

House of Representatives in their fight against this silent killer, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this timely and overdue resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I am writing regarding today's rollcall votes 865, H. Res. 257, supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, and 866, H. Res. 643, recognizing September 11 as a day of remembrance, extending sympathies to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and their families, honoring the heroic actions of our Nation's first responders and Armed Forces, and reaffirming the commitment to defending the people of the United States against any and all future challenges.

Please accept my apologies as I was meeting with constituents in my district and was not able to cast my votes tonight. It was my intention to vote "yes" on both resolutions.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT PHILOMENA SCHOOL

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saint Philomena School for 100 years of educational excellence in Delaware County.

Located in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania, St. Philomena opened its doors on September 4, 1907, making it one of Delaware County's oldest Catholic schools. Since that time, the school has provided four generations of quality Catholic education, touching the hearts and minds of countless children, and epitomizing the school's motto, "Experience the Difference, Commit to the Future".

I would like to recognize the school's pastor, Monsignor David Benz, and principal, Ms. Patricia Walsh, for their service and impassioned dedication to educating the students of the Saint Philomena School.

I would also like to recognize and extend my gratitude to Ms. McKenna, an alumna of the school who has devoted 45 years to teaching, 30 of which were as the 8th grade teacher at St. Philomena School.

I ask that everyone join me in congratulating St. Philomena School on 100 years of great education, recognizing its contribution to the community, and acknowledging the dedication of its staff and administrators.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to travel to Washington for votes.

However, I want you to know I would have recorded "yes" votes for these recorded votes. They included: (1) H. Res. 257—Supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, and; H. Res. 643—Recognizing September 11 as a day of remembrance, extending sympathies to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and their families, honoring the heroic actions of our nation's first responders and Armed Forces, and reaffirming the commitment to defending the people of the United States against any and all future challenges.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CLIFTON J. JEFFERSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a former mayor, educator and businessman who dedicated his life to his hometown of Lynchburg, South Carolina. The town is dedicating a park in honor of the late Clifton J. Jefferson on October 6, 2007, and I believe it is fitting that the U.S. Congress honors his public service as well.

Clifton Jefferson was born in Lynchburg on September 10, 1923. Raised by his grandparents, John and Carrie Jefferson, Clifton attended Lynchburg public schools until he reached high school. At that time, he moved to Florence to attend Wilson High School, and upon graduation matriculated at South Carolina State College.

Clifton Jefferson didn't come from a wealthy family, and he had to perform odd jobs to help pay for school. But he had a tremendous work ethic and real rapport with his fellow students. They affectionately called him "Jeff," and elected him president of the Senior class at South Carolina State. He earned a bachelors degree in agriculture in 1946, and then decided to move to Baltimore, Maryland where he pursued further studies at Howard University, Morgan State, and the University of Maryland. At the time, Jeff helped integrate the University of Maryland as its first black student. He stayed on in Baltimore for eight years, but returned home when he was needed to care for his ailing grandmother.

Back at home in Lynchburg, Clifton Jefferson worked in the Lee County Public School System for 32 years. He began as a classroom teacher, became an assistant principal at Fleming Elementary and Mt. Pleasant High School, and went on to become principal of Bishopville Junior High School. He also held positions as assistant director of Lee County Vocational School, now known as the Lee County Career & Technology Center, and as coordinator of the Old Ceta Program, now Project ACT. All the while, he owned and operated Jefferson Funeral Home in Lynchburg.

Breaking color barriers was a common theme of Clifton Jefferson's life. He was elected the first black mayor of Lynchburg, and served his community for 16 consecutive years in that role. Some of his major accomplishments included integrating the Lee County sheriff's department, the county court house, and various agencies. He also brought the first Head Start program to Lynchburg.

During his tenure, Mayor Jefferson was instrumental in investing in his town's infrastruc-

ture by improving the water, sewer, and drainage systems, creating two parks, and increasing the number of town employees to provide services to the community. He also established the first Christmas parade and magnolia festival in Lynchburg.

