

HONORING WILL G. BASS, JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the wonderful life of Mr. Will G. Bass, Jr. of Oakland, CA. We lost this exceptional community leader and dedicated leader and dedicated man of God on July 19, 2008.

Will G. Bass, Jr. was born on May 25, 1939 in Gilbert, LA. His parents were the late Will and Ivory Cameron Bass, and he was baptized under the leadership of Reverend R.N. Teats in the Cuba Baptist Church at a very early age. He remained an active member of this congregation until moving to California as an adult.

Education and personal growth were important values to Mr. Bass, which he fostered throughout his life and promoted among the many young people that looked up to him. As a young man in Louisiana, Will attended and graduated from Franklin Parish Training School. He later graduated with a degree in Business from Grambling University before moving to California where he met and married Ms. Betty J. Dobson on August 6, 1960. Theirs was a loving union which spanned almost five decades and produced two children, DiLeen and Nelda. A family man, Will honored and cherished these three women, and it was very clear to his friends and community that his favorite pastime was spending time with his family, which continued to grow in size and compassion throughout the years.

A dedicated advocate for the prosperous development of his adopted community in California, Will was widely known as an astute businessman. He was the Founder and President of the Integrated Technology Group (ITG), which provides services as an information technology and business assistance firm, as well as a land consultant. As a result of Will's ingenuity, creativity, and personal drive, ITG was involved in some of the major and historic development projects in the Greater Bay Area. This included the 1 billion dollar Hunters Point Shipyard Development Project and the 1.3 billion dollar Oakland Airport Expansion Project.

Will Bass was a man of many talents and accomplishments, reflective of the great diversity and innovation present in the East Bay, where the 9th Congressional District lies. Among one of Will's many great personal attributes was his astute ability to think globally, while acting locally. He was able to foresee major international trends in a way that pushed opportunities for Oakland to the forefront and developed new frontiers for my constituency. An example of this was his pioneering accomplishment as the first African American businessman in the Bay Area to be substantially involved in trade with Russia, China, and South Africa. When my esteemed colleague in the Senate, the Honorable DIANNE FEINSTEIN, was Mayor of San Francisco, Mr. Bass accompanied her to Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, west Africa to establish the San Francisco-Abidjan Sister City Committee. This was the first time an African city had been engaged in a sister city endeavor with San Francisco.

Will Bass was a Founding Member and Past President of the 100 Black Men of the Bay

Area, Inc. He served on the Board of Trustees of Allen Temple Baptist Church, and was a Founding Member, Treasurer and Board Member of the San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce. Will was also a Founding Member of the Oakland African American Chamber of Commerce, and he served on the boards of the American Institute of Ethics, the Westside Health Center, and a host of other organizations.

The contributions Will made to his community throughout his life are endless. He was a true inspiration, and an exceptional role model, especially for young men and women of color striving to build up their communities. Thanks to his inspiration, they now contribute to their neighborhoods and work to improve their opportunities so that they may pursue productive and full lives. His legacy will surely live on through the lasting impact he made on so many lives.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors Mr. Will G. Bass, Jr. We extend our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones, especially his wife, Mrs. Betty Bass, his daughters, DiLeen Dean and Nelda Jacobs, his sisters, Bernice Bass and Estelle Bass Harnage, his brother, Lannie Bass, his aunts, Pearl Shaw, Neicie Scott, and Roberta Cameron. He is also survived by his grandchildren Quianna, Annaque, Kameron, Niah and Savana Dean, and Trenton Jacobs, and his nieces and nephews, Ivory Bass, Yyanisha Gregory, Jamie Harnage, Marcus Bass, Chonsae Bass, and Jason Harnage. May his soul rest in peace.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT MARY OF SORROWS CHURCH

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Saint Mary of Sorrows Church, in Fairfax, VA.

Saint Mary of Sorrows Church was the first Catholic Church in Fairfax County. The original church was erected by Irish immigrants in 1858 and is still in use today.

Throughout its history, St Mary's has been a sanctuary not only for its parishioners but for any person in need of help. During the Civil War, the church and its grounds were used as a field hospital for soldiers wounded from the Second Battle of Manassas and the engagement near Chantilly. Clara Barton, who later founded the Red Cross, was among those who provided medical care. The church also sacrificed some of the wooden pews for firewood while treating those wounded from battle.

