

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES
BILLINGTON III

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Charles Billington III on his retirement from the Modesto Irrigation District Board of Directors. He held this position for the past twenty years.

Mr. Billington's commitment and expertise have been an asset to the Board. Since he became involved with the District in 1985, Mr. Billington was instrumental in providing leadership in the development of policies to ensure adequate supplies of water, dependable electric power, organizational efficiency and financial stability.

During his tenure, he played an instrumental role in the planning of the Modesto Regional Water Treatment Plant. This is the largest public works project undertaken in Stanislaus County during the early 1990s. In addition, Mr. Billington was a leader in forming a risk retention group which is now known as the Electric Public Power Insurance Consortium, EPPIC.

Under his leadership, and to the benefit of his constituents, the Modesto Irrigation District has prospered immensely. Charles Billington III has been a part of that important success. I wish him health and happiness in his retirement.

HONORING THE CITY OF THORTON
AT ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a great city in the Second District of Colorado, the City of Thornton—and to congratulate its citizens on the 50th Anniversary of the city's official incorporation. I am proud to represent this community in the United States Congress and to share a little of the history of this remarkable Front Range city. What began as a small development project by a local entrepreneur, Sam Hoffman, in the early 1950s—and supported famously by no less a figure (no pun intended) than Hollywood's Jane Russell, it has become one of the most attractive communities in Colorado.

In the early 1950s, a small development project north of Denver was named after Colorado Governor Dan Thornton and targeted toward soldiers returning from World War II. Sam Hoffman created a small community offering these soldiers and their families the opportunity to purchase a three-bedroom brick house for under \$10,000. From that modest starting point, Thornton has grown into a community of more than 100,000 people, all of whom can be very proud of the great advancements their city has made since its incorporation on May 26, 1956.

The City of Thornton is still growing and attracting new residents. Located just 10 miles

north of Denver, Thornton offers the ideal location for people hoping to experience the vibrancy of city life while still having easy access to skiing, camping, and all of Colorado's other natural wonders. With over 1000 acres dedicated to public parks and a focus on recreation programs, residents can maintain an active lifestyle and still be within driving distance to cultural events in Denver, Boulder, and the larger cities in the area.

Thornton is a perfect example of a small city that has managed tremendous growth in a short period of time. Former Thornton Mayor Margaret Carpenter shepherded the city through its most explosive growth era (the 1980s and 1990s), and today the city boasts premier recreation facilities, a strong business and commercial sector, and a diverse population.

I admire the way that the residents of Thornton have built a strong community with pride and inclusion, and ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the City of Thornton on its 50th anniversary, and I look forward to seeing the city grow for another 50 years.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ROSE
NADER

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Rose Nader, who at age 99 died on Tuesday, January 24, 2006 of congestive heart failure. Mrs. Nader was both tender and tenacious. She was a woman who taught her children the importance of service to their community, a love of the environment and concern for the well being of others. As you can see, Mrs. Nader indeed lived an honorable life.

David Halberstam captured her well when he said, "I thought she was a remarkable person who lived a remarkable life, going literally from one century to another."

She was strong, loving, hard-working and modest. All of the virtues were hers. I used to ponder how much she and her husband had seen in their lives for it was a great American story. They had come here in the twenties with little more than their hopes and their capacity for hard work, and in just one generation they had seen their own children prosper—enriching what was around them and being enriched at the same time.

What I will remember is her kindness to our family over the years, her sense of obligation to others, and a belief that citizenship demanded a daily commitment.

And of course her modesty, in the mid-sixties, back when Life Magazine was still powerful, the editors put Ralph on the cover. My mother, thrilled by this, immediately called Rose to tell her.

"Yes," said Mrs. Nader, "that's nice. I must get out and get a copy." We all loved that, the "a copy" reference.

I would also like to include a reprint of an article written by Albert Bernstein that appeared in the Washington Post on January 26, 2006:

Mrs. Nader, who jostled with politicians and complacency as a small-town activist and was the mother of consumer advocate Ralph Nader.

Mrs. Nader developed a certain civic renown in 1955 when she confronted Sen. Prescott Bush (R-Conn.), the father and grandfather of presidents. When Senator Bush visited Winsted, following a catastrophic flood, he was approached by Mrs. Nader at a public gathering public gathering. When he offered his hand in an obligatory fashion, Mrs. Nader latched on and refused to free him until he promised to help a dry-dam proposal move forward. This was fulfilled.