Clifton Jefferson was an active member of Warren Chapel United Methodist Church, and held various positions on boards in Lee County and in South Carolina. His memberships included: the South Carolina Conference of Black Mayors, National Conference of Black Mayors, the World Conference of Black Mayors, South Carolina Municipal Association, Lee County Teachers Association, South Carolina Teachers Association, National Teachers Association, NAACP, Lee County Chapter of SC State Alumni, South Carolina Morticians Association, Florence Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and the National Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

He was married to the former Gwendolyn Weaver, and the couple had six children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all the members of this esteemed body to join me in recognizing the extraordinary work of Clifton J. Jefferson. I also commend the Town of Lynchburg for honoring their late mayor's great work by naming a park in his memory. This will serve as a lasting tribute to a gentle giant, who loved his hometown and succeeded in making it a better place.

A TRIBUTE TO THE PASADENA SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pasadena Symphony, which will be celebrating its 80th anniversary on October 13, 2007—the beginning of the 2007–2008 season. Since 1928, the Pasadena Symphony has demonstrated musical talent, stable leadership, and remarkable service to the community.

In 1922, Will Rounds, Director of Instrumental Music in the Pasadena public school system and former member of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, initiated a movement for a local civic orchestra. The Pasadena Civic Orchestra Association was officially developed in 1928 by a group of civic-minded citizens and Reginald Bland, the orchestra's first director. Originally formed to promote free music of all forms to the public and to provide young aspiring musicians an opportunity to train through practical experience, the orchestra has transformed from a group of volunteer and student musicians into a nationally-recognized orchestra that has won worldwide acclaim.

Much of the symphony's success can be attributed to its stable leadership. Since its founding, the orchestra has had only four music directors. In 1936, Dr. Richard Lert began his 36 year tenure as director and established a scholarship fund for students who performed in the orchestra. With Dr. Lert at the helm, the orchestra's name was changed to the Pasadena Symphony Association in 1954; in 1955, the symphony became a founding member of the Los Angeles Symphony

League and was recognized with Metropolitan Status by the American Symphony Orchestra League in 1968. The Women's Committee, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, was formed in 1957 to assist with fundraising. From 1972 to 1984 the orchestra's reputation continued to grow under the leadership of Daniel Lewis. The orchestra received several national awards, including five American Society of Composers and Publishers awards for adventuresome programming. Mr. Lewis also oversaw the founding of the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra which is considered one of the best youth orchestras in the world. Since 1984, Jorge Mester has brilliantly led the Pasadena Symphony Association, expanding the number of concerts per season and recording its first compact disc in 1994.

Beyond its musical achievements, the association admirably serves the community through educational outreach. Committed to making music accessible to the public, the symphony runs an admission-free Musical Circus for families with young children and offers Concerts and Lessons to Enrich Families (C.L.E.F.). Believing that music belongs in the classroom as well as the concert hall, the symphony partnered with Pasadena's public elementary schools to found Tempo!, a curriculum based program that has been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts. Through the Mentor Program, in which middle and high school musicians can meet with Pasadena Symphony Association professionals and the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra, the symphony fosters our next generation of musicians.

It is my great pleasure to honor the Pasadena Symphony Association on its 80th anniversary. I ask all members to join me in commending their efforts.

IN HONOR OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate, along with my remarkably diverse constituents, Hispanic Heritage Month. I am grateful that September 15th through October 15th has been set aside to commemorate the unique cultural legacy and the significant contributions that the diverse people of Hispanic descent have made to the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, this heritage is part and parcel of our shared American birthright. It is only fitting that we celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of the 43 million Hispanic Americans in this country, people who are making their mark in popular culture, business, athletics and politics. Theirs is the American Dream—a deep-seated belief that hard work can bring a better life and a brighter future for our children.

I wish to take this opportunity to honor some outstanding individuals living and working in the San Francisco Bay area. KQED, a nationally recognized public broadcaster, has named the following six outstanding individuals 2007 Latino Heritage Local Heroes. These hard-working citizens represent the best of both worlds—preserving their personal and family

heritage while contributing great things to the community we all share.

Cío Hernández has brought her language and leadership skills to the youth of Marin County. As the Bilingual Adolescent Mental Health Practitioner for Teen Clinic of Marin County Department of Health and Human Services, Cío is a youth group leader who inspires and motivates adolescents who want to make a difference in their community.

Martín Mora is a professional firefighter in the city of San Jose. In his 12 years with the San Jose Fire Department, he has promoted safety and awareness throughout the community. Additionally, Martín continues his family's legacy of dedicated volunteering by assisting children, women, and families in the Bay Area and Nicaragua.

