

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF CANDELARIA TAITANO RIOS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Candelaria Taitano Rios, a community leader on Guam. Known to her friends and family as "Candy" or "Lala," she passed away on January 5, 2009. I commend her for her lifetime of achievements and her service to our community.

Candy was born on February 22, 1932, to John and Rosario Taitano in the village of Hagåtña, Guam. Candy was married to the late Joseph Leon Guerrero Rios and they had five children, the late Joleen Rios, Joseph Rios Jr., Rose Rios, John Rios, and Helen Rios. She attended George Washington High School in Mangilao, Guam and graduated in 1951. She continued her education by earning an Associate's and Bachelor's Degree from the College of Guam before earning her Master's degree in Elementary Administration and Supervision from the University of Guam in 1971.

While Candy pursued her college degrees, she taught in Guam's public schools from 1951 to 1976. She was appointed as Assistant Principal at Piti Elementary School and as Principal at C.L. Taitano Elementary School in Sinajana. In 1986, Candy retired from Government of Guam service as the Deputy Director of the Government of Guam Retirement Fund.

After her retirement, Candy remained involved in many community projects and the non-profit sector. As a charter member of the Retired Educators Association, she advocated for issues important to retirees on Guam and promoted the advancement of quality education for Guam's students. She was also a member of the Retirement Employee's Association, the Vocational Education Advisory Council, and the Guam Elementary Administrators Association, for which she also served as Vice President.

Candy Rios was active in community affairs and was a leader in the Democratic Party of Guam. She served in many positions in the party and was an effective grass roots activist and organizer. Many sought her advice and endorsement, and through her volunteer work, she had a significant impact in the electoral successes of the Democratic Party.

Candy Rios was a lifelong educator and community leader. I extend my heartfelt condolences to her children, Joseph, Rose, John, Helen, her family, and her friends as we mourn her loss and celebrate her lifetime of achievements.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL
FOLIC ACID AWARENESS WEEK

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the observance of America's annual National Folic Acid Awareness Week, which began on January 5, 2009.

It is my hope that this awareness week gives the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) further awareness to reduce the prevalence of preventable serious birth defects in women of childbearing age across all segments of our population. Enriched cereals and grain products are fortified with the B-vitamin folic acid, but only one-third of U.S. women of childbearing age consume the scientifically recommended daily amount. Folic acid, a B-vitamin, is particularly critical for proper cell growth and has been scientifically proven to prevent birth defects of the brain and spine, called Neural Tube Defects (NTD).

Women especially need folic acid, even if not planning to become pregnant since 50 percent of all pregnancies are unplanned. Consuming the recommended amount of folic acid each day before pregnancy can reduce the risk of a birth defect of the brain and spine by seventy percent. The prevalence rates of NTDs has declined by 27 percent since the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's mandatory addition of folic acid to enriched grain products in 1998. Even with this improvement in the reduction in the Neural Tube Disorders of Spina Bifida and Anencephaly birth defect births, there still are 3,000 babies born each year with serious birth defects, and an estimated 5,000 that die from a serious birth defect.

Since 1998, over 100 peer-reviewed scientific studies have been published and been reviewed by a distinguished group of leading birth defect scientists and researchers. These individuals concluded that more folic acid to already fortified enriched grain products, and folic acid to corn-based products, is important to our country's public health and should be examined by the DFA. In 2006, the Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus petitioned the FDA for review and the FDA refused the request, saying there was not enough science to merit the agency's review.

