

In 1975, Dorothy Height participated in the Tribunal at the International Women's Year Conference of the United Nations in Mexico City. As a result of this experience, NCNW was awarded a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to hold a conference within the conference for women from the United States, African countries, South America, Mexico and the Caribbean. This was followed with a site visit with 50 of the women to visit with rural women in Mississippi. Under the auspices of the USAID, Dorothy Height lectured in South Africa after addressing the National Convention of the Black Women's Federation of South Africa near Johannesburg (1977). Since 1986, she has worked tirelessly to strengthen the Black family.

Madam Speaker, under the leadership of Dorothy Height: NCNW achieved tax-exempt status in 1966; NCNW dedicated the statue of Mary McLeod Bethune in Lincoln Park, Washington DC in 1974—the first woman to be so honored on public land in the Nation's Capital; developed model national and community-based programs ranging from teenage parenting to pig “banks”—which addressed hunger in rural areas; established the Bethune Museum and Archives for Black Women, the first institution devoted to black women's history; established the Bethune Council House as a national historic site; transformed NCNW into an issue-oriented political organization, sponsoring “Wednesdays in Mississippi” when interracial groups of women would help out at Freedom Schools organizing voter registration drives in the South and fostering communications between black and white women; and established the Black Family Reunion Celebration in 1986 to reinforce the historic strengths and traditional values of the black family.

Among the major awards bestowed upon Dorothy Irene Height in gratitude and appreciation for her service to our Nation and the world are the following: Presidential Medal of Freedom presented by President Bill Clinton; Congressional Gold Medal presented by President George W. Bush; John F. Kennedy Memorial Award; NAACP—Spingarn Medal; Haddassah Myrtle Wreath of Achievement; Ministerial Interfaith Association Award; Ladies Home Journal—Woman of the Year; Congressional Black Caucus—Decades of Service; President Ronald Reagan—Citizens Medal; Franklin Roosevelt—Freedom Medal; Essence Award; and the Camille Cosby World of Children Award.

Dorothy Height was also elected to the National Women's Hall of Fame and is the recipient of 36 honorary degrees from colleges and universities as diverse as: Tuskegee University, Harvard University, Spelman College, Princeton University, Bennett College, Pace University, Lincoln University, Columbia University, Howard University, New York University, Morehouse College, and Meharry Medical College.

Madam Speaker, Dorothy Height has witnessed or participated in virtually every major movement for social and political change in the last century. For nearly 75 years, Dorothy Height has fought for the equality and human rights of all people. She was the only female member of the “Big 6” civil rights leaders (Whitney Young, Jr., A. Philip Randolph, Martin Luther King, Jr., James Farmer, and Roy Wilkins). Her vision and dedication made

NCNW the premier organization in advocating for the health, education and economic empowerment for all women of African descent around the world.

Thank you, Dorothy Height, for your service to our Nation. You have made America a better place for all persons of all races, religions, and backgrounds. You have mentored hundreds, been a role model to thousands, and a hero to millions. You are an American original. I am glad to count you as a friend.

HONORING FRANK KRUESI

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of my friend, Frank Kruesi. After 9 years of dedicated service, Kruesi is retiring as President of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA).

Prior to his service at the CTA, Mr. Kruesi served as Chief Policy Officer for the City of Chicago for Mayor Richard M. Daley. He also served as the Executive Officer of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and was the legislative assistant to then-Senator Richard M. Daley in the Illinois General Assembly, where he focused on mental disabilities, human services, and juvenile justice legislative initiatives.

Mr. Kruesi's more than 30 years of public service have included service at every level of government including serving as Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy in the United States Department of Transportation under President Clinton. In that post, he advised two Secretaries of Transportation and developed policy initiatives in all forms of transportation.

Throughout his career, Frank Kruesi has overseen numerous achievements met by the CTA. Under Mr. Kruesi's leadership, CTA has made service improvements on two-thirds of its bus routes and on all, its rail routes. A total of 281 bus of service improvements have been implemented which include 25 new bus routes, expanded hours of service, added trips to reduce wait time, and route changes to improve access and connectivity.

Innovative programs such as U-Pass, a program of discounted passes for college students, have also been implemented during Mr. Kruesi's tenure. The program is the largest of its kind in the Nation, with 76,000 students at 33 area colleges participating.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I congratulate Frank Kruesi on his long career and thank him for his service to the City of Chicago. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF OUR NATION'S NURSES

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to America's nurses during

National Nurse Recognition Week. From Florence Nightingale, to Clara Barton, to the unsung heroes of today, the nurses of this country have provided invaluable service in times of peace and of war. Providing comfort to the elderly, the sick, and the dying is a, noble yet all too often thankless task. It is for this reason that we take this week in May to honor the extraordinary contributions of nurses to society.

