

girls under her mentorship. Her work in dance benefits her whole community, and I am proud to have had the chance to recognize her here today.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIE GARY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Willie E. Gary for his work as an outstanding trial attorney, philanthropist and community activist.

Attorney Willie E. Gary is living the American Dream. Once a migrant worker, now a multi-millionaire attorney, Gary earned his reputation as "The Giant Killer" by representing little-known clients against major corporations. Gary's amazing success has earned him national recognition as a leading trial attorney. Along the way he has handled some of the largest jury awards and settlements in U.S. history, winning more than 150 cases valued in excess of \$1 million each.

His remarkable legal career and tireless work on behalf of his clients has been well documented on "60 Minutes", "CBS Evening News", "The Oprah Winfrey Show", ABC's "World News Tonight" with Peter Jennings, and CBS's "The Early Show" with Bryant Gumbel. In May 2002, he was featured in Ebony magazine as one of the "100 Most Influential Black Americans". Forbes Magazine has listed him as one of the "Top 50 attorneys in the U.S."

Gary has also been featured in such national media publications as The New York Times, The Chicago Tribune, The Boston Globe, Black Enterprise, The New Yorker and The National Law Journal.

But Willie Gary's triumphant rise to the top is no overnight success story.

His vast appeal stems from his desire to be the best and a passionate work ethic he learned through his humble beginnings. One of 11 children of Turner and Mary Gary, Willie Gary was born July 12, 1947 in Eastman, Georgia, and raised in migrant farming communities in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas.

His unwavering desire to earn a college education ultimately led him to Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina where the all-state high school football player would earn an athletic scholarship after being told there was no room for him on the team. Gary went on to become the co-captain of Shaw's football team during the 1969, 1970 and 1971 seasons.

Earning a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Gary went on to North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina where he earned a Juris Doctorate in 1974. Upon earning his law degree, Gary returned to Florida where his childhood sweetheart, Gloria soon became his wife.

Gary was admitted to the Florida Bar and opened his hometown's first African-American law firm with Gloria's assistance. His practice has since grown into the thriving national partnership known as Gary, Williams, Parenti, Finney, Lewis, McManus, Watson & Sperando, P.L., consisting of 37 attorneys, a team of paralegals, a professional staff of 120 including six nurses two full-time investigators,

an administrator, a certified public accountant, a public relations director, a general counsel, human resources director, and a full administrative staff.

Gary is a member of the National Bar Associations, the American Bar Association, American Trial Lawyers Associations, Florida Academy of Trial Lawyers Association, Martin and St. Lucie County Bar Associations and the Million Dollar Verdict Club.

Gary's scope of interest extends far beyond the courtroom.

He is chairman of the Black Family Channel, the nation's first African-American owned and operated 24-hour cable channel that is devoted to wholesome "family values" programming for urban viewers. Based in Atlanta, Georgia, the network's vision is to provide intelligent, family-oriented programming that embraces values in business, entertainment, sports, ministries and government. Gary also hosts a weekly talk show on the Black Family Channel featuring personal interviews with prominent guests.

Known as a businessman, churchman, humanitarian and philanthropist, Gary is deeply involved in charity and civic work. He is committed to enhancing the lives of young people through education.

In 1991, Gary donated \$10.1 million to his alma mater, Shaw University. He has also donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to dozens of Historically Black Colleges and Universities throughout the U.S. In 1994, he and his wife, Gloria, formed The Gary Foundation to carry out this formidable task. The Gary Foundation provides scholarships, direction and other resources to youth, so they can realize their dreams of achieving a higher education.

His national television campaign, "Education is Power," encourages children to stay in school and be the best that they can be. In addition to being a lawyer, a philanthropist, a media mogul and a motivational speaker, Gary continues to serve on the board of trustees of numerous universities and foundations. He has received honorary doctorates from dozens of colleges and universities.

His extensive community activities include membership in the NAACP, Florida Guardsmen, Inc, Urban League, Civitan International, the United Way of Martin County and Martin Memorial Hospital Foundation Council, and many others.

