

HONORING THE LIFE OF CLAIRE
MCMILLEN

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Claire McMillen, a fine gentleman from Fort Collins, Colorado, who passed away tragically on Sunday, April 3, 2005 in an airplane crash.

The 72-year-old, accomplished pilot had a passion for flying. When Claire wasn't spending time with his wife Janet, he spent it in the air, flying.

Claire McMillen was a majority shareholder at the Fort Collins Downtown Airport, he bought it to help further aviation in Colorado. Claire was also the owner of the Kiva Inn in Fort Collins.

Claire and Janet came out to Colorado from Beacon, New York to try working in the business profession. They fell in love with the area and have lived here for more than 30 years.

This tragic accident will be difficult for the McMillen family, the Fort Collins Downtown Airport, and the community. I ask my colleagues to extend their sympathies to the McMillen family.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE
KHMER ROUGE CAMBODIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, we solemnly commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Khmer Rouge regime when they deliberately and systemically massacred millions of innocent Cambodians, with a large percentage of women and children. However, in the midst of this past sorrow, we have seen great hope as a result of the strength, resiliency, and courage of the Cambodian people. So while we mourn the loss, we celebrate the future filled with hope and promise.

In 1975, Pol Pot led the Communist guerrilla group, the Khmer Rouge, in a large-scale insurgency that resulted in the removal of Cambodians from their homes and into labor camps in an attempt to restructure Khmer society. The Khmer Rouge maintained control by mass public tortures and executions. Families were separated. Men, women and young children were sent into labor camps and forced to do strenuous farm work with very little food. Famine and disease were epidemic while health care was non-existent. Between April 1975 and January 1979 more than 1.7 million Cambodians were killed.

When the Khmer Rouge was overthrown in 1979, thousands of Cambodians fled to nearby refugee camps, and over 145,000 Cambodians made their way to the United States. With the assistance of the Federal government, state, local, and voluntary agencies, Cambodians were resettled in communities across America.

Despite the tremendous loss of family members, home, and even parts of their heritage, Cambodians have shown enormous resiliency. I am proud that the largest Cambodian population in the United States resides in my District. Their culture and contributions have enriched our communities and the American landscape.

Finally, Cambodians have been waiting for the past twenty-five years for the Khmer Rouge perpetrators to be brought to justice. Just a few days ago, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan declared that UN-Cambodian agreement funding requirements had been met and there is now enough funds to finance the Tribunal's staffing and operations for a sustained period of time.

This means that the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, only a dream for twenty-five years, will now become a reality. This means that the Cambodians can finally find closure on this brutal part of their history. As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice."

RECOGNIZING ROBERT HUGHES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of Robert Hughes. Mr. Hughes, our Nation's all-time "winningest" high school boys basketball coach, has dedicated 47 years of service to coaching and educating students; helping them to succeed not only on the court but also in life.

As Mr. Hughes retires this year we will no longer be measuring his wins on the court, but rather the wins, the lives, he has helped to create off the court. In taking the time to teach his students Mr. Hughes chose not only to teach them about health and basketball, but about values and self esteem as well. The loyalty with which Mr. Hughes has served his students and Dunbar High School is a testament to his passion of seeing every child succeed in life.

It is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize a man who has been a leader to so many. The legacy of Mr. Hughes, on and off the court, shall serve as an inspiration to all those who wish to pursue their passion and make a difference in the lives of others.

TRIBUTE TO LUISA TRUJILLO
VASQUEZ

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, Luisa Trujillo Vasquez was born in Nogales, Territory of Arizona on May 22, 1906. In the fall of that same year, Luisa's parents, Salome Vasquez and Reyes Trujillo, loaded their six sons and baby daughter into a horse-drawn wagon and made the journey to Tucson. Tucson has been

Luisa's home since her arrival as an infant; earning her the title of a "Native Tucsonan."

The Trujillo family lived on the corner of Simpson Street and Main Avenue, across from the famous "Elysian Groves," where Luisa and her siblings often played as children and adolescents. Luisa attended Drachman and Safford Elementary schools until 6th grade when she left school in order to help her mother look after her brothers and help with household chores. The end of her formal education did not mark the end of Luisa's learning; indeed, Luisa's character was strengthened and her practical education supplemented when she joined the workforce at the young age of 13 in order to help support her family. Never one to complain, Luisa accepted this challenge willingly and with dignity and resolve.

Luisa has held many job titles throughout her lifetime, but she considers herself first and foremost to be a seamstress. She sewed for Levy's Department Store, Kaufman's Department Store (later known as Sacconi's), the Lyric Outfitters, and she worked at Davis Monthan Air Force Base sewing and mending thousands of military uniforms for soldiers stationed there during World War II. Luisa is also known for designing and fitting many of the Hispanic brides and their bridesmaid dresses during the 1930's, 1940's and early 1950's.

Luisa has many fond memories of the Tucson of her youth where she used to ride the mule-drawn trolley named "El Urbano," danced at the old Armory Park Dance Hall, took in films at the Old "Opera House," and attended shows at the Teatro Carmen. She also vividly remembers family outings to Sabino Canyon, trips to Old Fort Lowell and Vail Communities, and Sunday outings to the old Southern Pacific Railroad Depot to listen to the military bands from Fort Lowell and the SPRR Civic Band.

Luisa raised her four children as well as her beloved niece and nephew in Tucson. Throughout the years and particularly during the Great Depression, Luisa struggled with quiet resolve to provide for her immediate and extended family and even her neighbors from time to time.

Though Luisa is proud of her Mexican-American heritage, her loyalty has always been to her American homeland. Since World War I, Luisa has also had a deep love for America's servicemen and women. Following the death of her much-loved nephew during World War II (whom Luisa raised), Luisa was recognized as a "Gold Star Mother." In honor of her nephew and the sacrifice he made for his country, Luisa has requested that her Gold Star be pinned to her dress and buried with her upon her death.

Luisa has been the recipient of many well-deserved awards throughout the course of her lifetime. Most recently, the "Los Descendientes del Presidio de Tucson" recognized Luisa's achievements and her commitment to her native city.

Luisa has led a life full of love and friendship and distinguished by uncommon hospitality and service to her loved ones as well as her community. She is an exceptional woman, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and citizen. Her life has left an indelible mark on Tucson and the lives of its citizens.