

HONORING LONG BEACH
CALIFORNIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly honor the Long Beach Unified School District. While we work to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act to improve access to quality education for all of America's children, the Long Beach Unified School District shines as an example of what we hope to accomplish.

This district is California's third largest and is setting an example for districts across the nation to follow, by showing that all students, no matter their background, history, or personal obstacles, can achieve their full potential. It was a finalist for this year's Broad Prize for Urban Education, which is a great honor. That accomplishment is all the more amazing because Long Beach, which won the top prize in 2003, is the only former winner to make it back into the finals.

Under the leadership of Superintendent Chris Steinhauser, Long Beach is showing what public schools can do. Superintendent Steinhauser works with parents, teachers, board members, and other community members to create a district that has a "team feeling." The effect is a system that demands results and delivers solutions to the many problems that districts face.

The "Long Beach Way" puts into practice the best of school reform, whether homegrown or from somewhere else. Innovative programs such as Intervention Counselors, who work with high school students at risk of failing, and Algebra ABCD, which provides additional supports that allow students to achieve at high levels, are just two of the exemplary programs that Long Beach Unified provides for its 90,000 diverse students.

I commend the hard working teachers and administrators of Long Beach for their contributions and commitment. It is also important to recognize the support from parents and the community. These combined efforts have been instrumental in ensuring a quality education for all children within the district. I am proud to represent and honor Long Beach Unified School District.

NATIONAL MALL REVITALIZATION
AND DESIGNATION ACT OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Mall Revitalization and Designation Act of 2007. The National Mall is one of Washington's best known and most treasured sites, but also is the District's most neglected and undervalued. The Mall lacks everything that a majestic natural wonder deserves, from an official identity to necessary amenities. My bill (1) authorizes the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) to officially designate and expand the boundaries of the Mall and (2) requires the Secretary of the Interior to submit a plan to en-

hance visitor enjoyment and cultural experiences within 180 days of passage of the bill.

I worked closely with NCPC and other agencies in framing the bill. It would give the NCPC the responsibility and the necessary flexibility to designate the Mall area for the first time since its creation and to expand the Mall area when appropriate. The bill requires the NCPC, to accommodate future commemorative works and cultural institutions, working with key federal and local agencies, and with participation from the public and recognized national leaders in culture and development.

Frustrated at continually fighting off proposals for new monuments, museums, and memorials, on the crowded Mall space, I asked the NCPC to devise a Mall preservation plan 5 years ago. In 2003, Congress amended the Commemorative Works Act to enact the NCPC's designation of a no-build zone where no new memorials can be built. This action was helpful in quelling some but by no means all of the demand from groups and individuals for placement on what they view as the Mall. The bill spells out the needed authority to preserve the no-build zone while expanding the mall to accommodate commemorative works.

The NCPC and the Commission on Fine Arts (FAC) are working on the National Capital Framework Plan and already have shown they can identify sites near the existing Mall which are suitable for new memorials, including East Potomac Park, a part of the Mall area that is seldom viewed as integral to the more familiar space between the Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial; Banneker Overlook, the grounds around RFK Stadium, the Kennedy Center Plaza site and the new South Capitol gateways. Five new prestigious memorials are scheduled for such sites, including the Eisenhower Memorial and the U.S. Air Force Memorial.

I appreciate that NCPC and the FAC work closely with the District of Columbia in designating off-Mall sites for new monuments. The District welcomes the expanded Mall into appropriate neighborhoods, enhancing the work of the District of Columbia government and local organizations such as Cultural Tourism that offer historic tours of District neighborhoods in developing the tourism that is vital to the city's economy. Additional Mall sites for various monuments also complement the creation of entire new neighborhoods now underway near the Mall particularly the District's redevelopment of the Southwest waterfront and my own work on the Southeast Federal Center, now known as The Yards, that is to becoming a mixed use public-private development and waterfront park.

A second and important goal of the bill is to make the Mall a living, breathing, active place where things happen and visitors can be comfortable. The bill seeks to achieve this vibrancy by requiring the Secretary of the Interior to submit a plan, in consultation with the appropriate Federal agencies, and leaders in culture and development and the public, to "enhance visitor enjoyment, amenities, cultural experiences in and the vitality of (the National Mall)." Bordered by world class cultural institutions, the Mall itself has been reduced to a lawn with a only a few—too few ordinary benches and a couple of fast food restaurants. The Mall lacks the most basic amenities appropriate to such an area including restrooms, shelter and informal places to gather and interesting places to eat. When it rains, there

are no places to stay dry on the Mall and when the humidity reaches sky high, there are few places to rest and have a cold drink. Nevertheless, in writing this bill I was compelled to recognize today's reality that funds to make the Mall the 21st century destination it deserves to become are simply not available, and will not become available in the near future until the deficit and other priorities make room. Yet, the Mall needs a total makeover for the 21st century to be worthy of L'Enfant's vision for the city he planned and the MacMillan Plan that is largely responsible for the space between the Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial that is known today as the Mall. However, we must move now to begin to do all we can to rescue this space from its present dull and uninviting condition, damaged by heavy use and often used as no more than a pass-through, despite its magnificent potential. With the necessary imagination, a plan to make Mall a welcoming place with cultural and other amenities envisioned by the bill is achievable now.

