

California State president of Adelante, commissioner on the Civil Service Commission of Kern County, president of MAPA of Kern County and State 15th Senate District, State and National vice president for the Mexican American Political Association, and State vice president of the Latino American Political Association, in addition to being a member of many more.

Furthermore, Angel's influence in the Central Valley as a successful advocate for health safety regarding water contamination distinguishes this man as a genuine fighter and champion for Latino children and families everywhere.

Apart from owning Diaz Enterprise, Angel is also the founder and CEO of California Migrant Leadership Pre-school. It is through this school that Angel is able to successfully convey the importance of establishing a solid foundation for the educational development needs of children in order to prepare them for further academic advancement. As a result of his involvement with this school, Angel has met with a wide spectrum of politicians and community leaders to compel them to recognize the positive ripple effect it creates for our society.

Angel Diaz is not only an empowering leader, but a true friend not only to me and my family and the Latino community. I am grateful for Angel's admirable dedication to instilling positive change and leading an exemplarily life, one of whose footsteps we all hope to follow. God Bless him for love of country and mankind.

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF FORT FAIRFIELD

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the families who 150 years ago came to the banks of the Aroostook River following the Aroostook War and the Webster-Ashburton Treaty which paved their way. Working together in the midst of wilderness, the community supported a school and increasing amounts of small businesses. Finally, in March, 1858, the Secretary of State certified that an act to incorporate the Town of Fort Fairfield had been signed by Governor Lot M. Morrill.

Today, equipped with the same community spirit and sense of common purpose, the people of Fort Fairfield continue to embrace the challenges and opportunities of living and working on the border in northern Maine. Their commitment and the commitment of their ancestors are to be commended. It is these individuals and families along with the many other hardworking people of Maine that I remember every time I cast a vote here on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of Fort Fairfield and I am pleased to have this opportunity to help this community celebrate its 150th Anniversary.

HONORING ELLA RILEY GARDNER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ella Riley Gardner who after thirty-four years of service with the New York City Department of Education retired in 2004. Born in Beaufort, South Carolina, she is the only child of Dan and Idelle Riley. She is a wife and mother of Elliot, Michelle, and Deisha, all college graduates and the grandmother of Shantrelle, Jonelle, Terrell, and Michaela.

Ella's motto, "Love your calling with a passion; it is the meaning of your life" saw her teaching English for twenty-three years where he enjoyed the richness of literature, poetry, novels, short stories, essays, etc. from all over the world. Her greatest joy was to see the expression of awe and wonder on the faces of her students as he unfolded the themes and life lessons derived from literature. Her greatest satisfaction was to know that they had learned and achieved as a result of her diligent and thorough instruction.

Ella received many accolades during her tenure as teach, including "Teacher of the Year" in 1992. From that year until her retirement, were spent in various capacities of administration and supervision: Site Facilitator for District 5 Professional Development Laboratory; Department Chairperson, Literacy Staff Developer, Assessment Coordinator, Assistant Principal at I.S. 195 and administrator of a \$350,000 Comprehensive School Reform Technology Grant from 2002 until her retirement.

As an avid community servant, Ella serves children and women in two community-based shelters, adopted schools and other community concerns through two professional organizations; the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa and the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs. She is currently in her second term as President of the Brooklyn Club. There, she was instrumental in securing an endowment fund that provides \$22,000 yearly for five years to Brooklyn Club scholarship applicants.

Madam Speaker, Ella Riley Gardner's educational preparation includes a B.A. in English, City College New York (1971); MA in Reading CCNY (1973); MS in Educational Administration and Supervision, Pace University (1987); Paralegal Certificate, Long Island University (1989); Professional Diploma in Teacher Leadership, Teacher Leadership Institute at NYU (1993). As a lifelong learner, Ms. Gardner continues to enhance her knowledge and often-times attends countless workshops and seminars that expound the latest developments in literacy.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to pay tribute to Ella Riley Gardner for her selfless dedication to her passion—her calling as a teacher.