Willie and his wife Gloria have four sons, Kenneth, Sekou, Ali, and Kobie. Mr. Speaker, Willie Gary has continued to demonstrate through his work as an attorney and his commitment and generosity in helping others that he is more than worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF KYLE WILSON, PRIDE HIGH
SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding contributions of PRIDE High School Teacher of the Year, Kyle Wilson.

Mr. Wilson has been a teacher at PRIDE, an alternative school for at-risk students, for fifteen years. He was one of the original team

of teachers who founded PRIDE High School. He has two Bachelor's degrees, in Psychology and Biology, and he uses his training to teach his students how to explore the world around them as scientists.

Kyle Wilson gives his students real-world science experience by involving them in the PHS Hydrosphere Monitors, a campus organization which protects the environment by testing the water quality of the Blanco River. The PHS Hydrosphere Monitors work together with Texas State University, which compiles the water quality information from various schools to create a picture of water quality throughout the state. This project not only provides the State with valuable data; it also promotes the attitudes and social values conducive to scientific learning, and teaches students the value of volunteering for a cause larger than themselves.

Mr. Wilson has won many awards for his work. He was named Texas Watch "Outstanding Monitor" in 2002, has been recognized by the National Science Teachers Association, and was Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year in 2005. This is the second time he has received the Teacher of the Year Award from his school. He has done a tremendous amount for the children of the State of Texas, and I am happy to have the opportunity to thank him here today.

IN MEMORY OF DANIEL KEMP
NALL

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Daniel Kemp Nall of Sheridan. Dan passed away on Friday, March 4th at the age of 85. I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

Dan was born on April 28, 1919 in Sheridan, and remained a citizen of Grant County for almost his entire life. Dan attended Henderson State Teachers College, and received bachelor degrees in history and physical education. Dan also earned a master's degree in History from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

Dan served his country during World War II in the United States Navy. Upon returning to Sheridan, his career path took him to education and coaching, including tenures at Hendrix College, Morrilton High School, and Sheridan High School.

After Dan retired from education, he was extremely active in the Democratic Party of Arkansas and Senior Democrats of Arkansas. Dan served as Sergeant-of-Arms in the Arkansas State Senate during my time there, where I had the privilege of knowing Dan and counting him as a friend.

Dan's commitment to the Sheridan community and to our state did not stop with public education. He served as President of the Arkansas Athletic Association and as Postmaster of Sheridan. He also worked as a member of the Grant County Museum Board of Directors in its founding and was named Board Member Emeritus in February 2004.

Daniel Kemp Nall will forever be remembered as a terrific husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Dan's wife,

Muriel Cole Slaughter, passed away in 2001. My deepest condolences go out to Dan's son, Judge Kemp Nall and his wife Denise, his daughters Susan Nall Perry, and Dian Nall Taylor and her husband Tommy Taylor, his 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. He will be missed by his family and all those who knew him and thought of him as a friend. I will continue to keep Dan and his family in my thoughts and prayers.

HONORING BERKELEY CITY
COUNCILMEMBER MARGARET
BRELAND

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of former Berkeley City Councilmember Margaret Breland of Berkeley, California. Serving the people of West Berkeley first as a private citizen and then as a public servant, Margaret devoted most of her adult life to improving conditions in a community she saw to be underrepresented and often overlooked. Margaret retired from the Berkeley City Council in November of 2004, and after a long battle with breast cancer, passed away on April 7, 2005.

Though Margaret was originally from Beaumont, Texas, she spent the majority of her life in Berkeley after moving there as a child with her family. The oldest of four children, she was counted on by her mother to help run the household. After graduating from Berkeley High School, Margaret became a licensed vocational nurse, an occupation in which she served for 27 years.

Margaret retired early from her work as a nurse to care for her mother in the late 1980s, but became increasingly involved in community and public service activities at Liberty Hill Missionary Baptist Church, where she was a member. As chairperson of Liberty Hill's scholarship committee, she raised thousands of dollars every year to ensure that every church member attending college received at least \$1,000 in financial assistance.

