

HONORING DAVID KRAMER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and achievements of David P. Kramer of Oakland, California.

Serving the working people of California for 34 years, David Kramer has been known throughout his career for his dedication to civil rights as well as his unwavering commitment to the labor movement. Today our community comes together to celebrate his career and achievements on the occasion of his retirement from SEIU Local 535 in Berkeley, California.

David Kramer was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1941. After graduating from Scott High School in North Braddock, Pennsylvania in 1959, he attended the Carnegie Institute of Technology, now known as Carnegie Mellon University. Following his studies there, he was hired by the Ford Motor Company, where he worked toward honing the skills he had acquired in school. However, in 1964 he quit his job and immersed himself in the burgeoning civil rights movement that was gaining strength throughout the United States.

As part of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), David was involved in countless picketing and protest efforts that were aimed at achieving integration and equal employment. He was part of a crew of 60 involved in testing and enforcing the Civil Rights Act of 1964 through the integration of public facilities and voter registration procedures in Monroe, West Monroe, New Rhodes, and Baton Rouge, among other places in Louisiana. When he returned to Detroit in the spring of 1965, he became the first community organizer to work for the West Central Organization, which rallied members of the African American and rural Appalachian communities, together with neighborhood churches, union halls, block clubs, and social organizations. This coalition organized around issues such as school and police community relations, tenant rights, and urban renewal.

In 1967, David enrolled in the University of Michigan Graduate School of Social Work, where he graduated with a Masters of Social Work degree in Community Organizing in 1968. As part of his studies, he served in the Wayne County Office of Equal Opportunity and Detroit People Against Racism (PAR), an organization of which he eventually served as the executive director. During this time he also became deeply involved in the anti-Vietnam War movement, participating in demonstrations across the country, including at the Democratic Convention in 1968.

In 1969 he worked as a "lumper" on the night shift in a warehouse in Detroit, where he began to get more involved with the labor movement as a member of Teamsters Local 299 and from which he still holds his honorable withdraw card. In 1971, David was appointed as a field representative of SEIU Local 535. His was first assigned to represent the Santa Clara County social workers and to organize county eligibility workers for Local 535, and was instrumental in securing representation rights for the workers. From 1971 to 1976, David worked with the Santa Clara County, Sacramento County, Stanislaus County,

Berkeley, St. Vincent's School, Irwin Memorial Blood Bank, Sunny Hills, and Alameda County chapters of SEIU, and was elected to the Executive Committee of the Central Labor Council of Alameda in 1975. In the following year, David underwent an intense and unforgettable experience in which a 49-day strike involving 5,000 members took place, the longest county-wide strike in California history. In October 1976, he became the Executive Director of SEIU Local 616, where he served until May of 1980. He ultimately resigned from 616 in order to pursue a career as a self-employed carpenter.

In 1982, David returned to the labor movement and joined the Alameda County Tri-Local agency shop campaign to serve as an organizer, and in 1983 he once again became an organizer for Local 535, albeit for only a short period of time. During this time, he aided in the largest union security election in the history of the labor movement to date, involving more than 80,000 State workers and four bargaining units, of which 3 were won.

When David permanently returned to Local 535, he succeeded in organizing the North Bay Regional Center. He also made negotiations for the first contract for the Clinica de la Raza, and served the San Francisco chapter of Local 535 for 2 years. In November 1988, he became the northern regional director of Local 535, where he supervised 14 field staffs in 535's Sacramento, Oakland, Santa Clara, and Fresno offices. David Kramer was eventually named Executive Director of Local 535 in the fall of 1996. Less than a year later in June of 1997, he was elected to serve on the SEIU's International Executive Board, a position he will continue to hold until February 2006.

David also serves our community on the Oakland Board of Port Commissioners, a post to which he was nominated by former Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris. He has been reappointed three times since, making his record fourth appointment a first in the history of the Port of Oakland, and making David the Port's longest serving commissioner.

Today David Kramer's family, friends and colleagues come together to celebrate the impact of his life and work not only on the innumerable lives, particularly the lives of working people, he has touched here in Alameda County, but the lasting effects his dedication and leadership have had and will continue to have on our community. On behalf of the 9th Congressional District of California, I salute and thank David Kramer for his invaluable contributions to the people of Alameda County, the 9th Congressional District, the State of California and our entire country.

