

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF JEAN K.
HOLBROOK, ED.D

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary educator and community leader, Dr. Jean K. Holbrook, who is retiring after four decades of outstanding service in San Mateo County, California. Under her leadership, county schools have made impressive and promising strides forward, teaching students to love learning and preparing them to enter a globalized workforce.

Born and raised in Minnesota, Dr. Holbrook received her Bachelor's Degree in English from Augsburg College in Minneapolis, before moving to California for further studies. Already committed to educational leadership, she earned a Master's Degree in Secondary Education and Educational Administration from San Francisco State University, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of San Francisco.

A longtime resident of San Mateo, Dr. Holbrook began working as a researcher for the San Mateo Education Research Center and rose to become its Director. Since then, she served as Deputy Superintendent and Associate Superintendent of Instructional Services, before being appointed San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools in January 2006, and subsequently elected to a four-year term in 2007.

As Superintendent, Dr. Holbrook oversaw a \$1.5 billion budget, instructional and curricular assistance, and special education for 23 school districts and nearly 90,000 students. Announcing her decision to serve a second term, Dr. Holbrook stated her desire "to make the county office more effective in providing countywide leadership." Dr. Holbrook succeeded. During her tenure, schools and scores improved substantially, and her committed efforts were widely praised. Dr. Holbrook took pride in San Mateo County's gains, while soberly noting that "the challenge remains to meet the needs of all students and to close the achievement gap where it exists." For Dr. Holbrook, the glass was neither half full nor half empty. She believed, as did William Butler Yeats, that "education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

She worked hard to 'light that fire,' serving on a wide array of civic and educational organizations in addition to her career with the San Mateo County Office of Education. Dr. Holbrook is a member of the First 5 Commission and the California County Superintendents Educational Association Pre-K Task Force, chairs the Peninsula Partnership Leadership Council, and co-chairs the Child Care Partnership Council. Involving herself in all aspects of her community, she is also active in the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Jean Holbrook's forty years of extraordinary leadership. Throughout her career, Dr. Holbrook's greatest gift was that she never forgot to treat each and every one of her 90,000 students as individuals with extraordinary potential. When she retired, Dr. Holbrook thanked the County for the "profound honor of serving as Superintendent, but it is San Mateo County and the surrounding

communities that are honored by her contributions. As a San Mateo County resident and public servant, I am extremely proud to call Dr. Holbrook my friend and even prouder of the profoundly positive impact of her life's work on our community, on our children, and on our country.

HONORING FRED WOehl FOR USDA SERVICE IN IRAQ

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Fred Woehl for his service, sacrifice and commitment to establishing stability and security in Iraq. Woehl taught Iraqis the agriculture lessons he learned as a farmer and as a farm loan manager for the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency for 33 years.

Woehl served on the Mosul PRT in Ninewa, Iraq from 2008 to 2009. While in Iraq, he helped to revitalize interest in the Al Jerzera Irrigation project, the largest system in Iraq and developed cooperation between Ministry of Agriculture and Extension for agricultural training. His expertise and knowledge in the agriculture field helped him create a mentoring program that is ongoing; working with Iraqi citizens building greenhouses for growing tomatoes, cucumbers and melons and establishing the first all female farmer association in Iraq. He also received the Meritorious Honor award from Ambassador Chris Hill.

By empowering Iraqis with knowledge and best practices to improve their agriculture industry Woehl has helped create opportunities for development and long-term economic viability in Iraq. Fred's devotion to helping others in need is a great example of selfless Arkansas values. I am so proud of his accomplishments and the opportunities he helped create for Iraqi citizens. He's continuing to use his skills to help others around the globe. Today, Woehl is serving in Jordan to help teach people how to increase productivity on the farm, develop functioning markets, improve availability of agricultural credit, and enhance infrastructure along the supply chain.

Woehl's devotion to serving his country and helping others find better ways to use their land and provide for themselves, their families and their country is a great example of the American spirit.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAIRVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH IN WAYNESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Fairview Baptist Church in the community of Waynesville, North Carolina. Since 1910, this church has brought light and joy to the lives of many devoted members.