DANIELLE LEEPER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Danielle Leeper of Kingston, Missouri. Danielle is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Danielle has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Danielle has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Danielle Leeper for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scout Gold Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF PEGGY DODDS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize Peggy Dodds, a native South Carolinian for her service, loyalty, and dedication upon her retirement from the South Carolina Research Authority, SCRA.

Before her commitment to SCRA, Mrs. Dodds worked for Columbia College for 13 years, concluding her tenure as the executive assistant to the president.

On its upcoming 25th anniversary, SCRA is looking forward to celebrating its two and a half decades of building and managing multi-organization teams for industry, government, and academia to advance our country's technical competitiveness. During Mrs. Dodds' service to SCRA, she dedicated herself to the premise that SCRA was founded upon—to more quickly deploy our research successes for practical and competitive uses. This is still the bedrock of the organization across many disciplines, which include: manufacturing, shipbuilding, composites, law enforcement, homeland security, health care, and energy.

Mrs. Dodds rose to the position of director of corporate relations and has been an integral contributor, often behind the scenes, to SCRA's many successes. As Bill Maloney, SCRA's CEO and president, has said, "in a variety of ways and across a variety of programs, Peggy has provided consistently effective interface and execution capabilities on behalf of both the CEO and the entire company, punctuated with a unique signature of polite, pleasant professionalism."

During Mrs. Dodds' 18 years of service to SCRA, she has skillfully served and admirably performed in her capacity. Mrs. Dodds actively coordinated official business matters with the State's General Assembly and the South Carolina congressional delegation on behalf of SCRA presidents. Other responsibilities included scheduling and interaction with the

SCRA trustees and chairman, recording secretary for the company and the All-Associates' meetings, and program management for the South Carolina Nutrition Research Consortium. Mrs. Dodds also assisted program management for SC Launch!, which is working to expand the knowledge economy of South Carolina. Additionally, she has contributed significantly to not only the day-to-day execution, but also the long-term transformation of SCRA. Her integrity is reflected in the thoughts and comments of her peers. Robert Henderson, past president and CEO of SCRA, has remarked that "she was a great friend and an astounding organizer." Another former president and CEO of SCRA, Larry Druffel, says it best with "Peggy was not only the soul of the organization but she knew the history, the people and most importantly the culture, which she worked to nurture."

I am grateful for Peggy Dodds' service to the South Carolina Research Authority and her service to the many lives she has helped to improve in the State of South Carolina and the Nation. I know Peggy looks forward to focusing on her family and her church as well as traveling with her husband, Dave. I wish her good health and Godspeed for her future.

SUPPORTING PSORIASIS RESEARCH AND CARE

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker. I rise today in support of H.R. 1188, the Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act, and encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

As many as 7.5 million Americans are affected by psoriasis—a chronic inflammatory, painful, disfiguring and disabling disease for which there are limited treatments and no cure. Between 10 percent and 30 percent of people with psoriasis also develop psoriatic arthritis, which causes pain, stiffness and swelling in and around the joints.

Brian Lehrsall, coleader of the Triangle Psoriasis, Education, Advocacy, and Support group in my congressional district, is just one of my constituents living with psoriasis. Diagnosed with plaque psoriasis at age 13, Brian underwent many courses of treatment to address his severe condition, including several different topical medications and ultraviolet radiation. Through the years, Brian has remained active in his local psoriasis support group and been a staunch advocate for the National Psoriasis Foundation's work to increase psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis research.

H.R. 1188 would direct the National Institutes of Health to expand and intensify research and related activities of the Institutes with respect to psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Specifically, the bill would direct the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases to conduct a number of research activities related to psoriasis. The bill also would establish a national psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis patient registry through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and would direct the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary to con-

vene a national summit on psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis research. Finally, the bill would authorize a study by the Institute of Medicine regarding medications and treatments for psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

I appreciate the work Brian and his colleagues have done on behalf of so many individuals living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1188, the Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act.