Margaret also made sure that members of her church remained informed through her work and that of others who served on the congregation's Christian Social Concern Committee. One of the ways in which Margaret first became known to the public in Berkeley was through spearheading the ultimately successful campaign to install a traffic light at Ninth Street and University Avenue, an effort aimed at protecting children crossing the street on their way to and from the church. Margaret continued to advocate for the safety of children and others in her neighborhood not only through her work at Liberty Hill, but also as the chair of both the Human Welfare Action Committee and the West Berkeley Neighborhood Development Corporation, and through her involvement with the West Berkeley Area Plan Committee, the West Berkeley Community Cares Services Bank and the Community Advisory Board.

After several years of advocating on behalf of the residents of West Berkeley, in the mid-1990s Margaret decided to seek public office, and was elected as the District 2 representative to the Berkeley City Council in 1996. In

her first term, she secured over one and a half million dollars in funding for projects and facilities located in her district, working to make up for funding gaps that she felt had long been ignored. Regardless of the challenges she faced, Margaret worked tirelessly to provide affordable housing, access to healthcare, police and fire protection resources and support for youth in her district. Though she struggled with her illness for much of the second half of her time in office, she remained steadfastly committed to serving her constituents, demanding daily briefings and making efforts to go to City Hall even as her condition and treatments diminished her physical strength. Margaret's devotion to serving her constituents earned her a reputation as a candid and straightforward representative of the people, someone who was truly dedicated to serving as a voice for those without the means to advocate for themselves.

On April 15, 2005, Margaret Breland's life and legacy will be honored at her own Liberty Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Berkeley, California. It is with great sorrow but also with great pride that I add my voice to all those that have joined together today to pay tribute to Margaret and the spirit of selflessness that she embodied. Margaret's commitment to and concern for others set her apart as an elected official and as a human being. The generosity that led her to serve others throughout her life is an inspiration to all of us to follow her example in giving back to our communities, our country and our world.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF DEBORAH RODRIGUEZ, DE
ZAVALA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the enormous contributions of Deborah Rodriguez to the students of De Zavala Elementary School.

A long time Texan, Mrs. Rodriguez graduated from San Marcos High School and later went on to receive her teaching degree from Texas State University. She is certified in Bilingual Education and teaches first and second grade bilingual students.

Mrs. Rodriguez credits her husband for becoming a teacher, as he comes from a family of teachers and educators. She also gives credit to the many teachers who she had when she was younger and beginning to learn English.

Mrs. Rodriguez began to teach in 1997 when her youngest child began kindergarten. She is an avid believer in her students knowing and learning to speak more than one language, because she regrets that she started school speaking only Spanish. Her mother, who spoke and read to her in both languages and gave her a strong foundation in reading and writing, is the reason why she loves to do these things today.

Deborah Rodriguez is one of San Marcos' outstanding educators and I am very proud to have had this opportunity to recognize her today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on April 14, 2005, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 107 and "no" on rollcall vote No. 108.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE REVI-
TALIZING CITIES THROUGH
PARKS ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I introduce legislation, the Revitalizing Cities Through Parks Enhancement Act, that would establish a \$10 million grant program for qualified, non-profit, community groups, allowing them to lease municipally-owned vacant lots and transform these areas into parks. These vacant lots often are areas of heavy drug-trafficking. Parks and gardens created with the grants will not only provide safe places to gather, but will increase property values as well. The grants will be available from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to groups who have met standards of financial security, and who have histories of serving their communities. To further ensure that these grants are used to make lasting positive changes, land improved and made into open community space under this legislation must be available for use as open space from the local government for at least seven years.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF YVONNE DELGADO, TRAVIS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER
OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Yvonne Delgado, Travis Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Delgado is a Deaf Education Teacher at Travis Elementary. She holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master's Degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders/Deafness Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. She has been the Lead Deaf Education Teacher at Travis since 1997, putting her philosophy to work for the benefit of her students.

As Lead Deaf Education Teacher, Mrs. Delgado oversees the Deaf Education team of three teachers and three interpreters, as well as managing the cases of five to ten students and working as a classroom teacher herself. In addition, she provides training and expertise to the general education staff on deaf education issues, equipment, and modifications.

Mrs. Delgado has wanted to be a teacher since she was a child, and has always had a