

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JANE
KLEIN, LENEXA, KS, CITY COUN-
CIL MEMBER

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Jane Klein, a member of the Lenexa, Kansas, city council, who died on April 5th.

As the District Attorney for Johnson County for twelve years and as U.S. Representative for the Third District of Kansas since 1999, I came to know Jane Klein well. A dedicated public servant and community volunteer, she made the city of Lenexa and Johnson County a better place to live for her friends, neighbors and family members. I am placing in the RECORD an article published in the Kansas City Star that announced her untimely death and reviewed her achievements as a public servant and concerned citizen. The Star obituary also captures her sense of enthusiasm and effervescent personality, which will be sorely missed by all who knew her. I join with the leaders of the Lenexa community in paying tribute to this energetic, active leader, and with her many friends and family in mourning her loss.

[From The Kansas City Star, Apr. 7, 2009]

LENEXA CITY COUNCILWOMAN JANE KLEIN DIES
AT 70

(By Dawn Bormann)

When the forecast called for heavy snow, Lenexa City Councilwoman Jane Klein usually had a crock of chili simmering and cinnamon rolls rising for the street crews.

On other days she baked cookies for police officers and often dropped goodies off with firefighters, her children said.

Klein—hailed as a Lenexa cheerleader by constituents, political insiders and the rank and file—died Sunday. She was 70.

Her death came days before Klein was expected to sail through Election Day unopposed. Instead, supporters, family and friends planned a Tuesday night victory party at a Lenexa watering hole.

Klein was a mother to five children, grandmother to nine and great-grandmother to two children. The Irish Catholic woman saw to it that her children knew the importance of giving back to the community.

It was easy to learn from the stalwart public servant. She was elected to the council in 2001 and 2005 by the residents of Ward 1 for consecutive four-year terms. She had previously served on the council from 1983 to 1995. Klein had lived in Lenexa for more than 40 years and devoted 20 years to public service as a councilwoman.

"We are deeply saddened by the news of Jane's passing," Mayor Mike Boehm said. "Our community has lost a dear friend and long-time leader. Jane's passion for this city and our citizens was extraordinary; she always had the community's interests at heart in all that she did. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jane's family."

Klein was diagnosed with gall bladder cancer about six weeks ago. So when the councilwoman sent word that she wouldn't make it to the city's March 17 meeting some might have assumed that she was too sick. Good friends knew better.

"The heck with the cancer—she was not going to miss St. Patrick's Day," said fellow City Councilwoman and friend Diane Linver. "She was 100 percent Irish and boy you knew it."

During Klein's tenure, the city moved forward on several projects including City Center, "rain to recreation" and road projects like the 87th Street.

Knowing public safety was of utmost importance in the suburbs, Klein was an unabashed supporter of the fire and police forces.

The councilwoman might have been a strong Irish woman, but she would not engage in divisive politics, Linver said.

"She was never a negative force. You would never hear a negative word come out of her mouth about another city council member," Linver said. "She would find a way to give her opinion but still be the kind and gentle and decent person that she was. We should all emulate that."

Linver suspects her gentle nature and genuine love of the city were among the reasons that few challengers stepped up to run against Klein.

"People respected her and they knew that she cared about her constituents and she knew so many of them," Linver said.

Klein was active in many clubs all over town. She volunteered again and again to be the VFW Post 7397 Auxiliary president. She stepped up for church committees and was a Kiwanis Club member.

Klein instilled a strong sense of public service in her children, too. As youngsters, they helped sell poppies and often accompanied her on trips to the veterans hospital in Leavenworth.

At the holidays they knew there was always room for another. Anyone without family or a place to go for the holidays was instructed to show up at the Klein household.

"We always had an orphan clause," said Klein's daughter Susan German. Her work in the community did not go unnoticed.

In 2006 Klein received the coveted "spirit of the chamber" award from the Lenexa Chamber of Commerce. It was an award she held dear.

"Mom loved Lenexa. She loved serving the people of Lenexa," her son, Doug Klein said. "She loved seeing the city grow."

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. with rosary at 8 p.m. Monday at Holy Trinity, 9150 Pflumm Road. The funeral will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Holy Trinity.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIDALGO
COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT AS THEY ACCEPT THE
2009 COLLEGE BOARD INSPIRA-
TION AWARD

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hidalgo County Independent School District for their outstanding achievements this past year. Today, the Hidalgo school district will be presented with the 2009 College Board Inspiration Award. This prestigious award is presented to only 3 secondary schools in the country which have exhibited outstanding college preparatory programs and partnerships among teachers, parents and community leaders.