HONORING ST. FRANCIS PARISH AMARILLO, TEXAS 100TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the St. Francis Parish, in Amarillo, Texas, on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

The history of the St. Francis Parish can be traced to the early 1900's when Texas sold public lands to encourage development in the region. In 1907, the Reverend Francis J. O'Reilly decided to establish a "Catholic colony" in the Texas Panhandle. After an extensive search, a site was selected to serve a growing number of parishioners settling the area. By 1908, over 13,000 acres on the Potter-Carson County line were purchased to develop a town.

The community boomed with families who were attracted to West Texas to work the land as faithful farmers and ranchers, and the first Catholic church was built there in 1908. The parish continues to flourish with a current congregation of about 65 families.

Over the years, the community and parish experienced both the blessings and challenges of life in West Texas. Dealing with unpredictable weather, crops, and economic conditions served to help parishioners become even more steadfast in their faith. The strong agricultural community set deep roots in the area, and many descendants of those first families still call the Texas Panhandle and St. Francis home.

The St. Francis Parish continues to actively celebrate and embrace its history of faith and community. In 1983, they commemorated their 75th Anniversary, which included the placement of a historical marker and the publication of a hardbound history book entitled "Harvest of Memories—The St. Francis Story."

Faith, family, and fellowship make our communities strong and provide us with hope. As St. Francis Parish celebrates its past and looks ahead to the future, I join with the community to wish them a joyous 100th Anniversary.

HONORING DEPUTY DAVE MILLS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Deputy Dave Mills of Gallatin County, Illinois. Deputy Mills passed away suddenly on March 11, 2008.

Deputy Dave, as he was affectionately known to the students in Gallatin County, was the Gallatin County School District DARE Officer. I received a letter from a student in Gallatin County, Taylor Jackson, who had this to say about Deputy Dave; "He was really close to me and most of the students of my school." Taylor went on to write, "he was a great man and a huge influence to me and my teachers and my fellow students . . . I'm only 13, but he really meant the world to me and many others."

As we can tell from Taylor's words, Deputy Mills' work certainly had an impact that will be forever etched into the hearts and minds of those whose lives he touched. I extend my sympathy to the family and friends of Deputy Dave Mills. My prayers will be with them and the Gallatin County community as they mourn this great loss.

HONORING VERONICA MONTGOMERY-COSTA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Veronica Montgomery-Costa, the Harlem-born, third-term President of Local 372 and District Council 37 who assumed leadership of more than 26,000 union members on July 15, 1999. Local 372 represents the school-based Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention Specialists, part-time School Aides, Family Paraprofessionals, Community Coordinators, School Lunch Workers, School Crossing Guards, and school-based Health Service Aides. Ms. Costa hit the ground running and fulfilled more than her campaign promises. She kept her promise to rebuild Local 372, which had been under the administration of its parent union, AFSCME, by implementing much-needed economic and administrative reforms.

Veronica transformed Local 372 into a fiscally sound, ethically administered organization wiping out an inherited \$5 million deficit, restoring an effective grievance procedure, training for Grievance Representatives and Shop Stewards and increasing the number of members involved in standing committees. Local 372's integrity was restored along with its bargaining power and its members won record salary increases, improved health, retirement benefits and job security for full-time and part-time workers. With Ms. Costa's determination, Local 372 worked with parents and community groups to block the NYC Board of Education from turning over the management of five public schools to a private, for-profit corporation. Ever in the forefront of the fight against school vouchers, Veronica and Local 372 used its phone bank to support an effort which resulted in the House Education and Workforce Committee dealing President Bush and conservative Republicans a critical blow by voting to strip a private school voucher provision from the House Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Veronica Montgomery-Costa started a Local 372 Scholarship Fund for Members' children, fought off privatization of the School Lunch Program, successfully lobbied to restore \$3.1 million to the School Based Prevention Program in the state budget, and played a role in