

influential residents and a pillar of the community, Ronald Brown.

Ron Brown was the head of Atlanta Life Financial Group, a company that is a historic institution. The 103-year-old company was founded by a former slave by the name of Alonzo Herndon and is the oldest and largest black-owned, privately held insurance company in the country. Ron was a major factor in Atlanta Life's success.

Ron Brown expanded the company's scope from strictly an insurance business to diversifying into three divisions: Atlanta Life Insurance Co., Atlanta Life Investment Advisors and Jackson Securities. Atlanta Life Financial possesses \$16 billion in policies and manages \$1 billion in assets. While achieving great business success, Ron advocated that companies have not only a responsibility to make a profit but to also get involved within its community. Ron served on corporate and civic boards. He was a big believer of providing opportunities to children, sharing business experiences with them and meeting with student groups at the company headquarters.

Ron Brown accomplished much in his life. Through the many fruits of his labors from a life that was cut too short, Ron's impact will live on. With his passing, Atlanta has lost a figure of good and of progress.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the Guam Community College (GCC) and to congratulate the institution on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. The Guam Community College, established in November 1977 by Guam Public Law 14-77, became our premier institution for vocational, skilled trade and technical education when it assumed the programs and missions of its predecessor, the Trade and Technical High School and the Vocational High School of the Guam Department of Education.

GCC's leadership at both secondary and post-secondary levels is realized through its offering of over 50 courses of study in vocational programs, adult and continuing education, community education, and short-term specialized training. Designed to target student populations within the Asia-Pacific Rim and the Micronesia region, GCC courses prepare students through job development and training based on community needs and trade demands.

The small communities within the region, and the distance from mainland learning institutions, are contributing factors to the GCC's mission. With a diverse offering in curriculum and training programs, the college caters to these communities by offering ease of access to higher education. The main college campus, located in Mangilao, Guam, accommodates a population of 2,000 students. Off-campus and satellite options allow for distance learning, and on-campus courses equip students with expert and on-the-job training through partnerships with Guam businesses,

organizations, and government entities. Through internships and apprenticeships, GCC has been successful in nurturing local talent to contribute to our island's economy.

GCC maintains membership in the prestigious educational organizations of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, the Pacific Post-Secondary Educational Council, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and the League of Innovation for Community Colleges. Accreditation has been awarded by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges since 1979. Additionally, under the United States Vocational Education Act of 1946, 1963, and subsequent amendments, GCC has served as the State Board of Control for vocational education for Guam.

GCC has been a consistent leader in the region for education. True to its mission to provide students with training for life-long learning, GCC offers opportunities for specialized learning through programs such as English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education, General Education Development (GED) preparation and testing, and an Adult High School Diploma.

During this 30th anniversary, I join the people of Guam in recognizing the foresight and vision of GCC's past presidents: Dr. Herminiano delos Santos, John T. Cruz, Jose Ramos, Peter Nelson, Dr. Stanley B. Malkin, and Dr. John C. Salas. We also recognize the current and past chairs of the Board of Trustees: Gina Y. Ramos, Juan Tenorio, Charles Spero, Dr. Antonio Yamashita, Dr. John C. Salas, Richard Tennessen, Jose Munoz, Atanacio T. Diaz, Greg Perez, and Adolpho Sgambelluri. The vision of these individuals has culminated today into the leadership of president Mary Ann Y. Okada, vice president of academic affairs John R. Rider, Ed.D., and vice president of administrative services John C. Camacho.

With the commitment, dedication, and leadership of Guam Community College's officers, board of trustees, faculty, and students, GCC has become a symbol of the possibilities that exist within our island and our region. The college blends the talent and expertise of our government agencies, businesses and industries, community groups, and technical training establishments on Guam. These valuable and strategic partnerships have increased trade and technical capabilities in the community leading to greater opportunities and success for its students and our islands.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I would like to recognize the 30 years of education and community service of the Guam Community College. I commend and congratulate them on this milestone anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RAY RUIZ SPECIAL EXPOSURE COHORT ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I have the honor of representing the Los Alamos National Laboratory, which, throughout its history, has played a critical role in keeping our Nation safe from the many threats we

have faced and continue to face today. Many of the men and women who have worked there, and continue to work there, are patriots, doing some of the Nation's most important work while hidden from the spotlight.

