

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
MAYOR PAUL L. RUGGLES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mayor Paul L. Ruggles—devoted husband, father, grandfather, community leader, entrepreneur, veteran of the United States Air Force Honor Guard and admired friend and mentor.

A life-long resident of the Village Newburgh Heights, Mayor Ruggles served as “honorary Mayor” for years before being elected as mayor in 2003. At his cozy restaurant/bar, the Ruggles Inn, Village residents sought out his opinion and advice on issues ranging from speeding cars to the future of economic growth and development for the Village. The friendly, welcoming atmosphere of the Ruggles Inn mirrored the character of its owner. Regular patrons enjoyed Mayor Ruggles’ homemade pork chops, city chicken and good conversation. His easy-going demeanor, integrity and kind nature easily drew others to him. In just a short time in office, Mayor Ruggles forged strong bonds with local, county and State leaders, and began the process of renewed economic development—all focused on improving the lives of the people of the Village.

Mayor Ruggles was appointed to serve on council in 2000, and was elected to serve as Mayor in 2003. He was also an active member of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party. Humble yet confident, Mayor Ruggles restored a certain grace and dignity to the Village Hall. His efforts on behalf of the Village ran the spectrum from major economic growth initiatives focused on bringing new industry into the Village, to hiring a new police chief, to restoring Village roads, to settling disputes between neighbors. Regardless of the issue, every concern that the Villagers brought before him consistently had his full attention, concern and commitment.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and remembrance of Mayor Paul L. Ruggles. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife Judy; to his daughter, Laura; to his son, Paul; to his son-in-law, Brad; to his daughter-in-law, Jennifer; to his granddaughters, Alyssa and Samantha; and to his extended family members and many friends. Mayor Ruggles’ integrity, generous heart and love for his family, friends and for the people of Newburgh Heights will be forever remembered along East 49th Street, Harvard Avenue, Washington Park Boulevard and miles beyond.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
EFFORTS OF ROSA PARKS

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize a woman who

changed a nation and sent a clear message to America that her people would not be moved. Rosa Parks, who is better known as the “mother of the civil rights movement” changed the course of American history by refusing in 1955 to give up her seat on a bus for a white passenger.

Born Rosa Louise McCauley on February 4, 1913, she married Raymond Parks in 1932. By the early 1950s, Rosa Parks and her now deceased husband were long-time activists in Montgomery, Alabama’s chapter of the NAACP.

It is important to know the history of Parks, who worked as a seamstress at a local department store, and on her way home from work one day, she engaged in a simple gesture of defiance that galvanized the civil rights movement. On December 1, 1955, Parks challenged the South’s Jim Crow laws—and Montgomery’s segregated bus seating policy—by refusing to give her seat up. The bus driver had her arrested. She was tried and convicted of violating a local ordinance.

Her act sparked a citywide boycott of the bus system by African Americans that lasted more than a year. The boycott raised an unknown clergyman named Martin Luther King, Jr., to national prominence and resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation on city buses.

Over the next four decades, she made her fellow Americans aware of the history of the civil rights struggle.

This pioneer in the struggle for racial equality was planted firm in her faith of it one day being a place where all Americans could one day sit on the bus and have the same right as everyone else to enjoy their ride after a long day’s work.

Her example of what she stood for remains an inspiration to not only me but to freedom-loving people everywhere.

Parks was undoubtedly one of the most important citizens of the 20th century. Every American owes their gratitude of freedom to her. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you rise with me today to honor and pay respects to an African American woman who broke down boundaries and knocked down doors.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT
WORK AND MISSION OF THE
EDSCHOLAR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important work and mission of the Edscholar scholarship program.

Sponsored jointly by Edamerica and Edfinancial Services, the Edscholar program underwrites tuition expenses for qualified incoming freshmen at eligible colleges and universities throughout Tennessee. In a very tangible way, this program acknowledges and rewards outstanding students seeking to improve their lives through higher education.

Today, with the profound need for a more advanced and better trained workforce, col-

lege education has never been more valuable. Despite this reality, obtaining a higher education has become increasingly difficult given escalating tuition costs across the nation. Last year alone, tuition at 4-year public colleges and universities rose 7.1 percent, more than double the rate of inflation.

That is why the Edscholar scholarship program is so important; it helps students who otherwise might not have had access to higher education. By funding scholarships for deserving undergraduates, Edscholar helps these accomplished students develop their individual talents and expand their minds.

Just as important, focusing on the individual helps Edscholar achieve its primary goal of improving the quality of life throughout all of Tennessee. By providing these exceptional students with the means to expand their personal and professional leadership skills, Edscholar is helping to educate and train our next generation of leaders.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the purpose and spirit of the Edscholar scholarship program.

CONGRATULATING MIKKI CANTON
FOR RECEIVING THE JUDGE
HAND AWARD

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like this opportunity to congratulate my constituent and a long time friend Mikki Canton as the recipient of the 2005 American Jewish Committee’s Judge Learned Hand Award. This distinguished award was established in loving memory of Judge Learned Hand, Senior Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 1924 to 1951. It is presented to outstanding leaders in the legal community who exemplify the high principles for which Judge Hand was renowned.

Mikki Canton is the first Cuban-American woman to receive this recognition, and she also has the distinct privilege of being one of the few Hispanic female managing partners at a major Florida law firm. She oversees the daily operations of the Miami office of Gunster Yoakley, and is the chair of the firm’s Corporate Strategic Counseling and Public Affairs departments. Her dedicated service to the citizens of South Florida should serve as a model for all of us. Her devotion and desire to reach out to people in need is not only commendable, but inspirational as well. I would like to thank her for the perseverance she has displayed throughout her legal profession.

Mikki Canton is a member of the women’s Leadership Board of Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, a group that examines public policies relating to women. She is the Florida chair of the Fellows of the American Bar Association and sits on the board of several large local charities. I am proud to recognize Mikki Canton for her tireless dedication to the well being of our South Florida residents. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mikki on her wonderful service to our community.