

A TRIBUTE TO JIMMY DEE CLARK

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize Jimmy Dee Clark for his dedication to the 19th Congressional District of Texas. Jimmy retires this month after 23 years of continuous service to the district.

Born to Leeman and Frances Clark on December 12, 1945, Jimmy was raised on a farm in Acuff, Texas. He graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1964 and just two years later, he married his childhood sweetheart, Rita Dunagan. After 20 years of running his family farm, Jimmy began an additional career in public service.

In 1986, my predecessor in Congress, Larry Combest, hired Jimmy as a district representative. As Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee in the 106th and 107th Congresses, Mr. Combest greatly shaped farm policy in this country, and Jimmy brought indispensable insight as a liaison between the farmers and ranchers of the 19th District and their representative. Jimmy was instrumental in helping Chairman Combest shepherd the 2002 Farm Bill through Congress.

Following Chairman Combest's retirement in 2003, Jimmy came to work for me as my District Director and Deputy Chief of Staff. Jimmy's experience and counsel have made him an invaluable asset to my staff. Most notable, however, is Jimmy's ability to relate to his fellow farmers in West Texas and to help ensure I understand their business, their concerns and their role in District 19's economy. Again, Jimmy's guidance and his role as the voice of the farmers of my district were essential in helping me during the 2008 Farm Bill.

Jimmy is also a strong Christian and family man. He and Rita have two daughters, Jill and Randee, and five grandchildren: Caden, Kacie, Josh, Steffanie, and Gabbie, that I know he will now get to spend more time with. A 32nd degree Mason, Jimmy's public service has reached more than just the farmers in West Texas. He has served as a past member and Commander of the Lubbock County Sheriff's Reserve. A licensed pilot, Jimmy's hobbies include flying and home remodeling.

I am enormously appreciative to Jimmy for his hard work and for his contributions to improving the course of agriculture policy in the United States and in West Texas. More important, I am proud to count him as a friend. Those in District 19, including myself, thank him for a job well-done and extend to him our best wishes for his retirement/retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NORMAN BRINKER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of restaurateur Norman Brinker.

Brinker, the chairman emeritus and former chief executive of Brinker International, died June 9th at the age of 78.

Brinker, the founder of Steak and Ale restaurant in 1966, built Brinker International into a restaurant giant. He is most well known for turning Chili's Grill and Bar restaurant from a string of local restaurants into a national chain owned by Brinker International. Brinker's illustrious restaurant career began in my Dallas area district in 1965, opening Brink's Coffee Shop, and I am deeply saddened by the loss of someone so influential to the history of the city.

In his time in the restaurant industry, Mr. Brinker has changed American casual dining, while touching the lives of many in the restaurant industry. At one time or another, essentially every major restaurant chain in the country had as its leader a former employee of Brinker.

Aside from his commitment to the restaurant industry, Mr. Brinker also served as a board member and important counsel for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation.

Mr. Brinker's legacy stands as a testament to interaction with the local community, and a foresight for changes in the restaurant community that would remain for years to come. I ask my fellow members of Congress to join me in honoring Norman Brinker and his impact both in the Dallas area and nationwide.

RECOGNIZING MASSACHUSETTS FOR RESOLUTION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, as the House is soon to consider comprehensive climate change legislation, I would like to illustrate how individual states stand ready to lead the effort to combat global warming and are willing to take extremely ambitious and necessary stands. On March 12th, my home state of Massachusetts passed a resolution committing to re-power America with 100 percent clean electricity in the next ten years. The resolution was successful in large part because of the tireless efforts of Massachusetts Power Shift, a grassroots organization of climate advocates. Global warming is no longer an academic question for scientists to ponder. It's a very real crisis that requires American leadership. This is not a political issue; this is a critical generational responsibility that will take a commitment from every American. The renewable technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move towards energy independence exist; the societal will and desire to go green have been demonstrated; and the political climate to finally create sound public policy to do so is now present. Re-powering America with clean energy will create jobs, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions—the clearest solution to preserving our natural treasures for future generations. I am proud to represent the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and congratulate its legislature for such a resolution.

CONDEMNING THE MURDER OF STEPHEN TYRONE JOHNS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to share in the nation's shock, outrage, and sorrow at the tragic shooting today at the U.S. Holocaust Museum here in Washington. My heart and prayers go out to the family of the young security guard, Stephen Tyrone Johns, who was killed in this senseless crime.

Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG, who serves on the board for the museum, noted the irony that this hateful act took place in this beautiful, peaceful place; a sort of thoughtful sanctuary dedicated to ensuring that the evil of the holocaust never again gains a foothold on this earth. How right he is. How many times must this museum serve to teach the world about the horrible power of hate?

Earlier this week, this body considered two resolutions, one condemning the killing of Dr. George Tiller and one condemning the killing of Army Private William Long and the wounding of Army Private Quinton Ezeagwula. Like today's killing, these acts were simply reprehensible. The taking of innocent life cannot be justified.

