated son of a slave who lived to 102.

"I could see I wasn't going to get much schooling," says Mrs. Nutter, who married at age 14 because "nice girls didn't run away from home." When the marriage fell apart two years later, she fled Texas but not before taking a course in beauty school.

"I wanted to get enough education to get me a good enough job to get others to do the

things I didn't want to do," says Mrs. Nutter. Moving to Kansas City at age 16, she got a job in a beauty shop and set out in pursuit of that education although it wasn't easy.

Segregation still prevailed so to earn a high school diploma, Mrs. Nutter would get on a bus in Kansas City, MO, and ride to the end of the bus line on Quindaro in Kansas City, KS, and then walk another mile or two to what then was Western university. She graduated from high school in 1936 and two years later finished Western's junior college program with a Kansas teaching certificate.

She began her career teaching in an all-black school with just one other teacher in Shawnee in 1938. After five years, she moved over to Walker Elementary, a run down two-room school for black children in Merriam.

In 1948, South Park Elementary school was opened at a cost of \$90,000. With an auditorium, cafeteria, separate teachers and classrooms for each grade and indoor plumbing, it looked like a castle compared to Walker, which was without indoor plumbing. South Park's only shortcoming: it was open only to white students.

When one of the Walker parents, a domestic worker in the home of a woman named Esther Brown, told Mrs. Brown of the inequalities of the schools, Mrs. Brown became enraged and suggested they sue—which was just what happened after the formation of a local NAACP chapter that helped organize the parents and file suit against the school district.

To give even further substance to the suit, 39 of the 41 Walker families took their children out of school and Mrs. Nutter went with them. While the suit crept slowly through the judicial system, Mrs. Nutter continued to teach the children in private homes. The new NAACP branch paid her a small monthly stipend and parents sold cookies on weekends to help but Mrs. Nutter said she would have done it for nothing. "It was the right thing to do," she said.

When the suit finally came to trial, she was a key witness in the watershed desegregation case, *Webb vs. School District 90*. "I told them the truth," she said. "The school was dilapidated. We had no modern conveniences, had to go outside to go to the toilet. If they were going to build a new school and the parents were paying taxes like everybody else, why couldn't their children go? Schools shouldn't be for a color. They should be for children."

Triumph was finally achieved in 1949 and would pave the way for other legal challenges including the historical *Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education* in 1954. Now the home of the Philadelphia Baptist church, Walker Elementary still bears a historical marker that serves as the lone testament to its place in history.

After a year and a half earning a Bachelor of Science degree at Emporia State, Mrs. Nutter would return to the classroom but this time as principal in an all-black school in Olathe. When Olathe integrated a few years later, she became principal at the district's newest school, Westview, although for several years she was the only person—staff or children—of color. Returning to the classroom to teach sixth grade and then fifth grade, she retired from teaching at age 65 in 1972.

As the only black in the school, she received some resistance from parents but her teaching ethics earned her the love of her students and some of the same parents who originally questioned her later tried to get their children into her class.

The list of her former students is as impressive as it is long and often as not, the first person those former students look up when they get back in town is Mrs. Nutter. "Many of them are grandparents but I still call them kids," she says.

During her 25 years of teaching, she would continue her education by taking summer classes at Emporia State and earned a Masters degree in 1956. "I was always working towards something all those years," says Mrs. Nutter, who learned that she was only three hours and a dissertation from a Ph.D. during Emporia State ceremonies honoring her last year.

Despite her advancing age, she's still active in several organizations including the Alpha Kappa Sorority, the Mu chapter of Beta Omega, NAACP and her lifelong church, Paseo Baptist. A proud member of the American Association of University Women, she continues to drive and refuses to walk with a cane because she said she's "too modest" to use one.

She's received countless awards including the YWCA of Greater Kansas City's first Racial Justice Award for 2003 and is featured prominently in an exhibit at the Johnson County Museum. A widow, her husband of 57 years passed away in 1998.

No story on Corinthian Nutter would be complete without that of her arrival in Kansas City at age 16. "I was so ignorant when I got here," she recalls. "I didn't know anyone so I called the YWCA at 19th and Paseo. They said they didn't keep girls but if I got a taxi and came over, they'd try to find me a room."

During the next several years until she could get her own apartment, she lived in the home of Willie Mack Washington, his wife and mother. Washington was a drummer in Bennie Moten's famous orchestra and Mrs. Nutter soon became fast friends with Moten and a young player in his orchestra named William (Count) Basie.

"They took me into their family and I got to go to all the dances because I was with them," remembers Mrs. Nutter. "Count Basie was the piano player and we had a ball. Later on, my house became a party house and everyone would come to my house. Everyone had a piano then, it was the first thing I bought. I wished I had a nickel for every time Count Basie played my piano."

Looking back on her long career, Mrs. Nutter doesn't believe she ever did anything special. "I appreciate people thinking about me. I always felt you should choose something that's best for you and do it right."

As for scrubbing those floors like her mother? Never happened. "I've never scrubbed a floor in my life," she proclaims proudly.

