

develop, the water-marketing agreements that helped bring the business world and the urban water community on board. His work on water marketing has always been ahead of his time: he was early to the idea that market forces can be brought to bear on conservation and the protection of water and other public goods.

This is a great example of Tom's ability to look at new ideas and adapt them to environmental improvements, which has always been an incredible strength, one matched by very few people—too few, really—in the world of environmental policymaking.

Nothing in California water politics is easy, as the people gathered in Sacramento tonight can attest, and Tom is one of the very few people who can broker an agreement between the north and the south, between State and Federal politicians, between Democrats and Republicans, and of course, between Democrats and other Democrats.

Tom is a great friend, and a great ally. I have relied on his counsel for 30 years, and whenever a new issue crops up that requires an innovative strategy, I turn to him—and so do many, many others.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself, my staff, and all of our colleagues in Congress who have benefited from his guidance and advice, it is my honor to recognize Tom Graff.

#### HONORING GAIL SWARD

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gail Nanette Sward for her dedication to her family, business and community. Mrs. Sward passed away at her home in Oakdale CA, surrounded by her family on Sunday, March 2, 2008.

Gail Sward was born and raised in Stanislaus County; she attended Turlock schools and graduated from Turlock High School in 1959. On March 1, 1966, Sward Trucking began operating out of Oakdale, as a sole proprietorship and became a California Corporation on September 1, 1977. Mrs. Sward was the co-founder of Sward Trucking and helped to build it from the ground up. Today Sward Trucking operates 50 tractors and 100 trailer units to transport a number of commodities including: lumber, roofing, insulation and related building materials, corrugated paper, waste paper, glass containers, empty cans, plastic bottles, case goods and plastic pipe. The company transports goods throughout California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. Mrs. Sward was only more dedicated to one other thing in her life, her family.

Mrs. Sward was a mother, a businesswoman, a community advocate and leader. She was a past president of the Oak Valley Hospital Foundation, past president of OLGA, director and past president of the Stanislaus County Fair Board. She was also a board member of Private Industry Council and past president of the Oak Valley Hospital Board. She has been honored for her services in a number of ways. In 1996 Mrs. Sward was a delegate to the Republican Convention. In 1998 she was named the Stanislaus County Outstanding Woman of the Year and the 1999 Legislative Woman of the Year.

Mrs. Sward is survived by her husband of 47 years, Vic Sward, her children; Sandra West and Eric Sward; her grandchildren; Sara Shipman, Nic West and her great grandchildren; Cameron, Kaidyn, Cole and Case.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Gail Sward for her dedication to her family, her business and her community. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring her life and wishing the best for her family.

#### A PROCLAMATION HONORING ZANE STATE COLLEGE FOR ITS NO. 9 RANKING OF BEST 2-YEAR COLLEGES IN THE NATION, AS REPORTED BY WASHINGTON MONTHLY

### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Zane State College in Zanesville, Ohio, has achieved the distinction of being ranked the 9th Best 2-Year College in the Nation, as reported by Washington Monthly magazine.

Whereas, this ranking is based on Zane State College's graduation rates that are approaching three times the national average and on student feedback as collected in the Community College Survey of Student Engagement, which measures how well the Nation's 2-year colleges use teaching techniques that lead to better learning; and

Whereas, 43 percent of all college freshmen begin their education at 2-year institutions, which is an important reason for comparing effectiveness and student experiences at 2-year colleges; and

Whereas, Zane State College's academic challenge, high student-faculty interaction, support for learners, and above-average graduation rates are testaments to Zane State College's impressive ability to meet the needs of its students, many of whom are the first in their families to ever attend college; and

Whereas, collaborative support from the community surrounding Zane State College has played an important role in the success of these students as well; and

Whereas, Zane State College's well-deserved ranking is also due to the highly effective leadership demonstrated by its president and its supportive boards. Thanks to this leadership, and to a philosophy of "personal touch" demonstrated by faculty and staff, Zane State College has rightfully earned its rank as one of the best 2-year colleges in America; and be it

*Resolved*, that along with its friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Zane State College for its outstanding service to students, families, and the Zanesville community. Congratulations to Zane State College on its ranking as number 9 among 2-year colleges in the U.S.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RIC KELLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have remained in Orlando, with my wife and our new daughter who was born on Monday, March 3. If I had been present yesterday, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall 103: "nay"; Rollcall No. 104: "nay"; Rollcall No. 105: "yea"; Rollcall No. 106: "nay"; Rollcall No. 107: "nay."