A recent Center for Disease Control (CDC) study, published in December of 2008, the agency found that only 21 percent of Hispanic women of childbearing age are consuming the recommended amount of folic acid to effectively prevent serious birth defect births, compared with 40 percent of Caucasian women. Hispanic babies are 1.5 to 2 times more likely than other children in the U.S. to be born with a neural tube defect (NTD). The CDC reports that Hispanics across the United States consume the least amount of folic acid, and have the least knowledge about the role that folic acid plays in preventing a serious birth defect birth among all racial or ethnic groups in our country. This leads to an important goal of National Folic Acid Awareness Week, education. Birth defect prevention education is alarmingly low, so public education is essential. Surveys since 1998 have found that only 24 percent of women know that folic acid helps prevent birth defects. Of those who do know, only 40 percent know how much should be taken every day. Over ten years, public education efforts on the parts of the CDC, various birth defect prevention groups, and State and federal prevention awareness programs have been a great start in informing women of the necessity of folic acid during childbearing years, but we still have our work cut out for us.

I would like to recognize the National Folic Acid Awareness Week and increase public awareness of the need for all women of childbearing age to get the recommended amount

of folic acid each day. A continued effort on all fronts is necessary, I encourage the FDA to look at the research and consider adding more folic acid to enriched grain products and corn-based products.

I will be reintroducing a resolution calling for this action and I ask my colleagues to join me in this education effort.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to personal reasons.

On Wednesday, January 7, 2009, and Friday, January 9, 2009, I missed rollcall votes 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 5, 6, 7 and 10 and "nay" on rollcall votes 8 and 9.

IN MEMORY OF FATHER RICHARD
JOHN NEUHAUS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Father Richard John Neuhaus who passed away on January 7, 2009. Father Neuhaus was a man of great intellect and a prolific writer who defined the terms of the modern debate regarding the role of religion in public life. His work inspired a countless number of individuals and his legacy which is grounded in his deep faith in God will live on for years to come. The following piece which appeared in the January 19 edition of Newsweek is a fitting tribute to the life and work of Father Neuhaus.

[From Newsweek, Jan. 19, 2009]

RICHARD JOHN NEUHAUS, 1936-2009—AN
HONORABLE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

(By George Weigel)

Father Richard John Neuhaus's work will be remembered and debated for decades. As a Lutheran pastor, he was one of the first civil-rights activists to identify the pro-life cause with the moral truths for which he and others had marched in Selma; he set the terms of the contemporary American church-state debate and added a new phrase to our public vocabulary with his 1984 best-seller, "The Naked Public Square." As a Catholic priest, he helped define new patterns of theological dialogue between Catholics and evangelicals, and between Christians and Jews. The journal he launched in the early 1990s, *First Things*, quickly became, under his leadership and inspiration, the most important vehicle for exploring the tangled web of religion and society in the English-speaking world. All of this suggests that Richard Neuhaus was, arguably, the most consequential public theologian in America since the days of Reinhold Niebuhr and John Courtney Murray, S.J.

He was also a marvelous human being, with the convictions of a true Christian disciple and the heart of a spiritually insightful pastor. In the retrospect of the death of my closest professional friend on Jan. 8, his living room—in which we prayed, argued,

laughed and planned for more than 30 years—strikes me as a concise summary of the man.

Over the fireplace hung an old etching of Jerusalem, identical to that which once adorned the office of Teddy Kollek, the city's longtime mayor: for Neuhaus lived, thought and wrote within a thoroughly biblical cast of mind, in which the earthly Jerusalem represents the New Jerusalem of the Book of Revelation—the fulfillment of humanity's deepest spiritual longings. On one wall was an abstract, modernistic print of a boy riding a Chagall-like bird: "That's little Dickie Neuhaus," he once told me, "riding the Holy Spirit." A Byzantine icon of his patron, the apostle John, marked another wall, with a vigil light burning before it; Richard used to joke that his Lutheran pastorate, the church of St. John the Evangelist in the then desperately poor Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, was "St. John the Mundane," as distinguished from the Episcopalian Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Morningside Heights. There was a colossal sound system, for he loved music, especially Bach; there were bookcases containing the Lutheran Book of Worship, from which he and the ecumenical Community of Christ in the City, with whom he lived, prayed vespers every evening, before and after his reception into the Catholic Church; and there were ample supplies of bourbon and cigars, both of which Richard regarded as essential complements to the ongoing, boisterous conversation that was his intellectual and spiritual lifeblood.