Guillermo "Memo" Morantes is a longtime community volunteer in San Mateo County, with a special passion for education. As a member of the San Mateo County Board of Education, he continues the fight he has long been waging to provide all our children with the kind of quality education they deserve.

A Health and Nutrition teacher at Dover Elementary School in West Contra Costa County, Tony Ramirez imparts invaluable wisdom about healthy living and environmental preservation to our next generation of leaders. Tony has incorporated outdoors hands-on education into the curriculum, instilling the value of preserving natural habitats such as the local watershed, Wildcat Creek, and teaching students of their responsibility to maintain a healthy creek.

Mary Helen Rocha is another tireless advocate for children and families in our community. From bus monitor to den mother and Girl Scout leader, she has done it all, and currently works as Program Director for The Perinatal Council and coordinates the Antioch First 5 Center permanent facility, which serves families with children under 5 years of age.

As a master of the art of capoeira, a Brazilian martial arts and dance hybrid, Márcia Treidler, known to the arts community as Mestranda Márcia Cigarra, is working to spread hope and opportunity through the art form she loves. Márcia is the founder and Artistic Director of ABADÁ-Capoeira San Francisco (ACSF), which is dedicated to using capoeira as a vehicle to improve and enrich disadvantaged communities and the lives of people from all backgrounds.

Madam Speaker, it is not enough to celebrate this community one month out of every year. All of our Hispanic American friends and neighbors deserve the opportunity to build a better life for themselves and their children. They are the driving force behind the efforts of this Democratic Congress to bring a new direction to America—the real people who benefit from progressive legislation like increases to the minimum wage and programs that make college more affordable.

Hispanic Heritage month is more than a cultural celebration, Madam Speaker, as vibrant and fascinating as that culture may be. It is an opportunity to see the children for whom we have just increased funding for math and science education, funding that will give all Americans a chance to compete in the global economy. It shines a spotlight on the citizens who lack adequate health care, despite working full time. Hispanic Heritage month is certainly about the past, Madam Speaker, and it is an honorable past worth remembering. Yet

this month, let us also look toward the future, and work toward building a better tomorrow for all American families.

HONORING HENRIETTA, COUNTESS DE HOERNLE'S 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Henrietta, Countess de Hoernle, as she celebrates her 95th birthday. She is one of the most distinguished and accomplished philanthropists in south Florida, and I am proud to recognize her impact on our community. Her record of service to those in need makes her a truly distinguished American.

During her lifetime, the Countess has worked tirelessly to support worthwhile causes benefiting young adults, the poor, the needy and the ill. She retains a personal philosophy of using her financial resources to help others, believing that she would like to see the "fruits of her labor" while she is able. She has been instrumental in advancing educational opportunities for the young, art and cultural opportunities for area residents, and medical opportunities for everyone. Currently, she serves on six boards in the Palm Beach area, including the boards of the Caldwell Theatre and the Boca Raton Museum of Art.

One of the first charitable efforts made by the Countess and her husband was to Boca Raton Community Hospital. Subsequently the Countess has worked in support of many health organizations, including the American Red Cross, Hospice, the Habilitation Center, and the Mae Volen Senior Center. The Countess then turned her attention to the needs of south Florida youth. The Countess has also been instrumental in helping the Haven, a facility providing a home for neglected and abused children, St. Joan of Arc School for its expansion and new library, the College of Boca Raton (now Lynn University) for its Lecture Hall, and Spanish River Community High School for a long-awaited theater.

Other organizations with which the Countess has been actively involved include the Association of Retarded Citizens, American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, Arthritis Foundation, Boca Ballet Theatre, Boca Raton Historical Society, Boca Raton International Club, Boca Raton Philharmonic Symphonia, Centre for the Arts at Mizner Park, The Children's Museum, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Northwood University, Palm Beach Community College, The Palm Beach International Film Festival, Police Athletic League, United Way, the Youth Activity Center and ZONTA Club of Boca Raton. She has received awards from more than 230 charitable organizations and is universally recognized as a major philanthropist.

Henrietta, Countess de Hoernle enjoys being able to give a helping hand to all in need—believing that's what her life is all about. She sets an example for everyone in our community to follow, and I am proud to recognize her today on her 95th birthday.