

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LINDA FAGAN
HALDERMAN, M.D., FACS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Doctor Linda Halderman upon being named one of “The 2007 Women of Distinction” by The Fresno County and City Republican Women Federated.

Doctor Linda Halderman graduated with honors and high distinction from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1991. She then continued to Hahnemann University School of Medicine, where she received an MD degree in 1997 and academic honors in the following areas: CT surgery, CT surgery subinternship, critical care/SICU, general surgery, surgery research, psychopathology, clinical medicine, obstetrician/gynecologist, pediatrics, family medicine, psychiatry and pathology. Doctor Halderman started her general surgery residency at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and completed her residency at University of California, San Francisco in Fresno, CA.

In her career Doctor Halderman has focused on serving those that live in underserved rural areas of California. For a year she practiced general and trauma surgery coverage in the underserved communities of King City, Needles, Porterville, Selma, and Truckee. About 4 years ago she opened her own practice in Selma, CA. At her private practice she offers numerous services; from focusing on gallbladder disease, to benign and malignant breast disease (and mastectomies) to cosmetic dermatology. Her practice encompasses many areas of general surgery. Her work is important, but it is what she does away from the office that is even more amazing.

Doctor Halderman is involved in government reform, research and volunteer activities. She has over 50 publications and presentations that have focused on the role of government in healthcare. She has spoken on local radio and television news outlets, discussing various medical matters, particularly in regards to the latest medical breakthroughs with breast cancer. Further, Doctor Halderman has served on many panels and roundtables, including a Healthcare Town Hall Meeting co-hosted by California State Assemblyman Bill Maze and Porterville/Tulare/Visalia Chambers of Commerce, “The California Common Sense Healthcare Revolution: solving the crisis” a panel sponsored by College Community Congregational Church, and the “Business Healthcare Summit” a panel co-hosted by Assemblyman Mike Villines and the Fresno Farm Bureau. She has also made presentations to various Republican party organizations, the American Cancer Society, high schools, and University of California, San Francisco in Fresno.

Doctor Halderman is extremely active within the community on many different levels. She is involved in several community service and

professional organizations. Most recently she has been affiliated with American College of Surgeons, American Society of Breast Surgeons, California Health Collaborative Cancer Detection Program (Continuous Quality Improvement Committee Board Member and Physician Educator), California Medical Association, Fresno-Madera Medical Society (Board of Governors 2005, Editorial/Publications Board Member 2003–2004), Selma Community Hospital Foundation (Board of Trustees 2004–2006) and the Selma Community Hospital Foundation (Executive Board Member 2005–2008). She is an amazing advocate for healthcare reform that is beneficial for the patient as well as the physician.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Doctor Linda Fagan Halderman upon being awarded with “The 2007 Women of Distinction”. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Doctor Halderman many years of continued success.

HONORING RABBI CAROLE
MEYERS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, today I would like to take a moment to honor the memory of a good friend and a community leader, Rabbi Carole Meyers. Rabbi Meyers died at the age of 50 on Thursday, July 26, after a brief battle with bone cancer. She served as Rabbi of Temple Sinai in Glendale, CA, from 1986 to 2001.

Over the 15 years Rabbi Meyers served at Glendale’s Temple Sinai the congregation nearly doubled in size, boosting its education programs for both children and adults.

Rabbi Meyers significantly raised the profile of the temple through her extensive work in the community. Rabbi Meyers was involved with Habitat for Humanity and the Glendale Community Foundation. She served on the Mayor’s Task Force on Hate Crimes, helping to craft a citywide response plan to fight hate crimes. Rabbi Meyers also trained as a chaplain for the Glendale Police Department and helped to create an annual AIDS Awareness Prayer Service with other Glendale religious leaders.

After retiring in 2001 to spend more time with her family, Rabbi Meyers remained active in our community serving on the board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, developing curriculum for Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, and presiding at marriages and bar and bat mitzvahs.

In 2001, shortly after the tragic events of 9/11, Rabbi Meyers had the distinction of delivering the opening prayer in the House of Representatives. In such a sad and somber time Rabbi Meyers’s prayer was uplifting and life-affirming. Her words helped console our nation. And her words that day still ring true

today as we try to find answers to her untimely death.