#### WOMEN'S HERITAGE MONTH

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's Heritage Month to commend the accomplishments of two astonishing black women, Dr. Beverly Mitchell Brooks and Ms. Nellie Ruth Riley Lewis of Dallas, Texas.

Born, raised and educated in south Dallas, Ms. Mitchell-Brooks received a master's degree in genetics from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas, becoming the first African-American to achieve the degree in pure science from the school. In 1990, she became the first woman to head the Urban League of Greater Dallas, which has set the path for future generations of young women. Under her leadership, the Urban League built its first permanent headquarters and state of the art technology center in the heart of Oak Cliff.

Currently serving as president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Dallas, Dr. Brooks has also served as executive director of the Greater Dallas Community Relations Commission, director of public affairs for Dallas Area Rapid Transit, and director of the Martin Luther King Center.

I pay tribute to another prominent Dallas community leader, my dear friend who left us on March 1, 2008, Nellie Ruth Riley Lewis. Throughout her life, Nellie Lewis was a well-known, respected figure in Dallas who leaves behind a legacy of accomplishments that will be remembered for years to come.

Mrs. Lewis moved to Dallas in 1977 with her late husband Dr. Lewis, where they were both employed with the Dallas Independent School District. During her 20 years with DISD, Mrs. Lewis' duties included serving as an instructional specialist, a curriculum coordinator and an area director. She also served as director of learning services, the administrative assistant to four superintendents and supervisor to a group of 10 elementary school principals.

In 1997, Mrs. Lewis received the Charles D. Moody Founder's Award, presented by the National Alliance of Black School Educators. As our Nation experiences great technological innovation and success in the global market, the value of an education takes on even greater importance. Mrs. Lewis has exhibited the characteristics we seek in our educators, school administrators, and community activists.

On behalf of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, I am honored to recognize and commend these two prominent women Dr. Beverly

Mitchell Brooks and Ms. Nellie Ruth Riley Lewis of Dallas, Texas.

HONORING TANYA MARTIN OUBRE PEKEL

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the late Tanya Martin Oubre Pekel of Miami, Florida.

On Monday, May 22, 2006, this great pioneering young woman succumbed to a nearly 3-year battle with breast cancer at the age of 41. Her untimely passing will truly leave a deep void in our midst.

A native of Miami, Mrs. Martin Pekel was born on October 3, 1964. She graduated with honors from North Miami Senior High School. During that time she served as a page for U.S. Representative William Lehman and worked as a clerk for attorney H.T. Smith. Later, she earned a bachelor's degree from Duke University, and in 1989 she received her juris doctorate from Duke's School of Law.

Mrs. Martin Pekel continued on to work as a corporate attorney before being appointed a White House Fellow by President Clinton in 1995. Under this appointment, she became an associate director of Education and Policy Planning in the White House. In 1999, she accepted the position of Chief of Staff to Superintendent Patricia Harvey of Saint Paul Public Schools in St. Paul, Minnesota and served in the position for 6 years. In 2003, she was named one of that city's up and coming leaders.

Her commitment to public service and her community was evident from a young age. Throughout her life, she taught music, drama, dance, and Sunday school to children in an inner-city ministry. In addition, she volunteered as a tutor and mentor for at-risk youth.

Tanya Martin Oubre Pekel's life was a triumph. She was blessed with a loving family who took pleasure in every aspect of her life and her interests. Though she was taken from them far too early in her life, memories of her will live on in the heart of her family forever.

