

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LABOR LEADER
MATTIE JACKSON

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a longtime labor and community leader, Mattie Jackson, who died February 7 in San Francisco. Mrs. Jackson devoted her life to fighting for equal rights in the workplace and social justice for all San Franciscans. During her tenure the rights of women and people of color were protected and preserved. She educated and mobilized union members to correct the unjust and unfair practices that existed in the workplace. She was an inspiration to all who knew her.

Mrs. Jackson was born October 3, 1921 in Livingston, Texas and moved to San Francisco with her husband in 1943. Mrs. Jackson began her distinguished career in the labor movement when she took a job at Koret of California as a blind stitch operator in 1947 and worked for the next 20 years as shop steward. In 1967 she joined the staff of the Pacific Northwest District Council of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) and the National Board of the ILGWU. As Manager over the next 20 years she earned the reputation of an unrelenting advocate for garment workers and a tough negotiator. She was chief negotiator of contracts for the Pacific Northwest Division from 1970–1989. As a union leader her endorsement was sought by all those seeking elected office in the San Francisco area.

Upon her retirement in January 1990, the International President of the ILGWU, said, 'Mattie Jackson is an institution not only throughout our union, but throughout the entire labor movement.'

To her beloved daughter, Gail Jackson, her grandsons, Toriano Gordon, Marco Boccara, and granddaughter Angelique Boccara, I extend my deepest sympathy. Mattie Jackson was a beloved friend of San Francisco and will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE ON THE BIRTH OF
MARGARET ELLISON ALBON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Major and Mrs. Brian and Susan Albon, USMC, of Kailua, Hawaii, on the birth of their new baby daughter, Margaret Ellison Albon was born on February 23, 2009, at 11:03 p.m., weighing 5 pounds and 14 ounces. Margaret joins an older brother Joshua William Albon. She has been born into a loving home, where she will be raised by parents who are devoted

to her well-being and bright future. Her birth is a blessing.

I want to congratulate Margaret's grandparents Joe and Vickie Chandler of Ninety Six, South Carolina, and Bill and Charlene Albon of Newton, North Carolina. On behalf of my wife Roxanne, and our entire family, we want to wish Brian, Susan, Joshua, and Margaret all the best.

STATEMENT ON THE 60TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF ELGIN COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elgin Community College on the occasion of its 60th anniversary and to join in recognizing May 22, 2009 as Elgin Community College Day.

Elgin Community College opened its doors in the fall of 1949 with only 97 students, 1 administrator, 1 full-time faculty member and 17 part-time staff members. For its first 10 years, the school worked out of a wing of the old High School on Elgin's East Side.

Throughout the 1950s, ECC was run by Public School District U–46. After 16 years of existence, Elgin became an independent community college in 1965.

Throughout the 1970s, Elgin Community College expanded curricula, faculty, staff, and services that included on-campus child care, financial aid, job placement, student activities, and tutoring. In 1974, the current boundaries of the Community College District were established. This district encompasses 360 square miles and serves students from 5 counties.

During the 1980s, Elgin Community College's enrollment increased significantly, so the college adapted by opening new facilities off-site and exploring alternate ways to reach its students. ECC first offered telecourses in 1980, and eventually opened a community education center in Carpentersville.

From the 1990s up to today, the college has continued to grow and now serves a diverse student population. Currently one out of every twelve adults in the Elgin Community College District takes at least one class a year at the school, and three out of every ten high school seniors choose ECC to continue their education.

I congratulate the class of 2009 and the entire Elgin Community College Family. I thank them for their service to the community, and I look forward to watching the College grow in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, on Monday February 23, 2009 I did not return to Washington in time and missed three votes.

Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 911—Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2009 (rollcall 72), "yes" on H.R. 44—Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act (rollcall 73), and "yes" on H.R. 601—Box Elder Utah Land Conveyance Act (rollcall 74).