On this floor in November 2001, Rabbi Meyers prayed,

It takes courage to pray meaningfully in the wake of events shaping our lives.

It is not that we do not turn to God, we do. We come with our praise and with our entreaties, but we strain to hear an answer, to sense God’s presence radiating back to us, over the abyss that grief and fear have created.

Shall we this morning, just for a moment, stop speaking to God, asking God, about God, entreating God, and instead make an effort to find once again that experience of God’s presence that grounds our faith.

Come with me to that place. Perhaps it was when you witnessed the birth of your child, new life so precious and pure, perhaps when you saw your soul reflected back at you in the eyes of someone whose love was infinite. Perhaps in the tangle of pain and darkness when somehow there was a presence to call, to let you know you would move forward. Perhaps when a piece of music shook you to your core, bringing an exquisite awareness of the depth of human experience.

Perhaps when you truly saw the miracle of nature surrounding us, the sun rising and setting, day after day of nature in its magnificent order, there was a moment when you knew that an Other exists before whom we stand in awe and whose greatness we strive to reflect in the actions of our lives.

Eternal God, be with us as we move through this time of uncertainty. Help us know that we can lend Your presence and use our lives to reflect it. Then we will have the faith to bring light and joy, peace and comfort, justice and goodness to this magnificent world God has created. Amen.

IN RECOGNITION OF FOR THE
LOVE OF THE LAKE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a local community conservation organization of which I have been a volunteer and supporter, For the Love of the Lake.

This group of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers generously gives of its time and effort to help preserve and enhance White Rock Lake Park in Dallas, Texas. As a member of this local community, I understand the desire to ensure White Rock Lake stays clean and beautiful. I also labor alongside many volunteers as an Adopt-a-Shoreline Leader by picking up litter and recyclables to maintain this urban oasis so that it can continue to be enjoyed by families, local citizens, and visitors. These regularly scheduled weekend clean ups help build a strong sense of community and civic duty, essential to the American spirit.

Beyond preservation, For the Love of the Lake has also sought out innovative opportunities to enhance and renovate White Rock

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Lake Park. They have built partnerships with the Dallas Parks and Recreation Department to implement new programs such as the White Rock 'n' Roll Run and, have created "Litter-free Louie," a mascot to help educate others on the importance of keeping our lake clean. I am proud to be associated with this valuable organization and am grateful for all that they do for White Rock Lake Park and the city of Dallas.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in recognizing their passion and hard work.

HONORING READERS' BOOKS, OF SONOMA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Readers' Books, which has been named the 2007 Sonoma Valley Business of the Year. This store has become an institution for Sonoma and the surrounding communities as a source not simply of literature, but intellectual fulfillment in many different forms.

Sixteen years ago, Andy and Lilla Weinberger dropped by my office to run an idea past me: they wanted to move into the Bay Area, and were hoping to open a bookstore that would do more than sell books. They imagined a location for the community to gather to enjoy books and hear authors, but also to serve as a forum for local issues and current events. Sonoma was suggested, and after a visit they were off and running.

Readers' Books has been an incredible resource to the community over the last 16 years, and has played host to a wide variety of groups and events. The Weinbergers have supported programs for young and old, such as sponsoring authors at the Vintage House Senior Center. They have worked to bring many of these authors into schools to read for students, and have helped serve as judges for a students' writing contest. Similarly, they provide a meeting space for many community groups, and offer the store as a forum for political discussion, including an impartial explanation of ballot measures around election time.

Readers' Books exemplifies the importance of independent stores for the sense of community in a town. Despite the rise of chain stores and Internet shopping, Readers' Books and small, independent stores like it continue to offer an irreplaceable location not just for shopping, but for communities to come together.

Readers' Books is indeed a wonderful bookstore. With a friendly staff happy to step forward with assistance or recommendations, the Weinbergers have created a bibliophile's heaven. If something isn't available from their selection, they can help a customer find it quickly and efficiently.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we congratulate Andy and Lilla Weinberger on the occasion of Readers' Books being named the 2007 Business of the Year. They are truly pillars of their community, and we have all greatly benefited from the wonderful store they started 16 years ago.