I pay tribute to Mrs. Martin Pekel, and I mourn her loss. She will be missed by all who knew her. I offer my heartfelt condolences to her family—her mother, Marcia Saunders; father, Montez Martin Jr.; husband, Kent; daughters, Lauren and Victoria; son, Adam; sisters, Terrie Rayburn and Emily Martin; brother, Montez C. Martin III; and grandmother, Elise Martin.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 5, 2008*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to express my strong support for H.R. 1424, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addic-

tion Equity Act of 2007. As a former social worker serving in the United States Congress, I am a proud cosponsor of this bill and am pleased to see it passed in the House of Representatives.

In my previous career, I worked with people affected by mental illnesses and substance abuse. Having seen the devastating effects these illnesses have on people's lives and their communities, I am glad my fellow Members of Congress also recognize that mental health services are absolutely critical to helping individuals regain control over their lives.

For years, people with mental illnesses have faced restrictions on the number of visits they can make to their providers and financial limitations which are either too restrictive or too costly for them to receive the treatment they require. With this bill, we empower people to seek the help and support they need. By helping make mental health services more accessible, we aid people to take a very important step toward overcoming the technical and social psychological barriers surrounding mental health.

Mental illnesses, like most other medical conditions, can be alleviated with treatment. When left untreated, these illnesses worsen and become a larger burden for the affected person. Because treatment is available and effective, it is a great injustice to allow financial and procedural restrictions to become yet another barrier people with mental illnesses have to overcome. Therefore, it is reasonable and fair that these illnesses receive the similar type of attention and medical coverage as other health conditions.

Mental health is a fundamental element of overall health wellness which has not been fully recognized in the past. I am confident this bill will make it possible for millions of people to improve their quality of life. I commend my colleagues for making this a reality for many of their constituents.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN M. "TERRY" MYLNE

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California, are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. John "Terry" Mylne is one of these individuals. On December 30, 2007, John's term representing Western Municipal Water District on the Metropolitan Water District board of directors ended. He was recently recognized for his dedicated service and retirement at a December board meeting of the Western Municipal Water District.

A fourth generation Riverside native, Terry Mylne represented the District for 29 years. He served as a Western board member from 1978 to 1995 and was on the Metropolitan board representing Western since 1993.

Prior to and during his tenure with the District, Terry excelled in every endeavor. He ob-

tained his bachelor's degree in engineering and master's degree in business administration from Stanford University, before beginning his career as manager of irrigation science for the Toro Company. He was elected to serve as a Western board member from 1978 to 1995, and served as Western's representative on the board for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California since 1993.

Terry was appointed to many Metropolitan committees during his years representing Western's interests, including serving as chairman of the finance and insurance committee, engineering and operations committee, land committee, committee on legislation, subcommittee on annexations, the facility naming ad hoc committee, and the electric industry restructuring ad hoc committee.

Terry is an active member of the Association of California Water Agencies; he has also served as director of its municipal water district section, its Joint Powers Insurance Authority board, its executive committee, and as a member of its directors and building committee.

Terry's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. I am proud to call John a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he ends his term.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING HOCKING COLLEGE FOR THE RECEIPT OF THE 2008 COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION AWARD

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Hocking College celebrates its receipt of the 2008 Council for Higher Education Accreditation Award with great joy; and

Whereas, this recognition is the result of what a hard-working people began in 1969; and

Whereas, Hocking College has unwaveringly served Ohio, its citizens, and the higher education community by providing higher education within the State of Ohio; and

Whereas, Hocking College has availed itself to prepare students in a more comprehensive manner to adapt to the needs of an increasingly technical and communicably diverse working society by voluntarily incorporating communications requirements into its curriculum; and

Whereas, Hocking College looks forward to continuing service to the citizens of Ohio and providing outstanding examples of higher education; be it

*Resolved*, that along with its friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Hocking College for its service, dedication and award.