On March 30, 1981 President Ronald Reagan was shot in the chest outside the Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. He was then rushed to the George Washington University Hospital. When recounting his experience, President Reagan often spoke of a nurse who held his hand as he was taken into surgery. This simple act by an unknown woman comforted the President during his time of pain and fear. Almost a year later, President Reagan proclaimed that National Recognition Day for Nurses would be observed on May 6. Since then, the recognition has been expanded to a weeklong celebration.

With over 2.7 million registered nurses in this country, nursing is the largest health care profession. These men and women administer care, with profound compassion, in homes, hospitals, and schools across the nation. The theme of this year's National Nurses Week is, fittingly, “Nursing . . . profession and a passion.” When Americans fall ill, it is the nurse who tends to their daily needs and provides comfort in times of uncertainty and pain. I want to take this opportunity to thank our nation's nurses for their commitment to the service of others.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOSEPH KEANE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a dear friend Joseph “Joey” Keane, a man who inspired countless people in my hometown of South Buffalo through his example, strength of character, and spirit.

Joey Keane's life was filled with many blessings. He was blessed with an extraordinary family; his parents Richard and Catherine Keane embraced him with love and care as they did all of their children, his 15 siblings, 7 sisters and 8 brothers, enriched his life with love, laughter, and respect, and the Seneca Street neighborhood that was his home and the place where he was beloved by neighbors, family friends, and business owners alike.

The Keanes are a politically prominent family in Buffalo, NY. Joey's brothers Dick & Jim were elected to public office, his brother Neil served as Fire Commissioner but many would argue that Joey was the best politician of them all.

His brother Jim explained Joey and the impact he has had on others best when he said, “Joey's taught us a lot of lessons, and he's taught us the lighter side of life. I think Joey has made it easier for all of us to laugh at ourselves. That's part of the Joey Keane mystique. You learn humility and how to laugh at yourself from the Joey Keanes of the world.”

Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my deepest condolences to the entire Keane

Family for the loss of their dear brother and with the House's consent, I would like to end my remarks with a recent article that was printed in The Buffalo News which commemorates the life of Joey Keane.

MAYOR OF SENECA STREET DIES AT 60—JOEY KEANE WAS "TRUE POLITICIAN" OF THE CLAN
(By Gene Warner)

Six years ago, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Bishop Henry J. Mansell attended a Labor Day Mass in South Buffalo, where Clinton seemed to be grabbing the most attention.

Joey Keane—of the prominent South Buffalo Keane clan—spotted Mansell, who was standing alone, drinking a cup of coffee and perhaps feeling a little ignored by the Clinton spotlight.

"Hello, Bishop, I'm Joey Keane," he said. "If you put that cup of coffee down, I'll take my picture with you."

That was Joey Keane, one of the best known of the famous Keanes, a man intimidated by no one, a South Buffalo man who always had a hug or a quip for everyone—whether it was the governor, the bishop or just a man or woman on the street.

Dubbed the "mayor of Seneca Street," Keane died Friday in the Mercy Hospital Skilled Nursing Facility, following an almost two-year battle with Alzheimer's and its complications. He was 60.

When he was born, in February 1947, family members were told that infants with Down syndrome had a life expectancy of about 21 years. Usually, they were taken to an institution for the rest of their lives.

His mother, Catherine, would hear none of that. So he spent the first 30 years of his life with his parents, Richard and Catherine, the next 30 rotating among about a dozen siblings and nieces, each for about 3 months at a time.

Among his 14 surviving siblings are a former Buffalo fire commissioner, a former assemblyman and a former deputy county executive. But everyone acknowledged who the true politician was in the family: Joseph Jeremiah Keane.

"He worked a crowd better than any of his politician brothers," said niece Kate Carr, one of 183 nieces, nephews and their children who called him "Uncle Joey."

"His whole life, he was a cause célèbre along Seneca Street," said brother James P. Keane, the former Common Council member and deputy county executive. "People just took to him."

Here's a testament to his popularity in South Buffalo. Ten years ago, following a newspaper story about his gala 50th birthday party, a childhood friend living in Australia sent him a letter addressed to "Joseph Keane, Somewhere in South Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y." The letter reached him.

Within his family, Joey Keane was the peacemaker of the 16 siblings. When they fought as kids, there was Joey in the middle of things, settling everybody down and leaving the participants to walk away with hugs and handshakes.

"He was kind of the glue that kept us together," said brother Cornelius J. "Neil" Keane, the former fire commissioner.

Since his death, South Buffalo has been filled with dozens of Joey Keane stories. Here are a few of them:

Years ago, Joey Keane had just moved from the roomy Orchard Park home of a niece, Pat Allman, to the more modest South Buffalo home of his sister Maureen Sullivan.

"Cup of coffee, Joe?" his sister asked him the first morning.

"What, no cappuccino?" Joey replied.

"You're back in South Buffalo, buddy," his sister answered.