Later, she advocated building a community center for children, forming a speakers club that would bring worldly lecturers to the town, and expanding and preserving a local hospital.

At home, she could be implacable, particularly about food. She emphasized homemade items over packaged goods whose contents she found bewildering. She prohibited hot dogs and later beef because of the presence of a growth-stimulating hormone linked to cancer.

She sweetened food with honey, not sugar, and pushed her children to eat chickpeas instead of candy bars on their way to school. When news of this was publicized during Ralph Nader's rise to prominence, the Wall Street Journal editorial page likened his mother to a Puritan.

This characterization was laughed at by her children, even as they promoted the story involving her distrustful relationship with chocolate.

Mrs. Nader later said: "When the children convinced me that chocolate-frosted birthday cakes were what all the other children wanted, I frosted the cake, but after the candles were blown out and before they cut into the cake, I removed the frosting. Some people might say I was severe, but it became a family joke."

She later wrote a cookbook.

Rose Bouziane was born in Zahle, Lebanon, on Feb. 7, 1906, to a sheep broker and a teacher. She taught high school French and Arabic before her marriage in 1925 to businessman Nathra Nader.

After immigrating to the United States, they settled in Connecticut, where his Main Street bakery-restaurant-general store in Winsted, in the northwestern corner of the state, became a redoubt for residents bemoaning actions or inactions at the town hall.

On occasion, Mrs. Nader used newspaper opinion pages to express her views.

Writing in the New York Times in 1982, she denounced the use of "credibility phrases," such as "frankly," "to tell you the truth" and "in all honesty," that sometimes preceded a political statement or sales pitch. They gave her "the pervasive feeling that distrust is so widespread that people need to use such language to be believed."

In another editorial, she embraced mass mailings from issue groups that are commonly dismissed as "junk mail." She wrote that they often come from people "who care about their times."

Her husband died in 1991. A son, Shafeek Nader, died in 1986.

Besides Ralph Nader of Washington, survivors include two daughters, Claire Nader of Washington and Winsted and Laura Nader of Berkeley, Calif.; a sister; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Ralph Nader once said his mother "took us out in the yard one day and asked us if we knew the price of eggs, of apples, of bananas. Then she asked us to put a price on clean air, the sunshine, the song of birds—and we were stunned."

CHINESE ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last spring, China passed the anti-secession law to give Chinese leaders the right to use force against Taiwan if they suspect separatist activities in Taiwan. In addition to the enactment of the antisecession law, China's rapid military buildup has given the Taiwanese people a sense of dread. China's deploying more than 700 missiles along the southeast coast indicates China still stubbornly clings to a military solution of the Taiwan issue. In response to China's provocative actions, we need to emphasize that military intimidation over Taiwan is no solution to the cross strait relations.

China must learn to respect the aspirations of Taiwan's 23 million people who want to be masters of their own land. China has no right to change the status quo either through the antisecession law or military intimidation. In the meantime, China must not block Taiwan's attempts in gaining international recognition or in returning to international organizations. Taiwan is a free and democratic nation and deserves to be treated properly and with respect by the international community.

President Chen is a man of peace who does not seek to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. He has reaffirmed his commitment to maintain the status quo on many occasions. In the last 6 years, he has kept his pledges and offered many goodwill gestures to China. His goal of reducing tension between Taiwan and China remains unchanged. Let's hope that China will reciprocate Chen's olive branch by renouncing the use of force against Taiwan and resume dialogue on an equal footing and without preconditions.

RELIEF FOR WORKING FAMILY VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA ACT OF 2006

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, last year the United States laid eyes on one of the greatest natural disasters to ever hit our Nation. Hurricane Katrina ravaged a large part of our country, our economy, and, as a nation, our spirit. Last year Congress committed aid to the victims of this tragedy which the President signed into law. But our work and our commitment to the people of the gulf coast region cannot end there. If we turn our backs on those victims, we will only be subjecting them to another disaster, that of a government which isn't willing to support its own people.

In the months following the hurricane, news and media coverage were filled with photos and video of the effects of abject poverty leaving people in dire straits. Yet today, a short 4 months later, the faces of Katrina have all but disappeared from magazine covers or the nightly news. Make no mistake that the victims are still victims, and the journey back to rebuilding whole communities and lives is a long and difficult road.