HONORING EBBY HALLIDAY ACERS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional leadership and outstanding achievements of Ebby Halliday Acers, founder of Ebby Halliday Realtors. I would like to congratulate her on 60 years of extraordinary service to the North Texas community and to the real estate industry at large.

Ebby Halliday Realtors was recently honored as one of the "50 Best Companies to

Work For" in Texas, as named by Texas Monthly, the Texas Association of Business and the Society for Human Resource Management.

Founded in 1945, Ebby Halliday Realtors began as a single office operation that now consists of 28 branches and serves 12,000 square miles in North Texas. Today, Ebby Halliday Realtors is the 20th largest independent residential real estate company in the nation and the single largest in Texas. In 2004, their 1,500 sales associates and staff assisted more than 18,000 families in finding new homes.

Ebby Halliday has also remained an active and important member of our community. Her civic and professional endeavors have earned her the highest recognition and awards. I am proud to honor Ebby Halliday and her valuable contributions to the real estate industry and her community in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR MICHAEL MILLER

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael Miller of West Covina, California. Mr. Miller was first elected to serve the citizens of West Covina in March of 2001 and is completing his service as Mayor to the city this December.

Mr. Miller has a long history of service to his community. Mr. Miller worked for the City of Garden Grove for 8 years and continued his service for the City of West Covina serving in the planning and development of the community. His distinguished service of 24 years in the City of West Covina's Office of Planning, Public and Environmental Services was followed by an elected position to West Covina City Council for 4 years marked by merit. Mr. Miller also owns a small consulting business which addresses environmental and municipal issues affecting cities, individuals and small businesses.

Mr. Miller's service extends beyond his duties as an elected official and city staff member. He serves as Director and Board Member of the California Waste Association; Director and Board Member of Southern California Waste Management Forum; and member of the Southern California Council for Environment and Economic Development. Mr. Miller is a member of the Lyons Club, serving as President from 1977-1978; member of the Citrus Valley Health Foundation 2100 Club, serving as President from 1999-2000; Director and Board Member of the West Covina Historical Society; House Supervisor for the Heritage House Restoration; Committee Member of the West Covina Chamber of Commerce Economic Development and Government Affairs; Committee Member of the YWCA Women of Achievement; and Committee Member of the West Covina Rose Parade Float.

For his many contributions, Mr. Miller has been named West Covina Citizen of the Year (1998), West Covina Volunteer of the Year, Recreational Services (1999) and Covina-West Covina Coordinating Council Volunteer of the Year (1999).

In addition to his service to the community, Mr. Miller has been a devoted and loving husband to his wife Rosella of 37 years and father to his two children Melissa and Kevin. It is with pleasure that I recognize Mr. Michael Miller for his significant contributions and noteworthy dedication and service to his community.

TRIBUTE TO GAIL JOYCE BEAGLE

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues; it is a special honor that I pay tribute today to a great American and civil rights activist since the 1950's, Gail Joyce Beagle, who celebrates her 70th birthday on November 25th.

Gail, who I have known and counted as a friend for at least 46 years, had a long and distinguished career in appointive public service, but since her retirement, continues to work for the public good in a variety of capacities.

Born in Beaumont, Texas on November 25, 1935, she was reared at Nederland on land her maternal grandfather, Martin Block, had earlier farmed for many years. Upon graduation from high school, she entered Texas Woman's University at Denton where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1958. At TWU she held various positions, including Day Editor, on the campus newspaper, the Daily Lass-O. Her academic standing in journalism resulted in her selection for membership in the honorary fraternity for women in journalism called Theta Sigma Phi (now called Association of Women in Communications). (At the turn of the last century women were not allowed in the then all-male journalism societies so it was necessary to establish a separate journalism fraternity for women—with its beginnings at the University of Washington at Seattle.)

When Gail's journalism professors in 1957 told her she could not editorialize in the campus newspaper as to why TWU accepted young women as students from all over the world, but no black women were at the State institution of higher learning, she, in turn, posed this question in an editorial in the Methodist Student Movement's newsletter as to why there were no black women at TWU. During that time she was president of the Methodist college group for both TWU and North Texas State University.