The Mall Designation and Revitalization Act is the first step in an effort to begin to give the Mall its due after decades of neglect and indifference. The bill begins at the beginning, defining for the first time what we mean by the Mall, allowing for expansion of its natural contours, and taking the first steps to breathe life into a space that is meant for people to enjoy.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING 70TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
POMERENE HOSPITAL IN
MILLERSBURG, OHIO

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Pomerene Hospital celebrates the 70th anniversary with great joy; and

Whereas, Pomerene Hospital cares for the community's health through communication and trust; and

Whereas, the Hospital has grown from a staff of 10 physicians and continues to grow while serving Holmes County; be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate you on your 70th Anniversary. With great appreciation and respect, we recognize the tremendous impact this hospital has had in the community and in the lives of those people you have touched.

TRIBUTE TO LILLIE MAE WHITE
JOHNSON

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today not only as a Member of Congress, but as Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, to pay tribute to an outstanding Texan and human being, Mrs. Lillie Mae White Johnson, who passed away on Monday, October 15, 2007. Mrs. Johnson was a woman of

character, compassion, and courage, and she will be mourned by a large circle of family, friends and admirers.

She was born January 9, 1911 in Waco, Texas. The youngest of six children born to Thomas and Sarah Burks White, she was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Edward Johnson, and siblings Beulah White Bridgewater, Eliza White Ashford, Ella White Glasker, George White and Arthur White.

Mrs. Johnson was an honor graduate of AJ Moore High School, which is located in Waco, Texas in 1929 and attended Central State Business College. She married Edward Johnson in 1931 and was a faithful and devoted wife for almost 50 years. To this marriage, four children were born; three daughters and one son. After her husband's death in 1981, she moved to Grand Prairie, Texas and made her home with her oldest daughter, Sallye Moore.

At an early age, Mrs. Johnson joined the Chapel Hill Baptist Church in Waco, Texas and later joined the Toliver Chapel Baptist Church. They were loyal and faithful members for almost 50 years. As a member of Toliver Chapel Baptist, she was active in the Women's Mission, sang in the choir, and assisted with many children's activities.

Mrs. Johnson loved traveling. In addition to residing in Texas, she lived in Florida and California while her husband served in the United States Navy and pursued his career in civil service for the United States Department of Veteran Affairs.

Mrs. Johnson was raised in a spiritually influenced home with strong family values shared with her children. Her children, grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews are blessed to have been influenced by her deep Christian faith and joyous disposition. She was a compassionate person who loved to spend time with her children and their families. Her family will deeply miss her smile, her personal warmth, and thoughtful ways. For many years, Mrs. Johnson hosted large family dinners and catered to her family member's individual preferences.

She was a founding and active member in the Mamie Robinson Social and Family Charity Club until she relocated to Grand Prairie, Texas. The Waco News Tribune in 1979 and the Delta Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in 1980 named Mrs. Johnson "Mother of the Year."

After moving to Grand Prairie in 1981, she joined St. John Baptist Church. As a member of St. John, Mrs. Johnson was active in the Senior Women's Ministry, Ruth and Doris Ministry, Mission Choir, Generations Ministry and Adult Sunday School. In the community, she served as a member of the Willing Workers, Carter-Olive Senior Citizens Group and was a strong supporter of the Johnnie Stanton, "Just Say No" Club. She especially enjoyed the fellowship of the Senior Citizen's Nutrition Group.

Mrs. Johnson was a dedicated homemaker. Mrs. Johnson's love and dedication to her husband, her children, and grandchildren is what provided them with the inspiration in which to achieve their many accomplishments.

She loved her home and was happiest when she was with her family. Mrs. Johnson was also an avid reader. Her children and grandchildren cherish the memories of the time she spent with them in the small library she established in the family home.