For a man of sharply expressed opinions, he was also a skilled listener and a gentle counselor, with a particular care for helping young men and women figure out what God had in mind for their lives. In the Catholic phase of his ministry, which began after his ordination by Cardinal John O'Connor in 1991, an act which he regarded as completing his commitment to Lutheranism as a reform movement within the one Church of Christ, he served a working-class parish, as he had done as a Lutheran; in both cases, he declined to preach "down" to his congregations, such that his challenging sermons deepened many people's faith. He was generous in supporting the poor throughout the world, giving away a significant portion of his lecture fees and book royalties.

Richard Neuhaus was also an American patriot with a critical love for the country to which he moved, permanently, at age 15, after a rambunctious childhood and adolescence in Pembroke, Ontario, where his father

was a Lutheran pastor. As a teenager, he ran a filling station in Cisco, Texas—likely the only counselor of two popes and several presidents who ever joined the Texas Chamber of Commerce at age 16. His distinguished career as a public intellectual led some to think that he was embroidering things a bit when he claimed he had never graduated from high school; but he hadn't.

He had the remarkable, and mathematically counterintuitive, ability to multiply his enthusiasm and energy while dividing it with others. That was a grace. And that is one of the many reasons why so many of us will miss him as we shall miss few others.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. WALTER E. FAUNTROY, FORMER MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY AT AND RETIREMENT FROM NEW BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise for the uniquely important occasion of honoring a man I am pleased to call a personal friend, but more important, a distinguished former member of the House of Representatives, and my predecessor, Walter E. Fauntroy, on the occasion of his 50th anniversary and simultaneous retirement as pastor from the New Bethel Baptist Church, one of the great churches in our Nation's capital. Many of you remember Rev. Fauntroy as your distinguished colleague. You already know that Walter has lived the lives of several men—a distinguished minister, a Member of this Congress, a civil rights leader, a scholar, a devoted husband and a father. Consequently, when America hears the name Walter Fauntroy, we think of more than one man, because he has done the work of several energetic men, often at the same time. It is difficult to find an American who has played so many important leadership roles and who has been so deeply a part of actually weaving a new fabric of equality and justice for our country.

Rev. Fauntroy was sworn in as a Member of the House of Representatives, the District of Columbia's first delegate in the 20th century, on March 23, 1971. For 10 terms, he helped shape national policy, serving on important committees and subcommittees, including the House, Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee, the Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy, which he chaired for 6 years, and the Subcommittee on International Development, Finance, Trade, and Monetary Policy, which he chaired, for 4 years. As a Member, Congressman Fauntroy also chaired the Bipartisan/Bicameral Task Force on Haiti for 15 years. Before I was elected, I was pleased to join Congressman Fauntroy and two others at a sit-in at the South African Embassy to launch the "Free South Africa" movement, which ultimately led to the end of apartheid. Congressman Fauntroy is very fondly remembered here as a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and was its chair from 1981 to 1983.

Before the District of Columbia achieved home rule, President Lydon B. Johnson appointed Rev. Fauntroy to the DC city council, where he served from 1967 to 1969. For his leadership in the home rule struggle, the people of the District of Columbia showed their confidence in Rev. Fauntroy by electing him to the House of Representatives. In Congress, Fauntroy was a father of home rule for the District of Columbia, which allowed the District to elect its own Mayor and city council.

Even before his election, Fauntroy was a national figure in the civil rights movement and a key advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Rev. King named him director of his Washington bureau of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and national coordinator of the Poor People's Campaign. He later was chair of the board of directors of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Social Change in Atlanta, Georgia.

I am pleased to join the congregation of New Bethel Baptist Church and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rev. Walter Fauntroy for his unusually successful and dedicated life of service to the people of the United States of America, the residents of the District of Columbia, and the congregation of the New Bethel Baptist Church.