Following The Buffalo News story 10 years ago, then-Mayor Anthony M. Masiello bought Joey Keane a cappuccino maker for his 50th birthday.

Sometime after his father's death, one sibling kidded that their mother could marry widowed Gov. Hugh L. Carey, who had 14 children. Together, they'd have more than two dozen.

Joey Keane apparently remembered that comment when he saw Carey at some South Buffalo function.

"Stay away from my mother," he told Carey, according to another brother, former Assemblyman Richard J. Keane.

Among other things, Joey Keane loved watching soap operas; impersonating everyone from John Wayne to Tom Jones; dressing up in Sabres, Bills or Bisons garb, while watching or listening to their games; dancing at weddings, often trying to snag the first dance with the new bride; needling his "big shot" brothers; watching the old Lawrence Welk TV show; and catching the garter belt at any wedding.

Surviving are seven sisters, Nancy Lafferty, Mary Alice O'Neil, Sally Trevean, Catherine Keane, Connie Smith, Margaret Ray and Maureen Sullivan; seven brothers, Richard J., Thomas J., Michael A., Cornelius J., Daniel J., James P. and Peter C. Another brother, Firefighter William T. Keane, was killed in 1978 while responding to a false alarm.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday in St. Teresa Catholic Church, 1974 Seneca St., after prayers at 9 in Thomas H. McCarthy Funeral Home, 1975 Seneca St.

IN HONOR OF EARTH DAY

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, today, in honor of Earth Day, I introduced a resolution that would support the only nationally-recognized day dedicated to recycling.

Every November since 1997, millions of Americans have become better informed about recycling and buying recycled products as a result of events held in honor of America Recycles Day. Last year, events were held in communities in every state. In my home state of Washington, 12 communities are planning events to commemorate this important day in 2007 in cooperation with counties, elementary schools, businesses and local troops.

Recycling creates 1.1 million U.S. jobs, \$236 billion in gross annual sales and \$37 billion in annual payrolls. Recycling also saves energy, prevents air and water pollution, reduces the need for new landfills and combustors, reduces our dependence on foreign oil, reduces the need for extraction of certain natural resources, and can stimulate the development of greener technologies.

Over the past 10 years, many new markets for recycled products have been created. For example, plastic containers can be remanufactured into other plastic containers, fleece, carpet, car parts, strapping, stuffing, bottles, pipe, lawn and garden products, injection molded products, and plastic lumber. Yet, as markets for recycled products have increased, recycling rates for certain recyclable household products, like plastic and aluminum containers, has decreased or stayed the same, and

curbside pickup programs have decreased in communities.

There remains a significant opportunity to increase recycling in the United States and I believe that the activities of America Recycles Day provide one way to achieve this end. It is time for Congress to support this important day and effort. I urge my colleagues to take up this important resolution and pass this bill before America Recycles Day on November 15th.

RECOGNIZING WORLD WAR II VETERAN ROBERT WALTER DINGMAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring the attention of the House to Robert Walter Dingman, a decorated veteran of World War II who was wounded in combat 62 years ago today, on April 20, 1945. Private Dingman was seriously wounded as he crossed an open field and laid paralyzed until a heroic medic rescued him under enemy fire.

Bob Dingman had just turned 18 when he was drafted into the Army in 1944. After basic training at Camp Blanding, Florida, he was soon aboard a troop ship to Liverpool, England and then on to LeHarve, France, in early 1945. The French rail road took him and his fellow soldiers to Verviers, Belgium, where he was issued an M-1 rifle. He was soon taken across the Rhine River where he was assigned to Comp B of the 83rd Armored Reconnaissance Battalion of the 3rd Armored Division.

As a young soldier with a strong faith in God, Private Dingman was determined he would not hate his enemy and had occasions to show kindness toward captives, while carrying out his duties. Since those dark days 62 years ago, Bob Dingman has led a successful, active, inspiring and selfless life. After graduating from Houghton College in New York state, he began his career here in Washington as an employee of the U.S. Navy. He later went into the executive recruiting business and formed his own executive recruiting firm in California in 1978. He rose professionally and is recognized as one of the nation's top executive recruiters.

During his recruiting career, he repeatedly went out of his way to assist faith-based organizations in their searches for competent leadership, in addition to his broad array of commercial clients. Over the years he led the search projects for leaders of such organizations as World Vision International, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Young Life, numerous Christian Colleges, and many other church-related organizations. He also gave generously of his time and abilities by serving on the national boards of such organizations as the Salvation Army and Mission Aviation Fellowship and the local boards of Hospice and Whitworth College.

As a disabled veteran of World War II, he was awarded a 50 percent disability in 1951. As one who has experienced the physical and emotional pain of rehabilitation, Mr. Dingman is currently turning his attention to finding ways to help newly disabled veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.