Our society has traveled down a road that should never have been trodden. Human life has been devalued. Violence has been glorified. The gift of living has lost its meaning. In accepting his Nobel Prize, Dr. Martin Luther King said, "Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love." As a people, we must promote life, we must celebrate this miracle. And, as a Congress, we must lead the way with laws that protect all, particularly the most vulnerable amongst us, and that encourage loving, life-affirming ways.

46TH ANNIVERSARY OF EQUAL PAY ACT

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the anniversary of an important milestone in our American history.

Today marks the 46th anniversary of the passage of the Equal Pay Act.

In 1963, Congress passed the Equal Pay Act to prohibit employers from wage discrimination on the basis of someone's sex.

This groundbreaking shift was a game-changer for women who were before, and in many places still are, treated as unequals in the workplace.

It was important to level the playing field.

It was important to provide equal pay for equal work.

And it's important for us today to remember that we need more game-changers—that there are more wrongs to right, and that there are inequalities and injustices to remedy.

That those things over which we have no control—our race, our gender, our sexual orientation, our disabilities—should not divide us

or preclude anyone from achieving success and providing for his or her family.

The enactment of the EPA was only the first step, and while women's salaries have risen dramatically, we have more work to do to end employment and pay discrimination.

Let's remember that all Americans are created equal and deserve equal treatment.

We should keep that in mind, not just today on this anniversary, but every day.

CONGRATULATING PATTY DURANT, RECIPIENT OF THE AHWATUKEE FOOTHILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2009 WOMEN IN BUSINESS PALO VERDE AWARD

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the achievements of Patty Durant as the recipient of the 2009 Women in Business Palo Verde Award. The Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber recently honored Patty at the Ahwatukee Women in Business Faces of Success event, which recognizes present and future businesswomen. The award is given to female Chamber members who are role models for other women in business.

Patty is involved with her local business community in many different ways. She is a long-time Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber of Commerce member, treasurer of the Board of Directors, and past chairwomen of its women in business committee. For the past two years, she has served on the Tukee Home Tour committee, a group which organizes events to allow participants the opportunity to view remodeled homes in the community. In addition to her involvement with the chamber, she is a sales representative for Ahwatukee Foothills and Tempe offices of Empire Title Agency.

Presently, Patty serves as a co-chair of the Chamber Scholarship sub-committee, evi-

dence of her commitment to the support of future businesswomen. At the same event at which she was honored for her achievements, she presented 2009 Desert Vista High School graduate Dana Wygle with the Ahwatukee Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Scholarship award.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Patty Durant for her contributions to her local business community and her efforts to encourage the endeavors of future businesswomen.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2009 SHELTER HOUSE, INC. VOLUNTEER AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shelter House, Inc., and more particularly the contributions that its volunteers make in service to our community. Shelter House and its outstanding volunteers serve Northern Virginia by coming to the aid of some of those most in need of support and assistance. Volunteers are critical in helping Shelter House achieve its mission of breaking the cycle of homelessness by providing crisis intervention, temporary housing, training, counseling, and programs to promote self sufficiency.

Shelter House is a community-based, non-profit organization. It was formed in 1981 when several ecumenical groups came together to better serve low-income individuals and families. Shelter House operates two shelters, the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter and the Patrick Henry Family Shelter, which provide temporary housing for families in our community who find themselves homeless. In addition, Shelter House offers transitional housing services throughout Fairfax County. As part of the effort to stop the cycle of homelessness, the services provided by Shelter

House continue even after individuals enter permanent housing.

Individuals, organizations, and businesses dedicate their time, money, and wherewithal to help Shelter House succeed in its efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. These relationships are critical assets to Shelter House and a leading cause for its successes. Shelter House has recognized the specific contributions from its partners and volunteers and named the following recipients of its 2009 Volunteer Awards: Ending Homelessness Award: Lord of Life Lutheran Church; Youth Volunteer Award: Simrun Soni; Unsung Hero Award: Mary Joyce; Special Events Award: Jack and Jill of Northern Virginia; Friend of Shelter House Kids Award for the Patrick Henry Family Shelter: Ira Kirschbaum; Friend of Shelter House Kids Award for the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter: Ron Koch; Community Partner Award for the Patrick Henry Family Shelter: Interior Redesign Industry Specialists, National Capitol Area; Community Partner Award for the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter: Clifton Community Women's Club; and Community Champion Awards: Miller and Smith; Junior League of Northern Virginia and Capital One.

The outstanding efforts of the above-mentioned individuals and organizations merit special recognition, but one must acknowledge the impact of all Shelter House volunteers who work to provide secure and structured environments for families and connect them with the supportive services they require. These volunteers help make Shelter House one of the most effective organizations in the battle to end homelessness by empowering families to reach their full potential.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude for the efforts of these volunteers and their colleagues at Shelter House. The selfless commitment of these individuals provides enumerable benefits to Northern Virginia as a community as well as life-changing services to the individuals in need.