From its humble beginnings consisting of a congregation of eight people and a house pur-

chased for six dollars, Fairview Baptist has grown to be a proud and prominent part of the Waynesville community. Over the past hundred years, the Church has witnessed many significant moments in history from World War I to the Civil Rights Movement.

The strength and longevity of Fairview Baptist Church has proven to be an inspiration for many and I look forward to seeing what the future holds for the Church as it continues its journey through the next 100 years. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Fairview Baptist Church on its outstanding accomplishments over its 100-year history.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2010 FERRAGOSTO FESTIVAL ON BELMONT AVENUE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the most special places for culture and cuisine not only in the Bronx, but all of New York, the Ferragosto Festival on Belmont Avenue. This is a celebration that grows in size and fame with each successive year. People now travel from across the nation to sample the delicious tastes and wonderful atmosphere on display in the Bronx's own Little Italy.

Ferragosto is powered by small businesses, many family-owned, and has built a reputation for generosity to its patrons and authenticity to its cultural source. The Festival is made possible with the support of many people and institutions, perhaps none more so however than the Belmont Business Improvement District, which deserves special recognition for its efforts.

One of the landmark attractions of the Festival, and indeed a cultural touchstone for the entire city, is the Arthur Avenue Retail Market, known popularly as simply "The Market." Owned by the City of New York and located in the Belmont Community of the Bronx, The Market has a history and symbolism that is distinctly New York. Back in the 1940s, through the efforts of Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, pushcart vendors, who were largely immigrants, were taken off the streets and relocated into buildings and shelters throughout the five boroughs. The Arthur Avenue Retail Market in the Bronx was one such creation, with purveyors of Italian food, craft and specialty items. It retains today the cooperative vendor model and "old world feel" from so many years ago, endearing it to all who visit.

Importantly, The Market is currently undergoing important renovations that will ensure its stairways, halls and storage spaces will stand up to merchant demands in the new century. The goal of the project is to comprehensively renovate and modernize The Market, while maintaining the atmosphere which has made it so well-known and well-loved.

Madam Speaker, one of our most distinguishing qualities as a nation is the passion with which we celebrate our cultural diversity. At the most basic level, festivals like Ferragosto and institutions like the Arthur Avenue Retail Market are expressions of pride and honor. They are part of an exchange of

history and ideas and values that link past and future generations together. I will always be a participant and supporter of such festivals and such markets, as I view them as a reminder that no matter where we come from as New Yorkers, we are all here now, together. I ask that my colleagues join me paying tribute to Ferragosto 2010, in Belmont's Little Italy of the Bronx.

TRIBUTE TO TONY BELL

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Tony Bell. Tony was a businessman, a passionate follower of both the local and national political scenes, a lover of music and gadgets, and most importantly a loving husband and proud father.

Tony was the co-owner and operator of Tomorrow's Child Learning Center in Blytheville, Arkansas—a facility dedicated to helping young children with development and learning problems. When not working, Tony dedicated his time to others through volunteer work and community organizations. He was a member of the Lions Club, a Mason, and served on the board of the Boys and Girls Club.

Tony was never one to stay still for too long. In his free time, you could find him tinkering with electronics or listening to music. Friends sought his help if ever they needed something repaired; always willing to help, Tony would oblige.

Although never a politician himself, Tony was always immersed in the local political scene and never far from the stump. Through fundraising, civil debate with fellow residents and a general enthusiasm for the democratic process Tony served as a light for others interested in politics and a great example of what it means to be an actively engaged citizen.

To Tony's family I extend my deepest condolences, and have only fond memories to tell of Tony. He was a man that found happiness in helping others, and I ask my colleagues to join me now in recognizing a life devoted to community, family and politics—and my friend, Mr. Tony Bell.

IN HONOR OF MAURICE RUSSELL ANDERSON

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a constituent and a true American hero.

United States Army Specialist Maurice Russell Anderson, from Willingboro, New Jersey, recently returned home from combat on August 28th, 2010. While assigned to the 1st Squadron 89th Cavalry based in Fort Drum, New York, Specialist Anderson was deployed to Iraq to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. Along with his fellow unit members, he served with honor to protect our nation. Specialist An-

derson was shot and wounded in combat while conducting intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations.