Because of St. Mary's distinguished history and devotion to helping those in need, it is registered as a Virginia Historic Landmark and has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. In 1961, the American Red Cross, in conjunction with the Virginia State Historical Commission, placed a plaque on the church memorializing Clara Barton's work at St. Mary's.

During the past 150 years, Saint Mary of Sorrows Church has grown to over 3,000 fam-

ilies and added a second, larger church building. St. Mary's continues to serve its fellow citizens through many social ministry programs including support for members of the armed forces, the homeless, the disabled and the impoverished.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate Saint Mary of Sorrows Church on its 150th anniversary. It has been a role model for community service throughout its history. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding St. Mary's for its past accomplishments and in wishing them the best of luck in the many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO KEN THOMPSON
RECIPIENT OF THE ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ken Thompson, a recipient of the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Award from Sacred Heart Schools. Established in the year 2000, the St. Madeleine Sophie Award honors individuals in the Sacred Heart community who have made a sustained and significant contribution to the Schools and embody the Goals and Criteria of a Sacred Heart education. The individuals honored are selected by a committee comprised of the senior administrative team in conjunction with the Chair of the Board of Trustees and are honored at a reception and at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first all-school liturgy of the school year. The recipients will be VIP guests at various SHS events throughout the year and featured in their alumni magazine, The Heart of the Matter, for their commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart education.

Ken Thompson was chosen along with three other distinguished recipients to be recognized with the Award for his dedication to the Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart Schools. Mr. Thompson arrived at Sacred Heart Schools in January 1989 as a long-term substitute physical education instructor at St. Joseph's. An Honors graduate in mathematics from UC Berkeley, as well as a former Cal basketball star, he was hired the following year to serve as the Sacred Heart Prep Athletic Director and to coach basketball and teach math. Three years later, he moved full-time into the academic world as SHP Math Chair, where he markedly strengthened the department and demonstrated the leadership that would lead him to be named Dean of Faculty in 2002. Two years later, he became Academic Dean, a position he has filled with extraordinary intelligence, conscientiousness, and diplomacy. The classic Renaissance Man, Ken is also an actor and a singer. He currently directs and writes musical arrangements for two a cappella groups on campus, one for faculty men and one for both faculty and students. Since the winter of 2005, he has waged a valiant war against leukemia, providing a model of courage and fortitude to the entire Sacred Heart community.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mr. Ken Thompson as he is recognized by the St. Madeleine Sophie Award. Through his many

contributions to his family and friends and especially the Sacred Heart community, he has more than earned the St. Madeleine Sophie Award and through his special leadership and commitment to excellence, he has built a lasting legacy at Sacred Heart Schools and in the life of every student who comes through its distinguished halls. Our community and our country have been strengthened by Ken Thompson and it is a privilege to honor him and his work.

HONORING BERNARD JARVIS
ROBINSON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Bernard "Jake" Robinson and to congratulate him upon being honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Robinson will be honored at a reception on Thursday August 21, 2008 at the Fourth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Board of Directors Installation Dinner.

Mr. Jake Robinson was born on August 19, 1933 in Arkansas. Mr. Robinson was born during a time of great societal barriers, and continually worked to overcome those barriers. As a child he loved to play basketball, and even fabricated a make-shift hoop. As a freshman in high school he wanted to play, but was told that he was not good enough. He continued to practice with his hoop and as a sophomore he made the basketball team at Scipio A. Jones High School. The team was unbeatable and Mr. Robinson was awarded All-State, All-Regional and All-American honors. He was the first African American in Arkansas to make the All-Star basketball team. After high school he continued to play basketball in college at Arkansas AM and N College.

After serving in the U.S. Army, Mr. Robinson went to work for Forehand Motors washing cars. He quickly moved up the ladder and became a parts manager. Mr. Robinson was the only African American in management in the Northern Division of General Motors. During his career he received numerous accolades and awards for his commitment to excellence from General Motors. He retired after 39 years. His commitment to his career was equal to his commitment to his community.

Mr. Robinson served 17 years on the Board of Trustees of Madera Unified School District. The B.J. Robinson Gymnasium at Thomas Jefferson Middle School was erected as a tribute to his dedicated service. He was also a member of the Kiwanis Club, worked on the Citizens Committee for Measure E, is a former member of the Madera Linkage Foundation, involved with the NAACP and an advocate for youth athletics. He worked tirelessly to see the completion of Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School and successfully lobbied to have the canal by the school covered for the safety of the students and neighborhood.