Open to the public, tickets for the gala dinner and induction festivities Nov. 1 are \$55 and can be reserved by calling the Endowment Association at KCKCC (913-288-7632).

[From the Kansas City Star, Feb. 12, 2004]

CIVIL-RIGHTS LEADER NUTTER DIES AT 97

(By Finn Bullers)

Corinthian Nutter, a civil-rights pioneer who helped to desegregate Merriam schools years before the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* of Topeka ruling, died Wednesday night.

She was 97.

Humble and self-effacing, she was known to many friends, admirers and former pupils as simply "Miss Nutter."

She was the only certified teacher at Walker Elementary, Merriam's school for black children in the late 1940s. The building was old and lacked indoor plumbing, and the students made do with books and supplies discarded by other schools.

Things reached a tipping point when School District 90 constructed a new building, South Park Elementary, for white pupils nearby. Stung by the inequity between Walker and South Park, the African-American community in Merriam rallied together,

forming an NAACP chapter and suing School District 90 in 1948.

When 39 of 41 families with pupils at Walker pulled their children out of school, Nutter joined the walkout.

Half a century later, one of the Walker pupils, Harvey Webb, recalled in a magazine interview, "Had not someone like her said, 'I'm with you, let's do this, I'll hang in there with you and teach the kids to the best of my ability,' this might not have happened then."

Nutter became a key witness in the case of *Webb v. School District 90*, and she said in the same magazine article: "I just told them the truth. The school was dilapidated, we had no modern conveniences, had to go outside to go to the toilet. And if they were going to build a new school and the parents were paying taxes like everybody else, why couldn't their children go? Schools shouldn't be for a color. They should stand at a be for children."

With another teacher, Hazel McCray Weddington, Nutter continued to teach her pupils until the Kansas Supreme Court ruled in their favor in 1949.

More court challenges to desegregation followed the Walker victory, culminating in the landmark *Brown* decision in 1954.

Originally from Texas, Nutter was married at 14 and trained at a beauty shop. But after the marriage failed and a friend told her of the good times in Kansas City, she headed north, arriving in the 1920s at age 16.

She had little education, but she had intelligence and dreams of a life beyond domestic drudgery and manual labor.

Knowing nobody in town, Nutter turned to the YWCA, which placed her in an apartment with the family of Willie Mack Washington, the drummer in Bennie Moten's famous orchestra.

She would become fast friends with Moten and a young Count Basie, who played piano in Moten's band.

"I got a chance to go to all the dances and hear all the orchestras that came from out of town," she recalled. "I got in free because I was with them. And after the dance, those musicians wouldn't want to go right home and go to bed. So our house was the party house."

Despite the good times, she held fast to her dream of earning an education.

Even though she was older than most of the students, she eventually graduated from high school in 1936. Two years later, she completed a junior college program at Western University in Kansas City, Kan., earning her teaching certificate.

She began teaching, but also spent her summers attending Emporia State Teachers College in search of a bachelor's degree. It took her more than 10 years, but she received her bachelor's degree in education in 1950, not long after the South Park decision.

Eventually, she would earn a master's degree and do most of the work toward a doctorate. She became a life member of the American Association of University Women.

In 1941, she married Austin K. Nutter, and the marriage lasted until his death in 1998.

After the South Park case, Nutter spent many years as a sixth-grade teacher at Westview Elementary School in Olathe. She also served for a time as principal of the school.

She retired in 1972.

Looking back over her life and the role she played in the battle to desegregate schools, Nutter was humble about her role.

"I was just the teacher who could tell the tale," she said. "I just don't think I've done anything outstanding."

# RECOGNIZING BENEFITS AND IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL-BASED MUSIC EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 380, to acknowledge the great benefits and the importance of music in our Nation's schools.

We know music education helps young minds to develop creativity and expression of emotions. Studies show that early music training can enhance a child's ability to reason and think critically, that children exposed to music at a young age learn better in other subjects, and that children trained in music score significantly higher on reading tests than those who were not. Unfortunately, these programs are being cut from more and more schools with the majority of students attending public schools in inner city neighborhoods having virtually no access to music education, which places them at a disadvantage compared to their peers in other communities.

Although studies show the great outcomes of having music education, local budget cuts are depriving approximately 30,000,000 students of an education that includes music. It is not only at the local level that is forcing schools to abandon music education but the lack of federal funding as well. As our schools struggle to meet No Child Left Behind guidelines without full funding, provide education to all students without full funding for IDEA, schools are faced with making the decisions to cut music, art, after school activities or being labeled a failing school. We need to not only recognize the benefits and importance of music education, but embrace it, realize the need for it and other art education programs in all of our nation's schools and most importantly save music education from becoming extinct. Without music education so many of our great musicians that we admire today—would be doing something else. But the school music program was there for them and we need to have it there for the next generation of musicians.

COMMENDING DAVID LEESON AND CHERYL DIAZ MEYER OF DALLAS MORNING NEWS STAFF, WINNERS OF 2004 PULITZER PRIZE FOR BREAKING NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate two great journalists, David Leeson and Cheryl Diaz Meyer of Dallas Morning News, who were recently awarded the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Photography.