Specialist Anderson's devotion to his country during his combat time in Iraq is an example of true patriotism. I want to take this time to recognize his unwavering dedication to our nation and, on behalf of the United States Congress, thank him for his selfless service on the frontlines in Iraq and for his honorable contributions to our country.

HONORING ROY JOHN SPENCER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Roy John Spencer. Roy Spencer is a veteran of World War II and was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Silver Star medals. Roy was killed in action, at the age of 26, on January 12, 1945 in the Battle of the Bulge.

Roy Spencer was born in 1918 and he enlisted in the United States Army on January 12, 1945. He went on to serve as a member of the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment and fought in several battles in Europe, including the Battle of the Bulge.

In January 1945, Private Spencer and his company were attacked by German forces in the woods outside of the Belgium town of Flamizoulle. As Private Spencer and his bazooka team advanced forward, they were confronted by counterattacks from German tanks. Roy's bazooka was struck by pieces of flying shrapnel which resulted in holes being torn in the weapon's tube. Private Spencer and his teammate knew that the tanks must be stopped, despite the danger of using a faulty weapon. Without a thought for personal safety, they fired the bazooka in an attempt to stop the tanks. The weapon exploded and both men were killed instantly.

The bravery and heroism of Private Spencer inspired his company to successfully repulse the German counterattack. Private Spencer was laid to rest in the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial in Hamm, Luxembourg. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Anna Queen Spencer.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and honor Roy John Spencer for his service to our country, for his gallantry and for the sacrifice he made to protect his fellow soldiers. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Private Roy John Spencer.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT VINCENT'S CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MARGATE, FLORIDA

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th anniversary of Saint Vincent's Catholic Church in Margate, Florida. Since 1960, St. Vincent's has been a leader in charity and community service, providing trilingual religious services to Margate and the entire South Florida community.

Founded with modest beginnings, St. Vincent's first Mass was celebrated under a donated tent. However, through the hard work of their parishioners, they dedicated their first church in 1961 and eventually as the parish grew, dedicated their current church in 1980.

St. Vincent's has long been a leader in community services towards the elderly, veterans, disabled, and youth of the South Florida community. They have provided Eucharistic services in hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted-living facilities and provide prayer ministries for the sick in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. St. Vincent's continues to serve its members with daily Mass and Novena ministries, and St. Vincent's is home to a thriving religious education center which provides free religious guidance to all members of the community.

During these past 50 years, St. Vincent's Catholic Church has shown its spirit and caring for the community, and I wish the Church and all of its parishioners a happy Golden Jubilee. Congratulations on this joyous occasion and thank you for your many years of service in our South Florida community.

HONORING VONETTA MCGEE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Vonetta McGee, a trailblazing actress and local Bay Area community member. Known for her fearlessness, elegance and mastery of her craft, she was a loving wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend. Vonetta McGee will be remembered for her warm and vivacious presence in daily life, as well as her myriad film roles, acting beside screen legends such as Jean-Louis Trintignant, Klaus Kinski, Clint Eastwood and Sidney Poitier. With Ms. McGee's passing on July 9, 2010, we are reminded of her life's journey and the joyful legacy she inspired.

Named for her father, Lawrence Vonetta McGee was born on January 14, 1945 in San Francisco, California. She graduated from San Francisco Polytechnic High School, and briefly studied law at San Francisco State University before moving to 1960s Rome, Italy to pursue her passion for acting at Cinecittà film studios.

With the emerging popularity of Spaghetti Westerns, Ms. McGee was cast in "The Great Silence," which opened in Italy in 1967, and "Faustina," a comedy directed by Luigi Magni in 1968. She returned to the United States to appear with Sidney Poitier in "The Lost Man" (1969). And, in the early 1970s, she appeared in a string of blaxploitation pictures which made her famous, including "Blacula," "Melinda," "Hammer," and "The Big Bust-Out" in 1972, and "Shaft in Africa" in 1973.

These popular genre pictures starring African-American actors are a contested, yet important, part of cinematic history. Ms. McGee, believing that the "blaxploitation" label was a misnomer, imbued all of her characters with strength, grace and pride. She was a true professional who well knew the value and variety of entertainment. Her cast members, crew and directors often noted her kind approachability and her commitment to excellence.

In 1974, she starred in "Thomasine & Bushrod" and landed a role in Clint