

Burgess, was a contemporary of Dr. Moten. While it is interesting to think about how these men practiced before the advent of anesthesia and antibiotics, it is also inspiring to think of the courage that someone like Dr. Moten would have had to practice in such inhospitable conditions both personally and professionally. His perseverance during these harsh conditions is remarkable.

Madam Speaker, today I commend people like Dr. Edwin Moten for their inspiration and proudly rise to recognize the culturally rich addition of this important museum to Denton and the entire north Texas area. I also call on north Texans and all Americans to reflect and recall the courage, perseverance, and spirit of those honored in the new Denton County African American Museum. It is an honor to represent the 26th Congressional District of Texas and to commemorate this historical occasion.

HONORING HELEN LODGE, DR.  
JOREA MARPLE, SARAH  
STEBBINS, AND JENNIFER BAI-  
LEY

### HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor four outstanding women in my district who are being honored for their commitment to their communities and for serving as role models to countless young women, empowering them to succeed. The Young Women's Christian Association of Charleston, WV named Helen Lodge, Dr. Joreia Marple, Sarah Stebbins, and Jennifer Bailey as the 2008 Women of Achievement Honorees.

Helen has spent her career as a dynamic leader and advocate for health and nutrition in West Virginia. Early in her career, she was integral in the West Virginia State Legislature passing legislation to require early detection testing for newborns for phenylketonuria, PKU, a simple test that can prevent mental deficiency in newborns. She has received numerous recognitions throughout her career and currently chairs the West Virginia Board of Licensed Dietitians. As active leader in her Charleston community, Helen assists with the fundraising efforts of the West Virginia Symphony League and Youth Symphony and the American Heart Association.

Dr. Joreia Marple represents one of the most noble professions, educating our young people. Her 30-year career includes stints as a teacher, reading specialist, graduate and undergraduate instructor, and a former superintendent of Kanawha County schools. Her most noteworthy achievement is authoring the book, *An Insider's Guide to Making School Systems Work*. Dr. Marple currently serves as Assistant State Superintendent of the West Virginia Department of Education overseeing curriculum and instruction.

Sarah Stebbins is a pioneer among women in the development of information technology in the aeronautics and astronautics industries. A graduate of WVU, she began her career in the development of early computers and later worked as an aerospace research analyst for the Air Force and as a project leader in the Naval Research Lab in the Space Systems

Development Department. Her most notable achievement is helping with the software development of the Global Positioning System, a technology that has revolutionized the way we view and navigate our world and beyond. Sarah retired in her hometown of Charleston, WV with her husband and family.

Finally, I would like to honor Jennifer Bailey, the recipient of the YWCA Women of Achievement Empowerment Award. Jennifer stands as a success story among the mission of the YWCA and is an inspiration to women in all walks of life for her ability to persevere and overcome numerous obstacles. The YWCA was there for Jennifer every step of the way in helping her overcome numerous personal obstacles. Jennifer now enjoys spending time with her son, working in retail, and maintaining a 4.0 G.P.A. in her classes.

Again, I congratulate Helen Lodge, Dr. Joreia Marple, Sarah Stebbins, and Jennifer Bailey, who will be honored February 21, 2008. It is an honor to represent such distinguished and inspiring women in West Virginia's Second Congressional District.

HONORING ST. LOUIS PARK FOR  
AWARD WINNING YOUTH PRO-  
GRAMS

### HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today honor the great city of St. Louis Park, Minnesota for winning the America's Promise Alliance's 100 Best Communities for Young People competition for the third year in a row. St. Louis Park is one of the cities in the Fifth Congressional District of Minnesota.

St. Louis Park is an amazing community for young people because residents engage youth with meaningful artistic, cultural and civic opportunities. One such opportunity is the Friends of the Arts program, which pairs youth with donated musical instruments and offers creative writing classes for teens. A local church, the Lutheran Church of the Reformation, offers young artists the ability to improve their artistic skills and a platform to perform or display their work.

Residents of St. Louis Park's Lake Forest Neighborhood organize a program called "Arts Crawl" which sponsors family art programs and raises scholarship funds for youth. Additionally, the city government makes an effort to invite young people to community events and meetings.

The City of St. Louis Park and its residents are committed to a brighter future for their city, their state and their country. I applaud Mayor Jeff Jacobs, the residents of St. Louis Park and especially the young people for their hard work and dedication to improving their communities.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE  
RUSSELL HAMMER

### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Rusty Ham-

mer, a dedicated leader and advocate on behalf of the Los Angeles business community and a dear friend, who passed away recently after a long battle with cancer.

