

Your Life of Service" dinner and award ceremony. This year the ceremony will be held at the Radisson Hotel Conference Center in Fresno, California, on Friday, October 24th.

Dr. Mallard-Warren grew up in the projects of Oakland, California. Both of her parents were educators and realized the importance of their children obtaining a higher education. Her family moved to East Oakland, but she was bussed to Skyline High School; a school that provided the academic courses that she would need to get into college. Upon graduating from Skyline, Dr. Mallard-Warren attended the University of California, Riverside, where she earned her degree in biology. In 1979, she earned her medical doctorate from the School of Medicine at University of California, Davis.

After graduating from medical school, Dr. Mallard-Warren moved to Fresno, California, and received her training in obstetrics/gynecology at Valley Medical Center. In 1983 she opened her first private practice and today has multiple offices in Fresno. In addition to her private practice, she has made a habit of serving uninsured and underinsured OB/GYN patients over the span of her career. She has worked with Black Infant Health, an organization that provides health education, health promotion, social support and service coordination to pregnant and parenting African-American adult women. Through this program she has diligently worked toward lowering the instances of infant mortality in the most impoverished areas of Fresno and assisted in contributing to the well-being of this underserved community. She also participates in the Liga Doctors of Mercy, a nonprofit organization that has been providing free health care and education to the people of Sinaloa, Mexico, since 1934.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. Gail Mallard-Warren upon being awarded the "Community Health Champions Award". I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Mallard-Warren many years of continued success.

INTRODUCING THE CRITICAL ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2008

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Critical Election Infrastructure Act of 2008.

This legislation is a necessary and vital investment in the future of our democracy. This bill authorizes \$1 billion over the next four years for states and local governments to upgrade existing election equipment and to purchase new polling equipment to meet the needs of our growing electorate. Funding could also be used to hire and train additional poll workers.

Madam Speaker, roughly 130 million votes were cast in this past election. This is an astounding number and emblematic of increased participation in our election system, particularly by minorities and young people. But while increased turnout is for democracy, in some parts of the country it caused undue difficulties.

For example, throughout south Florida and other parts of the country, hundreds of thousands of voters found themselves waiting in interminable lines, sometimes for over five hours. Five hours! Forced to stand in the heat and during Florida's famous afternoon thunderstorms with little food and water, voters are to be commended for their commitment to exercising their right to vote. But voting should not be this hard.

Election officials simply do not have enough equipment and trained personnel on the ground to speedily and effectively handle such large numbers of voters. Even though early voting in Florida took place over a 10-day period, these five-hour-long lines persisted throughout the state virtually every day. Clearly, what is needed is more: more polling booths, more trained workers, more equipment, even more polling locations and facilities to handle increasing numbers of voters. This bill authorizes the funding to upgrade existing technology, provide more polling booths, and hire and train more poll workers, reducing long lines and facilitating greater speed and efficiency for voters.

Madam Speaker, voting should not be a right granted only to those who can stand in line the longest or can go the longest without food or a bathroom break. Voting is the sacred right of all eligible citizens. We have a solemn responsibility to ensure the greatest possible access to exercise that right. Authorizing funding for the necessary equipment and personnel is an essential first step in that process. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN MEMORY OF GENERAL ROBERT H. BARROW

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of a true gentleman, General Robert H. Barrow, United States Marine Corps, Retired—the 27th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

General Barrow was born in 1922 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He graduated high school in 1939 and enrolled at Louisiana State University. In March 1942, he enlisted in the Platoon Leader's Class Program. He left school in the fall of 1942 and went to boot camp in San Diego, staying on after graduation as a drill instructor. Selected for Officer Candidate School, he left San Diego for Quantico in March 1943; and in May 1943, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marines.

After officer training, he was assigned to Marine Barracks, Naval Ammunition Depot, New Orleans. He was reassigned in February 1944 to the 51st Replacement Battalion in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. During the last seven months of World War II, he led an American team serving with Chinese guerrilla forces in Japanese occupied Central China. He was awarded the Bronze Star.