Due to his endless efforts, Madera High School honored Mr. Robinson as the Grand Marshall for the 1999 Homecoming Parade and Football game. Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School named him as Humanitarian of the Year in 1995. He was recognized by Kiwanis

International for Distinguished Service for 1999–2000. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson were named as the Couple of the Year in 1988 during Black History Month and received the NAACP's Curtis Collier Award.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Bernard "Jake" Robinson upon being awarded with the "Lifetime Achievement Award". I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Robinson many years of continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BOB
WAYNE THORTON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great community activist, excellent farmer and friend, Mr. Bob Wayne Thorton of Van Alstyne, Texas.

Bob Thorton was a fourth-generation farmer, working land in Grayson and Collin counties for more than 65 years. Though he could do just about anything from carpentry to plumbing, he loved farming the most. The Thortons were leaders in the farming industry, as they were the first to bring in equipment, the first to mechanize their operations and usually the first to help another farmer get past a rough spot with the loan of money and equipment. As a result of his many contributions, Bob was named Collin County's Conservationist Farmer of the Year in 1986.

Bob was a community activist most of his life, but unless one had firsthand knowledge of his activities, his achievements would have gone unknown because he was such a humble individual. He was one of the original members of the American Agriculture Movement, a grassroots organization to help farmers become involved with government, politics and the public policy that affects their livelihoods, and served as National Vice President and 3 years as National President. He spent many years lobbying at the state and national levels, during which time he participated in the 1979 "tractor-cade" that rolled into Washington, DC, more than 6,000 tractors strong. He was a founding member and president of South Grayson Water Supply, a charter member of the Hurricane Creek Country Club, and served on the Van Alstyne Library Board. Through his political activist endeavors, Bob became friends with several elected representatives, such as former U.S. Sen. John Tower, former Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, and Secretary of Agriculture John Block. Because of Willie Nelson's support of family farmers, Bob and Nelson also became good friends.

Bob is survived by daughters Sheryl Priest of North Little Rock, Arkansas, Brenda Baggett of Friendswood and Linda Wood of Van Alstyne, five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and sister JoAnn Cavender of Van Alstyne. He was one who believed in family and held his family heritage as a life-time priority.

Madam Speaker, we are privileged to have known such an honest man and humble public servant. Please join me today as we honor his memory and celebrate the life of Mr. Bob Wayne Thorton.

HONORING PRAIRIE CREEK
GREENWAY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Prairie Creek Greenway in Platte County, MO. On September 8, 2008, the National Recreation Trail (NRT) Dedication and Tour of Missouri Watch Event is publicly announcing Prairie Creek Greenway as the only trail in Missouri to receive NRT designation this year. This distinguished award is one of the highest honors a local government can receive for a trail project.

I would also like to recognize and thank the Platte County Commissioners: Betty Knight, Jim Plunkett, and Tom Pryor. Due to their constant work and dedication, they truly made the Prairie Creek Greenway a success and an asset to the community. The creation of this trail in Platte County will help preserve the natural beauty of Missouri.

This honor for the Prairie Creek Greenway would not have been possible without the help of private partnerships between the county, developers, and homes association connected to the Greenway. I applaud the effort and devotion that has been put into this trail in Platte County, MO and commend the recognition of the Greenway.

CONGRATULATING THE WAR IN
THE PACIFIC NATIONAL HISTORICAL
PARK ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. In August 1978, the War in the Pacific National Historical Park was established by Public Law 95–348 to commemorate the bravery and sacrifices of those involved in the Pacific Theater of World War II and to preserve the historic sites on Guam. As we join together for this celebration, let us also remember the Park's mission to preserve a unique story in American history that strives to honor not only the courage of our liberators, but the patriotism of the liberated.

For the past 30 years, the War in the Pacific National Historical Park has preserved seven units on Guam. These units include battlefields, trenches, gun emplacements, and historic structures throughout the island. Because of the diligent efforts made by the National Park Service to preserve the story of the occupation and liberation of Guam from December 8, 1941 to July 21, 1944, visitors are able to learn about the battle for Guam by visiting sites at the Asan Bay Overlook, Agat Beach Unit and Ga'an Point, Asan Beach Unit, Fonte Plateau Unit, Mt. Alifan Unit, Mt. Chachao/Mt. Tenjo Unit, and Piti Guns Unit.

During this 30th anniversary, we are especially honored to commend the National Park Service for the 2008 restoration project of the