HONORING VIOLET HEINTZ

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Violet Heintz upon being named one of "The 2007 Women of Distinction" by The Fresno County and City Republican Women Federated.

Mrs. Heintz served on the Fresno County Board of Education for 32 years. She has demonstrated her lifelong commitment to community service through numerous education projects and community activities benefiting the children of Fresno County. Her dedication to education advancements led Mrs. Heintz to serve on the original governing board and licensee for the local television channel KVPT Channel 18. KVPT is better known as Valley Public Television and is one of only 14 channels in California that is part of the Public Broadcasting System. The mission of the station is to "deliver information through broadcast programming and related services to enhance and promote life long learning." This is also the mission of Mrs. Heintz. She has served on the Fresno County Trustees Association's Executive Board, the Central Valley Technology Center committee and the Fresno County Educator of the Year committee.

Her involvement in and contributions to the community have been recognized through many awards, including; the Fresno County Association of California School Administrator's Golden Apple Award, California and National PTA Honorary Service Award, Women of the Year finalist, Fresno County Status of Women, Phi Delta Kappa Community Education Award, the William E. Nili Scholarship Service Award, and the Alison Berg Award. In recognition of her timeless service, on April 23, 1999, The Elkhorn Correctional Facility Boot Camp in Fresno County was dedicated in her honor. The school is now called the Violet Heintz Education Academy. The Academy is designed to educate students that have been committed by the Juvenile Court to a long-term program for non-violent offenders. This dedication is a tribute to all of the great things that Mrs. Heintz has done for the Fresno County Department of Education.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Violet Heintz upon being awarded "The 2007 Women of Distinction". I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Heintz many years of continued success.

COMMEMORATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORANGE GROVE MONTHLY MEETING OF RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS IN PASADENA, CA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Religious Society of Friends in Pasadena, CA.

The Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends was founded in 1907 by a group of 20

Eastern Quakers who had moved to Pasadena. Quakers have played leading roles in working for peace and an end to war, promoting racial and gender equality, and supporting environmental and other social justice causes. After World War I, the Meeting members supported the American Friends Service Committee, AFSC, which engaged in post-war relief efforts in Western Europe and Russia, and also helped establish AFSC's Pacific Coast branch.

During World War II, the Meeting house served as a hostel for Japanese-Americans being sent to internment camps, and aid was sent to those already interned. The Meeting members provided hospitality and financial support to area conscientious objectors and their families, and after the end of the war, hosted families displaced by the war and its aftermath.

Meeting members have frequently led the way in civil rights and social justice movements. Meeting members took part in efforts to desegregate the Pasadena school system, participated in freedom rides in the South and attended the Selma, AL, protests.

The Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends founded educational institutions that provide a nurturing educational environment for children. Pacific Ackworth Friends School (1942) and Pacific Oaks School (1945) were established by Meeting parents. In 1961, Mara Moser, an Orange Grove Friends member, established Mothers' Club to support families of men in prison. Mothers' Club later evolved into a child development and family center serving low-income families.

Members of the Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends are active participants in the community. Meeting members routinely provide dinner for the homeless at Union Station in Pasadena, participate in many prison visitation programs and allow the meeting house to be used by local groups for activities such as a tutoring program for elementary school children.

It is my pleasure to recognize the Orange Grove Friends Meeting of Pasadena on its 100th anniversary of active participation in the life of our community. I ask all members to join me in extending a hearty congratulations.

HONORING NANCY GARDNER, OF SONOMA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Nancy Gardner, who is leaving the North Bay Regional Center after 15 years as that group's executive director. She is moving on to serve as CEO of Guide Dogs for the Blind, but she leaves behind an organization that she has developed into an incredible resource for people with developmental disabilities, families, and our community.

Ms. Gardner was born in Kansas, and graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She received a master's degree in special education and human development from the University of Kansas in 1976 before moving to California and working for with NBRC from