She is survived by her daughters, Sallye Ruth Johnson Moore and husband, Vandine of

Grand Prairie, TX, U.S. Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson of Dallas, TX and Washington, DC and former husband Lacy Kirk Johnson, Lee Helen Johnson Willis of Houston, TX and husband Favor DePriest Willis, Esq. (deceased), son Carl Edward Johnson and wife Beverly; grandchildren: Gregory Dean Moore and wife Juana of Plano, TX, Lawrence Kirk Johnson and wife Sondra of Austin, TX, Karlton Jamar Johnson and Kanish JaKayel of Waco, TX; great grandchildren: Gregory Dean Moore II and Preston Andrew Moore of Plano, TX, Lawrence Kirk Johnson II, David Edward Johnson and James Lacy Johnson of Austin, TX, Jay Lynne Kourtney Johnson and Karlton Jamar Johnson II of Waco, TX; Special Niece: Luberta White Mayse of Waco, TX, Special Nephew: Robert Lee (RL) Ashford of Los Angeles, CA, sister in law: Mrs. Fannie Mae Johnson Wells of Brenham and Giddings, TX and many other special nieces and nephews and a host of family members and friends.

On behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus and our colleagues in Congress, may God carry her soul gently in her passage to peace. We know God joins with us today as we pray, "Sleep well my good and faithful servant." May we all know the service to others as epitomized by Mrs. Lillie Mae White Johnson.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ZION REFORM CHURCH OF WINESBURG, OHIO

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the dedicated people of the Zion Reform Church of Winesburg, Ohio celebrate the 175th anniversary with great joy; and

Whereas, this milestone is the result of what a tempered people began on September 9th, 1832; and

Whereas, occasions such as these illustrate to us that love mixed with grace and trust will stand the test of time; and

Whereas, it is the fond wish of this body that you will continue to present this work as a beacon for hope to the destitute and maintain your stand as a symbol to this generation that our strength lays in our gracious commitment in unity to each other in the bonds of brotherhood; and

Whereas, you have demonstrated excellence in your calling as a church, anything less would have left you bereaved of such a jubilant occasion, and we are proud to have you as sons and daughters in the great state of Ohio and of our nation; be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the congregation for your unwavering labor and commitment, recognizing that all great achievements come at a cost. With great appreciation and respect, we wish you continued abundant grace as you continue to labor for your Lord, Jesus Christ.

TRIBUTE TO LANCELOT WRIGHT

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend and an entrepreneur who has overcome adversity and achieved great success. Lancelot Devon Wright, known as Lance to his friends, is being honored by his community and his family on October 23, 2007 for his 20 years of success leading businesses in Columbia, South Carolina.

Lance Wright was born to a single mom in Boston, Massachusetts in 1966. During his younger years, Lance was raised by both his mom, Joan Joanne Wright, and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wright of Holly Hill, South Carolina. Lance and his mother moved to Columbia when he was 10 years old, and it is the town he still calls home. He spent his formative years at Fort Jackson elementary schools and W.J. Keenan High School. One of his passions in high school was tennis, and he was quite accomplished at the game. His competitiveness on the court was a precursor to his competitiveness in business.

Although Lance's family didn't have much financially, he did grow up with a tremendous work ethic. At the age of 14, he became a dishwasher for a local renowned caterer, Bob Funderburk. Mr. Funderburk served as a mentor to Lance, and set him on a promising path.

While a student at the University of South Carolina, Lance worked his way up at the USC Faculty House restaurant from kitchen manager, to food and beverage manager, and eventually he became a chef. These jobs enabled Lance to pay for college, help his family, and gave him the skills he would need to launch a career.

At 21, Lance left college to start his own restaurant, the Las Vegas Deli in downtown Columbia. He and his business partner, Lenwood Greene, employed 10 people and built a successful restaurant. After 5 years, The Deli, as it was known, was forced to close when the building owner sold the property. Lance and Lenwood then opened their second restaurant, The Grille. The business was such a success it spun off to create a nightclub called Sunset Place and a billiards hall known as Sunset Pub. Finally The Grille also launched a very profitable catering business.

It was during this time that Lance reignited his love for tennis. He joined a men's tennis team at Greenview Park in Columbia. As captain of their team, he recognized that the tennis facilities at Greenview were sorely lacking. He led an effort to get the City of Columbia to upgrade the facilities. In 1997, the City supported Lance and his grassroots effort, and made a commitment to build a new tennis facility. Today Greenview Park has nine lighted tennis courts, hosts numerous teams for league play and tournaments, and provides programs for youth.

In 1995, Lance married Adrienne Felder of Columbia. It became clear a few years into his marriage that his businesses were taking too much time away from his family. So in 1998, he made a break from The Grille and began Home Choice Mortgage in a spare bedroom at his home. The business grew to seven employees, and provided alternative financing for residential loans to many South Carolinians.