We Texans saw blood spill, tears shed and conflict unfold in the trenches of Iraq through their camera lens.

Mr. Leeson, who was with the U.S. Army's Third Infantry Division for six weeks, captured

an image of an Iraqi rolling out of a vehicle engulfed in flames, only to be shot by an American soldier; Ms. Meyer photographed a gripping scene of American troops risking their lives to save a wounded civilian.

The Pulitzer is Leeson's first. He had been a Pulitzer finalist three other times. The Iraq war is the 11th major conflict Leeson has covered. He has also produced work on the apartheid in South Africa, a portion of the Gulf War and flooding in Southeast Texas.

It was the first Pulitzer for Ms. Meyer also, a News photographer since 2000. In late 2001, she traveled to Afghanistan to photograph the war on terrorism and its effects to topple the oppressive Taliban regime. She has received numerous awards for her body of work there including the John Faber Award from the Overseas Press Club. In April 2002, Ms. Meyer traveled to the Philippines and Indonesia where she photographed Muslim and Christian extremism and the violence caused by religious hatred.

Mr. Speaker, I also congratulate the Dallas Morning News' entire staff for their seventh Pulitzer.

Mr. Leeson and Ms. Meyer, I commend you for this great accomplishment. Keep capturing those shots because they are worth a thousand words.

IN MEMORY OF CAPTAIN ARTHUR L. FELDER

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Arthur L. Felder of Lewisville, AR, who died on April 24, 2004, fighting for his country in Taji, Iraq. Arthur "Bo" Felder, just 36 years old, was one of four soldiers killed during an attack on the base camp of the Arkansas's 39th Infantry Brigade. I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

Bo spent nearly two decades serving the Army and National Guard. During that time, he served in peacekeeping missions in Bosnia and Honduras. While not serving our country, children were Bo's passion, and he spent much of life involved with youth. He worked at Step One Alternative school in Little Rock, a school for kids with legal troubles, and served as a youth director at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church in North Little Rock.

I am deeply saddened by the tragic loss of soldiers from Arkansas's 39th Brigade, who died while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. These brave Americans lost their lives while making the ultimate sacrifice to serve our country, and I will be forever grateful to them for their courageous spirit.

Bo gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a hero, a son, and a father. My deepest condolences go out to his son Jaelun, eight years old, his daughter Amari, four years old, his mother, Dr. Cheryl Stuart, his brothers, Robert Stuart and Little Felder, and two sisters, Gwendolyn Gingery and Kelana Greer. I know Bo was proud of his service to the U.S. Army and to our country. He will be missed by his family, fellow soldiers, and all those who knew him and counted him as a friend. I will continue to keep Bo and his family in my thoughts and prayers.

RECOGNITION OF MR. ANDREW JACKSON HIGGINS

**HON. TOM OSBORNE**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Andrew Jackson Higgins whom President Eisenhower once said is "The man who won the war for us", referring to his development and production of Patrol Torpedo (PT) boats that landed on the shores of many beaches during World War II.

Andrew Jackson Higgins was born on August 28, 1886, in Columbus, Nebraska, to John Gonigle and Anna Long (O'Conner) Higgins. His innovative mind showed itself at an early age, and by 12 years old, he was motivated to build his first craft in the basement of his home. The shallow water boats that floated along the Loup and Platte Rivers during his childhood inspired him.

His passion for boats did not stop in his childhood; Mr. Higgins organized Higgins Industries, Inc. in 1930, to build boats for his lumber business. He began designing boats because of navigation problems he encountered involving the moving of logs in shallow waterways. The structure of these shallow boats eventually led to the development of the PT boats and their capability to travel in shallow water.

He also created PT boats, which were also known as Higgins Boats. Higgins Boats, constructed of wood and steel, transported fully-armed troops, light tanks, field artillery, and other mechanized equipment essential to Allied versatile operations including the decisive D-Day attack at Normandy, France. He continued to design boats and eventually engineered over 20,000, including rocket-firing landing craft support boats, high-speed boats and various types of military landing craft.

Following the D-Day attack, thousands of lesser-known assaults employed Higgins Boats, which included landing on the beaches of Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, Tarawa, Okinawa, Leyte, and Guam. Mr. Higgins not only specialized in landing craft such as PT boats, but also constructed freight supply ships and airborne lifeboats that could be dropped from B-17 Bombers.

The production of Higgins Boats enabled Mr. Higgins to establish four major assembly plants in New Orleans for mass construction of landing craft and other vessels vital to the Allied forces' conduct of World War II. He also trained over 30,000 Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard personnel on the safe operation of landing craft at the Higgins' Boat Operators School.

Mr. Higgins had another great accomplishment during World War II that established a progressive social policy at Higgins Industries Inc. He employed a fully integrated assembly workforce of black and white men and women. His policy was equal pay for equal work, decades before integration and racial and gender equality became the law of our land.

In 1964, the former President Dwight D. Eisenhower said of Andrew Jackson Higgins, "He is the man who won the war for us. If Mr. Higgins had not developed and produced those landing craft, we never could have gone in over an open beach. We would have had to change the entire strategy of the war."