COMMEMORATING THE 17TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE MASSACRE AT
KHOJALY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to solemnly recognize the 17th anniversary of the massacre at Khojaly, and to honor the lives of those lost in this great tragedy.

On February 26, 1992, the small town of Khojaly, Azerbaijan was violently shaken by invading Armenian troops during the Armenian-Azerbaijan war. Armenian forces surrounded the town and opened fire on the innocent inhabitants. During this bloody incursion, nearly 2,000 civilians—mostly women, children and the elderly—were brutally killed, wounded or taken hostage by the Armenian military forces as they seized the town. This resulted in the largest massacre of modern times in the Caucasus and Caspian Basin.

According to Human Rights Watch and other international observers, the massacre was committed by the ethnic Armenian armed forces, reportedly with the help of the Russian 366th Motor Rifle Regiment. This crime led to the death of 613 civilians; including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly men; 1275 persons were taken hostage, and the fate of more than 150 remains unknown.

At the time, Newsweek Magazine reported, "Azerbaijan was a charnel house again last week: a place of mourning refugees and dozens of mangled corpses dragged to a makeshift morgue behind the mosque. They were ordinary Azerbaijani men, women and children of Khojaly, a small village in war-torn Nagorno-Karabakh overrun by Armenian forces on 25–26 February. Many were killed at close range while trying to flee; some had their faces mutilated, others were scalped."

Tragically, during this war, Khojaly was simply the first example of this savage cruelty. In fact, the level of brutality and the unprecedented atrocities committed at Khojaly set a pattern of destruction and ethnic cleansing that Armenian troops would adhere to for the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

remainder of the war. On November 29, 1993, Newsweek quoted a senior U.S. Government official as saying, "what we see now is a systematic destruction of every village in their (the Armenians) way. It's vandalism."

Altogether, the occupied areas represent roughly 20 percent of the territory of Azerbaijan. And, altogether roughly one million Azerbaijanis were evicted from their homes over the course of the Armenian-Azerbaijan war.

Armenia's then-defense minister Serge Sarkisian in an interview with British journalist Tomas de Waal openly admitted that "before Khojaly the Azerbaijanis thought that . . . the Armenians were people who could not raise their hands against the civilian population. We were able to break that [stereotype]."

Madam Speaker, in recognition of this horrific day, an international humanitarian awareness campaign, "Justice for Khojaly," was initiated by Mrs. Leyla Aliyeva, and provides much needed information on the massacre through its website for interested parties. In the wake of the 17th anniversary of this massacre, I encourage all of us to familiarize ourselves with this dreadful past so it is not repeated in the future. I also stand with all Azerbaijani-Americans as they recognize and commemorate this solemn day.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES "CHUCK"
BEEMAN

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor a loving father, loyal husband, adoring grandfather, Charles "Chuck" Beeman.

Born in Clovis, New Mexico, his family moved to San Bernardino, California where he grew up to become a longstanding, influential member of the community. Having graduated from San Bernardino High School in 1950, Chuck received a track scholarship to attend USC. However, it was his thirst for education that made him truly shine as he earned a doctorate in pharmacy from USC in 1956.

In addition to serving in the Army and the Army Reserve, Chuck became a successful businessman, opening Beeman's Pharmacy at St. Bernardine Medical Center in 1963. At the same time, he continued working at Krause Pharmacy on North E Street. In 1971, Chuck expanded his business by opening a second Beeman's Pharmacy across the street in 1971. However, his passion and concern for the community reached beyond his place of work as he was a strong advocate for higher education.

Appointed to the San Bernardino Community College District board in 1983, Chuck served until November 2008. Having served for twelve years together on the board, I always respected his leadership and dedication to the community. Through our bipartisan efforts, we were always very supportive of one another. Together, we were successful in helping implement the first Hispanic President of sister schools San Bernardino Valley Col-

lege and Crafton Hills College. We also were instrumental in securing funding from public and private partnership in order to reinstitute the wrestling program at San Bernardino Valley College.