Tragically, many of these workers, unbeknownst to them, were exposed to cancer-causing doses of radiation during their employment. It has been a long, hard struggle for many of these employees to get compensation from the Federal Government, and many of them have passed away from the diseases they contracted in service to their country.

One of these heroes was New Mexico State Representative Ray Ruiz. Representative Ruiz was a LANL employee diagnosed with cancer as a result of his work for the lab. Tomorrow, May 9, marks the 4 year anniversary of his passing. From the time of his diagnosis to the time of his passing, Representative Ruiz worked tirelessly for a Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) designation for LANL to ensure that the workers diagnosed with cancer did not have to face the same impossible burden of proof as he did—to convince the government that their work was responsible for their illness.

Following his passing, Representative Ruiz's wife, Harriet, not only was elected to fill her husband's seat in the State Legislature, but carried on the work to secure SEC designation for the workers at LANL. While there was an initial, narrow SEC approved to cover a very small class of workers at the lab, the Ruiz's work, and the work of many others, came as close to realization as it had to date when on July 22, 2007 a much broader SEC designation for LANL became effective.

The SEC covers hundreds of workers and their survivors diagnosed with radiogenic cancers who worked at the lab from March 15, 1943 through December 31, 1975. While this was an incredibly important development, and one that was long overdue, there are many workers who should be included in this SEC, but are not.

I know one worker, Madam Speaker, who suffers from radiogenic cancer, but just falls a few months short of the recently enacted SEC because he does not meet the requirements for number of days worked through 1975. Extend the SEC further, however, and he would certainly qualify for compensation.

This is particularly troubling considering NIOSH has already conceded that doses cannot be reconstructed for workers through 1975, but there are employees such as the one I just referred to who are denied compensation because of the cutoff date. NIOSH can no more reconstruct doses for employees of the lab in January 1976 than they can for employees of the lab in December of 1975. Yet post-1975 claimants are forced to undergo dose reconstruction during a period for which NIOSH concedes information is not available.

That is why today I am introducing the Ray Ruiz Special Exposure Cohort Act to both honor the late Representative Ruiz, and to also help fully realize his and his wife's work to provide compensation to all employees who contracted illnesses from radiation exposure at LANL. This legislation would expand the current LANL SEC to cover claimants at the lab up to the present so that any worker diagnosed with the illnesses stipulated under the current SEC and who meets a required 250 aggregated work days at LANL are covered. The important national security work being

conducted at the lab did not stop on December 31, 1975, and sadly, neither did the harmful exposures to radiation that has caused many of these cancers. Post-1975 claimants have done the same work and been diagnosed with the same illnesses. These radiogenic cancers are not constrained by calendar years, and nor should be the compensation to employees and their families.

Madam Speaker, claimants and their families have made great strides in achieving some small measure of justice from the Federal Government. There are many, however, who continue to fight the battle not only with their illnesses, but with the government simultaneously. The EEOICPA program was designed to put the burden of proof on the government, not on the claimant. Unfortunately, that has not been the way the program is operating. The SEC designation for LANL was an important step towards rectifying this situation, but the Ray Ruiz Special Exposure Cohort Act will help provide much deserved compensation to the many other cold war heroes who have tragically fallen through the cracks.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO WAPSIE VALLEY WARRIORS

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by the Wapsie Valley Warriors football team at the State Football Tournament in Cedar Falls this past fall.

Falling short in last year's championship game, the Warriors were determined to not let history repeat itself once again. The top ranked Warriors (13-0) would not disappoint, pushing to a 22-14 win over the Lawton-Bronson Eagles. For twelve Warrior seniors, it didn't get much better than that.

I congratulate the Warriors for winning the Iowa class A state championship. This hard fought journey to the championship title gives Wapsie its fourth state title in history and its first since 1997. It is especially rewarding with the added pressure of a number one ranking from the season's outset.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Warrior football team, both on and off the field, and I am proud to serve them in Congress.

COMMEMORATING DUANE MUNFORT HILL OF UKIAH, CALI- FORNIA FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO AFFORD- ABLE HOUSING

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Duane Hill, affordable housing trailblazer and friend, upon his retirement after 33 years as founder and executive director of Rural Community Hous-

ing Development Corporation. Based in Ukiah, Mendocino County, RCHDC is Northern California's largest rural nonprofit housing development organization.

