

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARY ELLEN
TOLLIVER

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, there is no greater gift that one can give when they give of themselves and Mr. Speaker such was the life and such is the legacy of Mrs. Mary Ellen Tolliver.

Mary Ellen Tolliver was born on September 1, 1915 in Richmond, Virginia; to the union of the late Thomas Day and Georgetta Walker-Day. Mary Ellen Day was the oldest of four children.

On Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 2:30 a.m., God called Mary Ellen Day home for she had done her part. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

Mary Ellen Day moved to Pennsylvania as a young child with her family where she attended the public school system. Mary Ellen Day was married to John L. Toliver in 1935 and they attended Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church in Germantown, where she worshiped until her passing. John and Mary Toliver never had children of their own, but considered many in the community as their own family and provided them with values and traditions that will live on forever.

Mary Ellen Toliver dedicated her life to the field of mental health. She worked as a nurse at the Byeberry State Mental Hospital in Pennsylvania, also known as the Philadelphia State Hospital for 40 years from where she retired.

While at Byeberry, Mary Ellen Toliver became close to and took two long-term patients from Byeberry into her home in Germantown. Julia and Sweeney were abandoned by their families, but felt at peace with Mary Ellen Toliver. Mary Ellen Toliver shared her home with both ladies until their passing; Julia for 24 years and Sweeney for 30 years. They brought her great joy.

Mary Ellen Toliver, was preceded in death by her husband John L. Toliver, her brother Sonny Day, and sister Mabel Day. Mary Ellen Toliver leaves to cherish her lasting memories; her sister Willeta Day, and her sister Aquilla Laws. Mary Ellen Toliver leaves a host of nieces, great-nieces, nephews, great nephews, cousins, and the Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church family.

CONGRATULATING TOM HAMBY ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIRE-
MENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Tom Hamby, on the occasion of his retirement from AT&T Inc.

A native of Social Circle, Georgia, Tom earned a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering at the University of Georgia. He was commissioned in the Army Corps of Engineers and went on to serve 10 years in the reserves and National Guard.

As the Birmingham News described Tom, he is "one of Birmingham's most influential business leaders." With a career spanning over 37 years, Tom has served in various assignments in the network, marketing, and regulatory departments in Georgia, Alabama, and Washington, DC, and he was appointed to his current position, AT&T president—Alabama, in 1999.

In the early 1990s, Tom led the effort to bring caller identification and voice mail products to customers. During his tenure as president, the Alabama Legislature passed landmark telecommunication legislation, which led to greater competition, investment, customer choice as well as new services.

Tom is also well-known in Birmingham and throughout the State of Alabama as a leader in both the business and civic communities. He is chairman of the board of the Birmingham Museum of Art and the Greater Alabama Council of Boy Scouts of America. He is a past chairman of Birmingham's Metropolitan Development Board, the Business Council of Alabama, and the Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce. He is a current director on the boards of Protective Life Corp. and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout the State of Alabama. I know his family; his wife, Wyona; and his many friends join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the city of Birmingham and the State of Alabama.

Tom will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with family and his first grandchild, who is due this summer. I wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
HELEN MYERS

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Helen Myers as the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year. Helen is an extraordinary woman whose entrepreneurial endeavors, generous spirit, and deep commitment to the residents of Brentwood will benefit our community for generations to come.

One of seven children, Helen's father passed away when she was only five years old. To support her family during this time of need, she began selling produce from her mother's vegetable garden to neighbors. This entrepreneurial spirit carried into her adulthood, and she is now a successful small business owner of both Irene's Dress Shop and The Weathervane.

The only child in her family to graduate from high school, Helen went on to marry Bill Myers. Together they moved to California, and eventually settled in Brentwood in 1968 with their two children, Corky and Sherry.

Soon after moving to Brentwood, Helen joined the East Contra Costa Chapter of the Soroptimists International Club, of which she has proven to be both a valuable member and a tireless volunteer. She has not only been instrumental in raising funds for various community projects, she has also served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Delta Hospital Board, the City's Art Commission, and the Art Society Board.

Helen's friends and family describe her as someone who is always looking out for others. As an example of her kindness, friends often tell the story of the time Helen caught a young woman shoplifting in one of her stores. After soon learning the woman was homeless and living out of her car with her young child, Helen decided against calling the police, and instead provided the woman with food and clothing and contacted a social service agency to assist her with housing. A few weeks later, the young woman returned to Helen, thanked her for her compassion, and reimbursed her for the food and the clothing.

A woman who has given so much to her community, Helen has done so quietly and without fanfare, making her selection as the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year all the more worthy of public recognition. From her countless hours as a volunteer, to her success as a small business owner, Helen has touched the lives of many and has improved the community of Brentwood for years to come.

It is for these reasons that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Helen Myers, Brentwood Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year.

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