Survived by his wife, Janice, his memory will also be carried on by his children Christopher Beeman, Beth Beeman Dorado, Roland "Scott" Beeman and Gary Beeman; his brother; Jerry Beeman; his sister, Lois Waugh; and Chuck's loving twelve grandchildren.

As a longtime colleague and friend of Chuck's, I'll always remember his love for model car racing and though new to the game, a great golfer as well. At the last San Bernardino Community College meeting in December where we were celebrating his contribution to the District, I appreciated the mention that we can now add a 78 for his best round of golf to Chuck's long list of accomplishments.

I would like to express my greatest sympathies for his family's loss. Let us take a moment to remember this great man and his admirable dedication to instilling positive change and leading an exemplary life, one whose footsteps we all hope to follow. The thoughts and prayers of my wife Barbara, my family and I are with his family at this time.

God Bless Charles "Chuck" Beeman for love of country and mankind.

THE LAWLESSNESS SOUTH OF THE
BORDER CONTINUES . . . TOO
DANGEROUS FOR MARINES?

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, Americans are still under vicious attack in Mexico. How violent is it on the border? Last month, Marines at Camp Pendleton were barred from visiting Tijuana, Mexico. Lt. General Samuel Helland of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton restricted Marines from traveling to Tijuana because they are concerned for the safety of Marines. Our United States Marines, Camp Pendleton Marines, who have toured in Iraq and Afghanistan can't travel 60 miles to the Mexican border because it is too dangerous.

In 2008, over 800 people were killed in Tijuana, compared to the 2007 death toll number of 337. Organized, violent crimes continue to spread south of the border. Currently, the U.S. Department of State's travel alert still exists for Mexican border towns. The State Department reports that "Mexican drug cartels are engaged in an increasingly violent fight for control of narcotics trafficking routes along the U.S.-Mexico border . . . recent drug cartels have taken on the characteristics of small unit combat, with cartels employing automatic weapons and, on occasion, grenades." I have been down to the Texas-Mexico border now 14 times, and I have talked to local sheriffs who testify to the wild, Wild West border style wars that take place in these towns and corroborate with the U.S. Department of State's warnings to Americans.

These are dangerous, deadly times on the U.S.-Mexico border, dangerous enough to ban

United States Marines. It is time we deal with the lawlessness on the U.S.-Mexico Border.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 1105, OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009, and I thank Chairman OBEY, my Chairman, as well as the leadership, for their work in putting this bill together.

Today's action on the Omnibus Appropriations bill will complete action on the federal budget for fiscal year 2009.

When we originally began this process over a year ago, we were dealing with a President who rejected the idea that we needed to invest in our children's education.

He didn't think we should fund job training and employment services to ensure that American workers could compete in the global economy.

He didn't think that all Americans should have access to quality affordable health care, or that we should try and lift up the more than 37 million people living in poverty.

He rejected the basic notion that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" and tried to cut funding for the CDC, while opposing increases in funding for cutting edge biomedical research to create the next generation of miracle drugs.

He told us in no uncertain terms that he would veto any federal budget we passed that tried to invest in education, job training, healthcare, alternative energy, and local law enforcement and ensure the continued prosperity of our nation.

And he did so while demanding that we provide hundreds of billions of dollars to fund the ongoing war and occupation in Iraq, and to bail out the banking industry for their greed and mismanagement.

Rather than accepting the President's position that the American people were not worth investing in, we decided to wait him out.

Today we have a President, who rejects the failed economic policies and ideologies of the last eight years.

We have a President who believes that, yes, the American people—our constituents—deserve a government that works for them, and that is willing to invest in them to ensure that they can get a good education, live healthy and productive lives, and obtain meaningful employment, and raise their children in a just and peaceful world.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, change has indeed come to our nation's capital. And now we've got to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

The Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009 makes critical investments in a range of programs and builds on the economic stimulus package to help put America to work.

I urge my colleagues to support it.