Earlier this month, Hidalgo Early College High School was named one of the countries three secondary schools to receive this year's Inspiration Award. As one of the most improved secondary schools in the country, Hidalgo Early College High has shown its desire

to provide quality programs for its students. This award shows the commitment that these educators in Hidalgo County have for their community, state, and nation as they help prepare and educate tomorrow's leaders.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Hidalgo County Independent School District for their extraordinary accomplishment in having one of the selected schools to receive the 2009 College Board Inspiration Award. Hidalgo Early College High School's students, staff and administrators truly deserve our recognition today for setting such a fine example to the rest of the state and the nation as a whole.

TRIBUTE TO THIRD DISTRICT CON-
GRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY
COUNCIL

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, in the fall of 2004, I created the Congressional Youth Advisory Council to engage high school students living in the Third District. Back then, I guessed that perhaps 10 to 20 students would apply. Little did I know that this program would grow into a popular program for the area's best and brightest students from across the Third District. For good reason, many associate the Congressional Youth Advisory Council with excellence and one of the highest standards of civic pride for young people in North Texas.

This year 45 students representing 21 area high schools make up the elite group. The Council's goal is two-fold. First, the group provides me with greater student perspective and insight on issues that directly impact younger Americans. Second, Council activities educate students on government policies relevant to young people.

The students boast impressive credentials: honors society, student leadership, school athletics, community philanthropy, language clubs, and musical backgrounds. These students have things to say about the future of this great country and long to be heard. They represent their generation as servant leaders and make their community and their country a better place.

I commend the students for volunteering their time on the Congressional Youth Advisory Council and I wish each one continued success in all of their endeavors. Without a doubt, every student will continue to play an important role in our community for decades to come, and that America and North Texas, will continue to benefit from their dedication, smarts, and service.

You know, a lot of people hope to make a difference sometime in their lives. To the members of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, you just did. Thank you. I salute you; God Bless You and God Bless America.

The names of the students serving on the 2008–2009 CYAC follow:

Jonathan Alston; Logan Borgsmiller; Amy Boykin; Nicholas Brush; Jennifer Bundren; Matt Burnham; Anita Chandras; John Clark; Ally Crutcher; Christian Cummings; Trevor Ede; Josh Eldridge; Luke Franz; Jennifer Goebel; Anna Gu; Stephen Hayes; Lisa Hu;

Richard Hung; David Jacobs; Sravanthi Kadali; Sibel Kayaalp*; Amber Khan; Nolan Killingsworth; Lauren Kraut; Tyler LeCocq; Kenny Lee; Amanda Lu*; Mark Macmanus*; Ryan Martinez; Alexandra Meyers; Ashley Newton*; Cody Painter; Kioumars Abboss Rezaie; Corbin Ringley*; Evan Rosenfield*; Natalie Shanklin; Rena Sheng*; Bryan Sims; Cameron Sprock; Eann Tuan; Jonathan Unger; Tyler Unger; Eric Womboldt; Joshua Womboldt*; and Caitlyn Woolum.

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR GIDDON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arthur Giddon of Bloomfield, Connecticut. Over the past century, Art has cultivated a distinguished law career, serving as a notable trial lawyer as well as a chief public defender. He has a wonderful and devoted wife, Harriet, to whom he has been married to for over 60 years. Together they have raised a beautiful family. On April, 26, 2009, Art will celebrate his 100th birthday with friends and family in Connecticut.

In 1922, at the age of 13, Art joined the Boston Braves as a batboy. He fetched pop bottles, ran errands for players, polished equipment, and conversed with baseball legends. First baseman, Walter Holke, often walked him home after games and taught him how to make kites, a skill that he would pass on to grandchildren. His chance meeting with baseball's commissioner, Kenesaw Mountain Landis, and a suggestion to become a lawyer would portend a legal profession matched by few. Decades later after Mr. Landis' suggestion, he would study at Harvard Law and become a notable lawyer in Connecticut. In 1985, he retired as the chief public defender of the Harford Judicial District, after decades of public service.

This past week, Art's unique experience as a batboy has gained national media attention. On Saturday, Art will join the Boston Red Sox, the team he passionately cheers for, as an honorary batboy in recognition of his experience as a young boy decades ago. He will make his debut in a jersey crafted by his daughter, adorned with "No. 100, Big Pappy".