To that end, I take pride in introducing, with my esteemed colleagues Congresswoman ROSA DELAUR, Congressman BILL JEFFERSON, Congressman RAHM EMANUEL, and Congressman CHARLIE MELANCON, the Relief for Working Family Victims of Hurricane Katrina Act of 2006. At present, thousands of families that suffered through the hurricane remain far from their homes and without adequate recourse or resources to help return their lives to normal. Over 900,000 children in the States effected by Hurricane Katrina were ineligible for the refundable child tax credit because their parents earned income level was too low, often by the smallest of margins. Current law restricts the refundable credit to families with income levels over \$11,000, and more if the families have more than one child. This bill would allow working families earning \$10,000 a year, just about minimum wage, to claim the full credit. I am joined in these efforts by my good friend, Senator BARACK OBAMA, who is introducing companion legislation in the Senate today.

Relief like this can carry a family miles down the road to rebuilding their lives. Congress must uphold its commitment to the victims of the hurricane. President Bush, in his State of the Union Address, remarked that, "In New Orleans and in other places, many of our fellow citizens have felt excluded from the promise of our country." It's sad that it took an epic disaster to open America's eyes to the lives of the impoverished and marginalized. The greater tragedy is if we do nothing about it.

SMALL VERMONT SCHOOL WINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION IN THE ARTS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak today about an extraordinary achievement by the teachers, administration and students of a small school in Vermont.

The Robinson Elementary School of Starksboro was one of five schools in the Nation chosen to receive this year's "Creative Ticket National Schools of Distinction Award." The Creative Ticket School Awards provides national recognition "of the role individual schools play in providing a creative learning environment for outstanding student achievement" by recognizing "schools that have developed exemplary arts education programs."

The arts are a vital part of education, by connecting us through words and images and sounds to our past, by connecting us to one another in a vibrant human community, and by helping us to imagine a future where none are isolated or lonely or without hope. The wonderful work done at Robinson Elementary School is testimony that the arts are alive and flourishing—not just in, but especially, in the small towns of Vermont. And most especially, in Starksboro, a town of just under 2,000 residents.

This award is testimony to the inspired teaching which takes place at Robinson Elementary School, where art, drama, music and writing are integrated into the school curriculum. In particular, let me single out Vera Ryersbach, the art teacher at Robinson Elementary.

And of course I want to single out the students, for schools exist for their students, and the success of any program is measured by how hard and eagerly students pursue their studies. Twenty-five of the students at the 142-student school will be going to the Kennedy Center to perform on the Millennium Stage this coming March. But before that, there will be a community dance celebration in Starksboro, so all the students and community members can share in this great achievement.

Congratulations, too, to Robinson's principal Dan Noël, and to the supporting group for this endeavor, the Vermont Alliance for Arts Education and Anne Tyler, VAAE's executive director, and Elizabeth Miller, VAAE chair.

THANKING DAN HORNNAK FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in February 2006, I rise to thank Mr. Dan Hornak for 20 years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

Prior to his arrival in Washington, Dan graduated from Western Michigan University, taught elementary school, worked as a sheriff's deputy in Michigan, and was a television news cameraman. He joined the House Recording Studio staff in 1986 as a camera operator. Through the years he built a reputation as a team player dedicated to serving the Members of the House. He rose to the position of television director and enjoyed its challenges.

Dan has used his creativity to improve the Members' awareness of the Recording Studio services. His resourcefulness for completing special studio projects has become legendary. He has said that the greatest perk of his job has been working in the Capitol, learning its history and sharing it with others. Dan has made a point of knowing as many people working in the Capitol and in the House office buildings as possible, and he considers each of them to be his friend.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Dan for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

TRIBUTE TO STUDENTS OF ST. BARNABAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN CHICAGO

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor: Sarah Bush, Laura Carroll, Eileen Cullina, Sara Kochanny, Meaghan McArdle, Alexandra Nine, Jessica Perazzolo, and Patrick Vogt, all students of St. Barnabas Catholic School in Chicago. These students, competing against students from sixteen other schools, placed first in the Chicago Region of the National Engineers Week Future City Competition. They will compete at the national level in Washington, DC from February 18–22.