After World War II, he served as Aide de Camp to the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic. He completed Amphibious Warfare School, Junior Course in June 1949,

and was transferred to the 2d Marine Division at Camp Lejeune. He was given command of Company A, 1st Battalion, 2d Marines.

At the beginning of the Korean War, his company was transferred to Camp Pendleton and redesignated Company A, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division. He led Able Company ashore at Inchon in September 1950. For his leadership in the fighting on the outskirts of Seoul, he received the Silver Star. During the Chosin Reservoir Campaign, he was awarded the Navy Cross for the seizure and defense of Hill 1081 from 9–10 December 1950.

After the Korean War, he was reassigned as Officer-in-Charge, Infantry Desk, Enlisted Assignments, Headquarters Marine Corps. From there he was detailed out and sent on a classified assignment to the Far East, north of Taiwan. He returned to Headquarters Marine Corps, this time to the G-3.

In February 1956, he returned to Camp Lejeune, where he served first as operations officer and then executive officer of 2d Battalion, 6th Marines. He joined the NROTC unit at Tulane University in 1957, and served as Marine Officer Instructor for three years. Returning to Quantico, he completed a tour with the Landing Force Development Center and attended the Officer's Senior Course in 1963. He left for another tour in the Pacific, where he served as G-3, III Marine Expeditionary Force, then G-3 Plans Officer at Fleet Marine Force Pacific in Hawaii.

Attendance at the National War College followed, and upon graduation in 1968, he arrived in South Vietnam to take command of 9th Marines, 3d Marine Division. The regiment conducted a series of highly successful operations south of the western part of the Demilitarized Zone and in the Khe Sanh and Ba Long Valley areas. For his valor during Operation Dewey Canyon from 22 January to 18 March 1969, he received the Distinguished Service Cross.

He was promoted to brigadier general in August 1969 by General Leonard F. Chapman, 24th Commandant of the Marine Corps. General Barrow's first tour as a general officer was Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Butler, Okinawa, where he served for three years. He then served as Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina for 32 months.

In July 1975, he was assigned as Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Headquarters Marine Corps. The following year, he became Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia. He was Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps from July 1978 until a year later when he assumed the office as Commandant. Befitting his reputation and stature, when General Barrow stepped down as 27th Commandant of the Marine Corps in June 1983, President Ronald Reagan presided over the ceremony at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. General Barrow returned to Louisiana, where he lived in retirement.

General Barrow's medals and decorations include the Navy Cross, Defense Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Department of the Army Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, three Legions of Merit, two Bronze Stars, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Madam Speaker, General Barrow was an outstanding Marine and an exceptional American leader. I know the members of the House

will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family, his friends, and to all Marines. He will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF PENNSYLVANIA LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CATHERINE BAKER KNOLL

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, on November 12, 2008, Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll succumbed to a four month long battle with neuroendocrine cancer.

I've known Catherine for 30 years. She was a remarkable woman who never stopped fighting to better our Commonwealth and to improve the lives of Pennsylvanians. She was one of the most hard-working and determined individuals to ever serve in state government, and her passion and dedication to both the Democratic Party and to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was unparalleled.

Catherine was a transformational figure—one of the first women to run for statewide office, she served as Pennsylvania State Treasurer (1989–1997) and later became the first woman to serve as Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor (2003–2008). She never stopped fighting for what she believed in, and this determination placed her at the forefront of so many important issues.

Catherine's kindness and friendship touched the lives of many. Over the past few months, people from all across Pennsylvania asked me how she was doing, and how she was coping with the disease. I reminded them that Catherine Baker Knoll was made of "steel" and that she was fighting this disease with the same strength and fortitude she fought every other challenge in life.

Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the career and life of someone who devoted both to serving the interests of her fellow Pennsylvanians. I rise to thank and commend her four children, Charles, Mina, Albert, and Kim Eric, for always being by her side and giving her constant strength.

Madam Speaker, all of us will miss the friendship and great leadership of Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEOPLES BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to a special day in the life of the congregation of the Peoples Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

On November 24th, Peoples Baptist Church will celebrate its 110th anniversary. The church was first organized in 1898 under Rev. Pradd who served as the pastor until 1925.

The church moved to several locations over the years including the campus of Alabama State University.

In September of 2008, the church moved to its new location on Dorchester Drive in Montgomery. The new building was built under the leadership of the church's fifth pastor, Paul L. Boswell, who served the church for 32 years. The congregation works to carry the "torch of building up God's kingdom one brick at a time."

Today the church celebrates their 110th Anniversary and is blessed to now be under the leadership of their new and sixth pastor, Victor Lewis, Sr.

I would like to congratulate Peoples Baptist Church on reaching this important milestone.

HONORING MATTHEW CHARLES GARCIA

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Charles Garcia of Kansas City, Missouri. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1357, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Charles Garcia for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SUPERVISOR DENNIS HANSBERGER FOR HIS DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and longtime leader in my community, San Bernardino County Supervisor Dennis Hansberger, who is leaving office this year after more than 20 years in public service.

While he was a young businessman in 1968, Dennis Hansberger was selected as a field representative and executive assistant by then-County Supervisor Donald Beckford. When his boss decided not to run for re-election, Mr. Hansberger mounted a successful campaign and won election to the county board in 1972.

Dennis Hansberger quickly revealed his strong leadership capabilities, and was chosen as chairman of the board by his fellow supervisors in 1974—becoming the youngest chairman in the state and the youngest in San

Bernardino County history. When the legislature created the South Coast Air Quality Management District, Supervisor Hansberger became a founding board member of that ground-breaking agency.

After 2 successful terms, Mr. Hansberger decided to take a hiatus from elected office and went into private business as a well-respected consultant on land management and mining issues. He remained extremely active in public service, however, serving for 3 years as Chairman on the Redlands Community Hospital's Board, as well as on the Board of Counselors of the California State University in California, the Foundation Board of the San Bernardino County Museum, the Inland Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and the Capital Projects Committee of the Girl Scouts of America.

Mr. Hansberger was again elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1996, and has been at the forefront of many of the major issues faced by the county in the past 12 years. Faced with the closure of Norton Air Force Base, Supervisor Hansberger has been a leader in seeking ways to replace the 12,000 jobs lost. He served as chairman of the Inland Valley Development Authority, a joint effort of the county and cities surrounding the base. By working as a team, the communities have brought about a complete makeover of the former base into a new airport, supporting major businesses that have brought thousands of new jobs to the area.

Five years ago, San Bernardino County was confronted with an even more dire problem—millions of trees were dying around mountain communities and creating a grave fire danger for tens of thousands of residents. As the supervisor representing the area, Dennis Hansberger pushed county officials to create the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce and work with residents on an evacuation plan. The plan's effectiveness was demonstrated when nearly 50,000 residents were evacuated with no serious injury during terrible wildfires the following year. Mr. Hansberger has since led the county in cutting down more than a million trees and significantly reducing the fire danger.

Madam Speaker, as you can see, Dennis Hansberger has been a leader in improving the economy and safety for San Bernardino County residents. Please join me in thanking him for his decades of public service, and wishing the best to him and his wife Karen in all of their future endeavors.

HONORING THE HONORABLE WILLIAM R. DYSON FOR HIS OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to join the New Haven Democratic Town Committee and all of those gathered this evening in paying tribute to one of New Haven's most outstanding public servants and my good friend, State Representative William R. Dyson. After 32 years of dedicated service, Bill has decided to step down as State Representative from Connecticut's 94th Assembly District. This evening, friends, family, community leaders, and colleagues extend