Duane Hill recognized the overwhelming need for affordable housing in rural areas when cities were receiving substantial housing subsidies and few resources were being distributed in rural areas. He assembled a board of influential volunteers and embarked on a campaign of community awareness and public education that led to the incorporation of the Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation in 1975.

Under Duane Hill's leadership, RCHDC grew from its original \$500 investment and staff of two to its current \$3.3 million operating budget with assets worth more than \$200 million. The agency has built 19 developments from the ground up that together provide 528 affordable rental apartments. By purchasing nine large housing developments, RCHDC also preserved 400 units of rental housing that were in danger of conversion to market-rate.

The agency has provided first-time homebuyers with more than 350 self-help homes in 30 subdivisions scattered throughout rural Northern California, and has 126 more in development. RCHDC now manages 1,000 affordable housing units and serves between 1500 and 2000 people annually. The agency also has \$30 million worth of future projects in the pipeline. In 2008, RCHDC will complete rehabilitation of 144 new units in Del Norte County, one of the most underserved areas of the State, as well as an additional 50 units in Humboldt County. In Kelseyville, RCHDC's new farm worker housing will not only provide agricultural workers with a suitable place to live, but will also help to ensure the viability of agriculture as an economic, employment and cultural resource for Lake County.

Duane's steadfast resolve to see projects through to completion, coupled with his uncanny ability to build consensus and marshal both human and financial resources has created an inventory of affordable housing stock that has served as both a home and a springboard to upward mobility for thousands of low-income rural Californians.

He is on the forefront of campaigns for housing bonds and community development funding. He built his own "self-help" home and started a program for RCHDC employees to do the same. Under Duane Hill's leadership, RCHDC has become nationally recognized as an innovator in rural housing development. The California Housing Consortium inducted RCHDC into the Affordable Housing Hall of Fame. Just last month, Duane received the prestigious National NeighborWorks Association's 2008 Lifetime Achievement award.

Madam Speaker, Duane Hill has earned the respect of his colleagues and community. Through visionary leadership, technical expertise and quiet persuasion, Duane Hill has invented, built and sustained the community development movement in rural Northern California. For these reasons and for the lasting impact RCHDC continues to have in rural Northern California, it is appropriate that we honor Duane Munfort Hill.

NATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mrs. CUBIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize May 9th 2008 as National Childcare Provider Appreciation Day. Started in 1996 by a group of volunteers, this is an occasion to recognize the tireless efforts of providers who care for the children of working parents. Today, I join a chorus of state and local government proclamations, business and community events and the personal acknowledgment of providers by the parents themselves.

It takes a special kind of person to work in the childcare field, which is so critical to quality family life and the early childhood development of millions of Americans. Our Nation's childcare providers are all too often unsung heroes, making the recognition of National Child Provider Appreciation by this body that much more important.

Childcare is also an important component of our Nation's economy. The National Child Care Association has estimated that there are nearly 2.8 million childcare providers in the United States and that nearly 12 million under age 5 are in their care. Moreover, healthy families contribute immeasurably to healthy workplaces.

Many regions in my home State of Wyoming are experiencing population increases due to growth in the energy sector of our economy. Like other aspects of Wyoming's infrastructure, Wyoming's childcare community is being challenged by this growth and the increased demand for childcare services. I am proud to recognize Wyoming's childcare providers for their valuable contribution to Wyoming's communities in this time of transition.

With that, I commend our Nation's childcare providers and invite my colleagues to do the same on National Childcare Provider Appreciation Day.

COMMENDING AMTRAK ON NATIONAL TRAIN DAY

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of passenger rail in the United States and express my support for Amtrak in conjunction with National Train Day on May 10th, 2008.

National Train Day marks the 139th anniversary of the "golden spike" being driven into the ground at Promontory Summit, Utah, in 1869. The "golden spike" bound the last tie connecting the last rail that united the Central Pacific Railroad with the Union Pacific Railroad, connecting the United States by rail from coast to coast.

The transcontinental railroad was born thanks to the support of President Abraham Lincoln. He, along with Civil War leaders, envisioned and planned the creation of the railroad. Not only did the completion of the railroad result in the ability to deliver goods and people across the country, it ultimately bound