

HONORING THE WORK OF CAROL  
J. FRIEDMAN

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Carol J. Friedman of Point Reyes Station, California. Carol is retiring as Executive Director of the Dance Palace Community Center after 37 years at the helm. From the founding of the organization in 1971 to the present, she has been the force that has made the Dance Palace an integral part of the West Marin community.

Born and raised in Rye, New York, Carol was a dancer from her youngest days, whether it was the Nutcracker Suite in her living room or formal study with a number of modern dance teachers. She matriculated at Radcliff College but took time off in 1971 after two years as dance was not part of the Harvard curriculum. She came to the Bay Area and connected with fellow dancers who had rented a perfect dance space with apartments above in a building in Point Reyes that had previously housed the Palace Market. As described by Carol, "So we moved into the Dance Palace—7 of us—dancers, musicians, hippies, idealists, and all completely naive about the community and about going about business."

From those early beginnings, the Dance Palace evolved into a multi-use facility with input and ideas from all segments of the community and Carol as the guide. She made the ideas into reality, whether it took building a whole new building, constantly securing funding, running day-to-day operations, programming events, reaching out to new people, or plunging toilets. When she saw a need in the community, she worked to fill it. And she did it all with her own personal warmth, style, and creativity.

Today the Dance Palace Community Center has an annual budget of \$475,000, presents 100 special events a year, offers 30 classes weekly, has 200 regular volunteers, and serves 27,000 people of all ages annually—providing a wide variety of services including a summer day camp, senior meals program, teen theater activities, after-school classes for kids, English as a Second Language instruction, and weekend performances and concerts. Carol personally participated in many of these activities, claiming, for example, "I am personally responsible for introducing the ever-popular Bubble Wrap Day plus the Russian hand jive dance to generations of Dance Palace Campers."

Carol expanded the Dance Palace's role by actively promoting collaboration among other local and County-wide organizations. She herself became an expert on non-profit and community work and gave unstintingly of her time and knowledge wherever it was needed.

Along the way, Carol had two sons, Abraham and Eli, whom she raised as a single mother. The Dance Palace was their second home, and they were early performers in community productions. Carol continues to dance and teach dancing as well as sing, and has volunteered in many capacities including as an elephant seal docent and hospice bereavement supporter. She also stars in a weekly

soccer pickup game where she has evolved into a formidable talent. Clearly, she will not be sitting still after retiring from her Dance Palace duties.

Madam Speaker, Carol Friedman will be missed at the helm of the Dance Palace Community Center but will continue to be involved in her community, as long as it doesn't interfere with her soccer schedule. As the heart and soul of the Center for so many years, Carol's spirit will shine at the Dance Palace Community Center for generations to come.

117TH ANNIVERSARY OF ELLIS  
ISLAND

**HON. ALBIO SIRE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 117th anniversary of the opening of Ellis Island. Originally opened on January 1, 1892, the island remains a part of American history and our culture. Together with the Statue of Liberty, these places represent what it means to be an American.

During the attacks of September 11, 2001 these symbols stood as a reminder and a warning that we will prevail against those who wish us harm. So great are these symbols that visitors from here and abroad visit them every day. Yet the Statue of Liberty crown is still closed to visitors. I am happy that both President-Elect Obama and Interior Secretary Designate Salazar support fully opening up the crown.

I am optimistic that we will again allow Americans and foreign visitors to peer out from the crown and to think about what it means to be an American.

IN RECOGNITION OF STANLEY  
REED

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stanley Reed of Marianna, Arkansas, and his outstanding service to the state of Arkansas as outgoing president of the Arkansas Farm Bureau and outgoing chairman of the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees.

I have had the distinct honor and privilege of knowing Stanley for many years and his dedication to the citizens of Arkansas is second to none. A third-generation cotton farmer from Marianna, he holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering and a law degree from the University of Arkansas, though his affection for the land eventually led him back to the farm.

Stanley is one of the greatest allies to and advocates for Arkansas farmers and farm families. He has served as president of Arkansas Farm Bureau for 5 years, and has been a member of the organization's state board for more than 20 years, including stints as vice president and secretary-treasurer. He also serves as a member of the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation's board of directors. Due to his determination to improve Arkansas agri-

culture, Stanley has participated in numerous foreign trade missions including trips to Mexico, Turkey, Taiwan, Korea, Japan and Cuba.

Of course, Stanley's commitment to Arkansas does not end with farming. Stanley just completed a 10-year term on the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees, where he served as chairman for 2 years. His service on this distinguished panel earned him the respect and admiration of all who came into contact with him throughout his tenure. Stanley will forever be remembered for his selfless service to improve secondary education opportunities for countless Arkansans. In addition to these roles, Stanley also serves on the board of directors for Baptist Health and as a board member of Pine Bluff-based Simmons First National Bank.

Amidst all of these professional successes, anyone who knows Stanley understands that his most treasured role in life is that of a husband to Charlene, father to Haley Davis, Nathan and Anna, and grandfather to three grandchildren. Carrying on in true Reed family tradition, Stanley's son Nathan continues to work with him on the family farm.

Stanley Reed will long be considered one of Arkansas's finest, and a best friend and advocate for agriculture. It is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Stanley Reed for a lifetime of accomplishments, and for his much-admired service to one of his greatest passions—farming.

TRIBUTE ON THE RETIREMENT OF  
MASTER SERGEANT ROBERT C.  
WILKINS FROM THE UNITED  
STATES AIR FORCE

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I want to personally take this opportunity to honor my dear friend, MSgt Robert C. Wilkins for his 26 years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment, he served as the Superintendent, Operations, Air Operations Division, Office of the Legislative Liaison, Secretary of the Air Force, Washington, DC.

A superior leader, Master Sergeant Wilkins assisted me and members of the U.S. delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly during trips to France, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Macedonia, Albania, Croatia, Turkey, Germany and the Netherlands. He performed magnificently, upholding the highest standards of professional conduct and through his efficient planning, these trips were a complete success.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request my distinguished colleagues join me in expressing our sincere appreciation to Master Sergeant Wilkins for his extraordinary service to the United States Air Force and our great Nation. On behalf of members serving on the U.S. NATO Parliamentary Assembly delegation, I say we will miss his expertise and positive attitude, but most importantly, we will miss his friendship.

Betty Ann and I wish Rob, his wife, Amy and son, Robert, the very best as they face new and exciting challenges in the coming years.