I had the privilege of working with Rusty during his 5 years as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

At the chamber's helm, Rusty dedicated himself to improving the quality of life and economic prosperity of the Los Angeles Chamber's 1,500 members and their more than 600,000 employees throughout the Los Angeles region.

Under Rusty's dedicated leadership, the Los Angeles Chamber successfully built partnerships between business, community, labor and civic organizations. Today, these partnerships have reestablished the Chamber as the Los Angeles region's premier business advocacy organization.

Rusty's talents, innovative strategic thinking and willingness to work with stakeholders on all sides of the political spectrum played an integral role in the Los Angeles area's economic growth. I observed this first hand during the chamber's annual trips to Washington, DC, which became immensely productive and influential under Rusty's leadership.

While we all deeply miss Rusty, I know his work and many contributions will continue to benefit the Los Angeles business community for many years to come. My thoughts and prayers are with Rusty's special wife, Pam, and their family during this difficult time.

Madam Speaker, in honor of Rusty's life, I would like to submit for the RECORD his obituary that appeared in the Los Angeles Times on January 30. It provides more insight into Rusty's full and accomplished life.

RUSSELL HAMMER, 54; HEAD OF L.A. BUSINESS GROUP

(By Elaine Woo)

Russell J. "Rusty" Hammer, former president and chief executive of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, died Monday at a hospice in San Jose. He was 54.

The cause was leukemia, according to a chamber spokeswoman.

Hammer was credited with revitalizing the Los Angeles business group, which he led for five years until 2006, when he stepped down because of his illness. During his tenure, chamber membership grew from 1,200 to 1,600 companies, and new initiatives helped to refocus the organization on local, state and national policy issues.

"He had a substantial impact on the chamber and also on the people he worked with," said George Kieffer, a Los Angeles attorney who was chairman of the chamber during the first few years of Hammer's presidency. "The chamber has an extraordinary legacy but . . . had become less active in the business community and the greater civic community. Rusty played a very big part in turning that around."

Born on May 12, 1953, in Orleans, France, Hammer grew up in San Jose. He received a bachelor's degree in political science at the University of Santa Clara in 1975 and a master's in public administration from San Jose State University in 1979.

He entered politics at an early age, organizing high school students for Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's presidential campaign in 1968. Hammer ran for office himself in 1972, becoming at 18 the youngest person elected to the Campbell, Calif., City Council. At 21, he became mayor and made headlines as the nation's youngest mayor.

After two terms as mayor, he entered business and served in a variety of management

positions, later rising to president of Quadrex Corp., an engineering firm.

In 1994 he was recruited to become chief executive of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. Over the next seven years he raised the profile of the Sacramento chamber, leading it to take a prominent role in local issues, such as the effort to save McClellan Air Force Base, and starting a public policy seminar that attracted world figures, including Henry Kissinger and Margaret Thatcher.

When he arrived in Los Angeles in 2001, Hammer worked in a similar fashion, finding ways to make the Los Angeles chamber more relevant to members. He reached out to other local business groups, small companies and entrepreneurs and organized events that offered a regional perspective, such as a 2002 conference on transportation that drew 500 participants from business and government.

In 2003 he was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia and spent 303 days in a hospital undergoing intensive treatment. While battling his illness, he helped organize a Silicon Valley branch of the Wellness Community, a support group for cancer patients.

He also wrote a book, "When Cancer Calls . . . Say Yes to Life," which he published on his own last year. The book discusses how his battle against cancer forced major adjustments in his life and changed his values.

He told the San Jose Mercury News last year that he was inspired to write the book by his children, twins Gerald and Jennifer, who told him he could not die until he had taught them everything he could about how to approach life. He is also survived by his wife, Pamela.

#### NATIONAL OCEAN EXPLORATION PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1834. I want to commend my colleagues from the Committee on Science and Technology, Chairman BART GORDON, and the Ranking Republican Member, Congressman RALPH HALL, for their leadership in bringing this important bill to enhance our understanding of the marine environment to the House floor.

When I became Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans at the beginning of the 110th Congress, one of my top priorities was to take action on legislation to address the thoughtful recommendations offered by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy to improve our Nation's ocean environment. This legislation, H.R. 1834, would implement a key recommendation of the Commission by authorizing two important ocean research programs within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—the Ocean Exploration Program and the National Undersea Research Program.