As the result of this effort, the TWU president and a few of his advisory committee faculty members were not happy with her, but she weathered the storm, and continued her integration effort. While working in 1959 for my father, the late Henry B. Gonzalez, then a State senator, who represented San Antonio at Austin, she got a nice telegram from a TWU history professor, congratulating her and telling her that TWU was to accept its first black female students in the fall of 1959.

During the summer of 1957, she was a Texas Daily Newspaper Association intern on the San Antonio Light newspaper, but after college graduation, she did not immediately return to San Antonio, but landed her first job in Austin in late summer 1958. Earlier that

summer, working out of her parents' home, she had a brief stint as Jefferson County volunteer campaign manager for my father's unsuccessful bid to be Governor of Texas.

In the Fall of 1961, she returned to San Antonio as a permanent resident and campaigned in my father's bid to be the first Hispanic from Texas to be elected to Congress where he served in the House for 37 years, and for the most part of those years, Gail served him and the 20th Congressional District of Texas as the Chief of Staff and Press Secretary in Washington, returning home to San Antonio from time to time. Among many achievements for the people, as well as for my father, she was instrumental in his decision to be the first Member of Congress, south of the Mason Dixon line, to hire the first black congressional staff member. The staff member was the late Cora Faye Clayton, a graduate of Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, who served for 30 years, first in Washington and then in San Antonio, with honor and distinction. Additional milestones for Gail included completion of a Master of Arts degree in Legislative Affairs (MALA) from George Washington University.

Earlier in Austin, Gail had served on the State Executive Committee of the Young Democrats of Texas and was involved in many civil rights demonstrations in 1959–61, including several at a University of Texas campus area movie house which would not sell tickets to blacks, even if they were students at UT. Further, the restaurants there would not serve blacks unless they had a UT student ID card. Gail says a State senator one time got out of his car, walked down the line observing the young demonstrators at the movie house, and then harassed them, as he walked away denouncing them, under his breath, as a "bunch of communists." When Gail came to Washington with my father in late 1961, she, as well as other women, was denied membership in several organizations, including the Texas Breakfast Club, a Washington discussion group. It took years for those barriers for women to come down!

Currently, Gail is president of the Henry B. Gonzalez Foundation for Inspiring Public Service which seeks to establish, at the downtown campus of the University of Texas at San Antonio, a center, named for my father, for Public Service, Integrity and Courage. She is also the Democratic chair for my precinct, and is active in many social, religious, and public service endeavors. For a few months she was the interim director of the Guadalupe Community Center that serves a poor neighborhood in my district.

Gail, your record of service and achievements could fill a book. I congratulate you and wish you a happy and healthy 70th birthday, with many more to come!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, November 17, 2005, I was unavoidably detained due to a death in my family and thus missed rollcall vote No. 600. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE CEDAR CREEK ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the Cedar Creek Rotary Club for their 19 years of service to Henderson County. Throughout its history, the Cedar Creek Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The Cedar Creek Rotary Club has raised money to provide scholarships for local youth, exchange programs, and faculty and student luncheons. Their support in the community can be seen through their involvement in local organizations. They helped start the Genesis Center for abused women. In addition, they strongly support organizations, such as the Rainbow Room, Toys for Tots, local school programs and the YMCA.

Through these initiatives, the Cedar Creek Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the Congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATOR TIMOTHY WROBLEWSKI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a friend and fellow public official whose service has been exemplary and whose commitment to the residents and taxpayers of the towns of West Seneca and Cheektowaga, and the residents of the county of Erie at large, has been commendable. Today, I wish to honor the service of retiring Erie County Legislator Timothy Wroblewski.

Tim Wroblewski began his career as an elected official as a member of the West Seneca Town Board. During that service, Tim worked with local officials to make West Seneca's government among the most efficient and effective local governments in New York State—forging relationships across party lines and working cooperatively with civic, government and community leaders to make West Seneca government the envy of local governments statewide.

With an open-seat election for the ninth legislative district seat available in 2004, Tim