Few individuals experience as much and contribute as much as over the course of their lifetime as Arthur has. Madame Speaker, I can personally attest to this. As a young law student, I worked in Art's office for two years as a legal intern and learned a lifelong lesson in the law, as well as a balanced passion for justice. He has lived an extraordinary life, filled with personal and professional vigor and I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in celebrating his 100th birthday.

A TRIBUTE TO MINA H. PHINNEY

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to celebrate the 100th

birthday of a native daughter of the State of Maine. Her unwavering dedication as an educator in Dennysville and other local communities will be cherished for years to come.

Mina Phinney graduated from Dennysville High School and went on to continue her education at Colby College in Waterville, ME. Returning to Dennysville High School in 1931, Mina taught English and French until 1938 and then returned to resume teaching from 1952 until the school closed in 1961. Her career as a dedicated educator continued through the 1960s and 1970s at Washington Academy in East Machias. In 2000, she received the school's Distinguished Educator Award from the Washington Academy Board of Trustees.

During her earlier years, Mina served as an organist at the Dennysville-Edmunds Congregational Church. She is an avid Boston Red Sox fan and has always maintained a keen interest in local, state and national happenings and always keeps up with current events. Mina has been a lifelong member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She contributed to the war effort as an Air Craft Spotter during World War II.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 100th birthday of Mina H. Phinney.

RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIABLO THEATRE COMPANY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Diablo Theatre Company, founded in 1959 as the Diablo Light Opera Company. For five decades, Diablo Theatre Company has brought San Francisco Bay Area audiences "the music and magic of Broadway."

The company grew from modest beginnings. It was founded in 1959 as the Diablo Light Opera Company, a name that endured until May of this year. The founders were two Walnut Creek couples who were inspired by singing with the 120-member Glee Club and Treble Clef at UC Berkeley. Their last show on campus was, prophetically, "Of Thee I Sing."

The Diablo Light Opera Company's first offering was Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance," staged in the multipurpose room of Walnut Creek's Las Lomas High School.

A few years later, the new company presented "Brigadoon," marking a major turning point for the arts in Walnut Creek. Ron Caya, Walnut Creek's first cultural services director, attended a performance. Since seats at the Las Lomas multipurpose room were not on an incline, his view was obstructed and he could not see the famous sword dance in the show. He subsequently complained to the Walnut Creek City Council, telling members that, "This group needs a real theater."

He got the council's attention and plans were made to buy an old walnut warehouse, which occupied what is now the site of the Leshner Center for the Arts. The warehouse was transformed into a makeshift theater, the

Walnut Creek Civic Arts Center which became affectionately known as the "Nut House." It opened in December 1965 with Diablo Light Opera Company's production of "The Sound of Music." The audience came in black tie and, because of no heating in the building, blankets.

Years and many performances later, "Nut House" was demolished. A new performing arts venue, the Leshner Center for the Arts, was constructed and opened 19 years ago. Diablo Light Opera Company has performed at the Leshner Center ever since in addition to other venues, including the recently restored El Campanil Theatre in Antioch in eastern Contra Costa County.

Beginning in June of 2009, Diablo Light Opera Company will assume its new name, Diablo Theatre Company while celebrating its colorful past and focusing on the future.

Today, the Diablo Light Opera Company is celebrated and honored for enriching the cultural atmosphere through their craft and commitment to providing theatrical productions to the Bay Area.

RECOGNIZING JUSTINA CASSAVELL

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Justina Cassavell, daughter of Jeanne and Michael Doyle of Upper Black Eddy, Bucks County, Pennsylvania and someone who is helping to shape the next generation of Americans.

Justina's dedication as head coach of her girls cross country team has allowed her student athletes to excel both on and off the field. She was recently named the Express-Times Newspaper 2008 Cross Country Coach of the Year. This is the sixth time she has received this honor in eight seasons.

Justina was also inducted into the NJ Scholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame on March 29th of this year. As head coach of the Voorhees High School girls cross country team since 1997, Justina has led her team to numerous victories, including its seventh straight Hunterdon-Warren NJ championship, third straight North 2 Group 3 sectional title, fifth NJ State Interscholastic Athletic Association Group 3 state title, and second Meet of Champions crown.

The recognition and appreciation that Ms. Cassavell has been shown is no small feat, considering she is a part-time coach. Present and past students alike have called her the "inspiration" in their lives, as she teaches them to believe in themselves and to strive to be great in all that they do.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing Justina Cassavell for her hard work and dedication to her student athletes—she sets an example for students and teachers everywhere and that is something we should be encouraging more and more.