This legislation, which refines the bill that was reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on August 4, 2007, would further strengthen NOAA's standing as the pre-eminent civilian federal ocean agency by granting the agency explicit authority to conduct scientific research that directly contributes to increasing scientific knowledge of the world's oceans.

The legislation would address the glaring national need identified by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy to develop and advance new innovations in oceanographic research, communication and navigation technologies to support ocean exploration and science, and expand extramural ocean research.

Additionally, this legislation would emphasize the importance of outreach and public education to ensure that future scientific discoveries and benefits are disseminated to decision-makers in both the public and private sectors and conveyed to the general public. This will increase both public awareness and appreciation of how the world's oceans affect our economic and environmental well-being.

Again, I commend my colleagues on the Committee on Science and Technology for their cooperation. The support of the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Chairman NICK RAHALL, and the ranking Republican member, Congressman DON YOUNG, was also indispensable. Finally, I also acknowledge the leadership of Congressman JIM SEXTON, the sponsor of the bill. I encourage members to vote for this non-controversial legislation.

#### CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Christian Community Action for celebrating its 35th anniversary. Christian Community Action, an organization devoted to helping those in need, has made a tremendous impact on area citizens during its tenure in the north Texas community.

Founded on February 22, 1973, Christian Community Action began by serving local congregations. The group soon began distributing fliers in needy areas offering assistance to those local families who needed it most. CCA provided gifts of food, clothing, housewares, and repair work, but soon realized that for the group to have the effect they wanted, they needed to find a way to expand their reach and obtain financial resources.

It was this decision that caused the organization to connect with area families on a much more personal level. CCA caseworkers learned all about each family's income, budgeting, and spending habits, which presented them with both the information they needed to provide assistance and the coveted opportunity to bond with those they served.

Beginning in 1975, Christian Community Action began focusing on larger scale initiatives, such as resale shops. Now the CCA has evolved from a small bible study group to a thriving organization serving Lewisville and the surrounding area with three CCA resale stores, an adult health center, food services, and education and vocational training.

I would also like to commend Christian Community Action on the importance of the role they play in helping meet the health assistance needs in Denton County, where there is no county hospital to assist. As an OB/GYN

in Denton County for almost 30 years, I'm acutely aware of the needs of the mothers and young children and I especially thank Christian Community Action for their mission in meeting these health needs.

It was also through my work with Christian Community Action that the idea for a program within the Consumer Product Safety Commission to increase awareness for second-hand retailers regarding recalled products was initiated. This project was successfully adopted in the Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act, and I commend CCA for their dedication to improving awareness about dangerous recalled products for similar organizations all across the United States.

With more than 2,500 volunteers, CCA touches the lives of approximately 12,000 people every year. However, they are far more than a charity group. To the 1,500 patients treated in the health center each year; to the parents of the children provided with lunches, school supplies, Christmas presents, and clothes; to the 1,660 people who have been given educational and vocational training; to these people, Christian Community Action offers hope. The building blocks provided by the CCA create a foundation for those in our community to create better lives for themselves.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to honor Christian Community Action on their anniversary. Thirty-five years of service is a milestone to be celebrated.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. JEREMIAH A. WRIGHT, JR., SENIOR PASTOR OF THE TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (TUCC) OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the Reverend Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., who delivered his final sermon on Sunday, February 10, 2008, as the Senior Pastor of the Trinity United Church of Christ of Chicago, IL.

Dr. Wright was born on September 22, 1941, in Philadelphia, PA to the union of the Reverend Jeremiah Wright, Sr. and Dr. Mary Henderson Wright. His parents were his earliest influences, instilling in him the possibility of balancing the intellectual with the spiritual. Upon completion of his elementary and secondary education in Philadelphia, Dr. Wright matriculated at Virginia Union University. After 3½ years at Virginia Union, Dr. Wright left school and entered the U.S. Marine Corps. He transferred from the USMC into the U.S. Navy where he served as a cardiopulmonary technician.

After 6 years with distinction in the military, Dr. Wright transferred to Howard University where he completed his undergraduate studies and received his first master's degree. His second master's degree was from the University of Chicago Divinity School and he furthered his academic pursuits with a doctorate from the United Theological Seminary. In addition to Dr. Wright's four earned degrees, he has been the recipient of eight honorary doctorates. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including three presidential commendations.