

My family and I offer Jackie's family and her many friends our thoughts and prayers, as we all celebrate this extraordinary woman's life.

HONORING W.W. "BILL" ASTON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise to recognize the passing of W.W. "Bill" Aston, a model citizen—veteran, community advocate, civic leader, volunteer, and devoted health care expert from Dallas, Texas, who passed away on July 8, 2010, at age 82.

Mr. Aston lived in multiple locations in Texas from the Rio Grande to the Red River, throughout central Texas and in Arkansas and Oklahoma before coming to Dallas. He served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific in 1945–46. After he was discharged from the Navy in 1946, Bill went to work for Dallas Power & Light Company, where he worked for 40 years before retiring in 1986. He worked in overhead construction, human resources, advertising, sales, customer relations, and public relations at DP&L before becoming president, a position he held until retirement.

Mr. Aston was active in many volunteer activities, locally and nationally, with a focus on health care. He served as board chairman of the American Heart Association's Dallas Chapter and Texas Affiliate before becoming board chair of the national organization. During his many years of service to the American Heart Association, he was proud of the progress made in reducing mortality rates from cardiovascular diseases through educating the public about the risk factors—smoking, elevated blood pressure, lack of exercise, cholesterol, salt, stress, and obesity.

He has served the Baylor Health Care System for over 20 years at various times as board chair of Baylor University Medical Center, board chair of Baylor Heart and Vascular Hospital, and a board member of the Baylor Health Care System. At Baylor, he authored a resolution calling for continuous improvement of the delivery system for high quality, safe patient care which was adopted by all Baylor Health Care System facilities.

Since the 1940s, he has also served other organizations such as: Chairman of City of Dallas Civil Service Commission, DART board member, officer or board member of Dallas Zoological Society, Dallas Ballet, Dallas Summer Musicals, The Science Place, Camp Fire Girls, Dallas Advertising League, Dallas County Community College System, Public Relations Society of America, Dallas Assembly, State Fair of Texas, United Way and Texas Health Care Trustees.

Bill graduated with honors from SMU's Cox School of Business with a BBA degree and was a member of Beta Gamma Sigma. He served as president of SMU's Alumni Association and as a member of the Executive Board of SMU's Lyle School of Engineering. He was a long-time active member of Rotary, and served as president of the Dallas Rotary Club and district governor of Rotary International. Bill also served for 18 years as a volunteer driver on the McKinney Avenue Trolley.

He received many awards and recognitions: The American Heart Association's Dwight D.

Eisenhower Award as Volunteer of the Year for Texas, Brotherhood Citation Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Distinguished Alumni Award from SMU, Founders Award from the Texas Health Care Trustees, Trustee of the Year Award from the Dallas County Medical Society and Distinguished Health Service Award from the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council.

Most recently, the Board of Trustees of Baylor Health Care System established the "Bill Aston Annual Award for Quality" which will be awarded by the Texas Hospital Association for the first time in 2011.

Madam Speaker, there simply isn't space in this tribute to fully capture Mr. Aston's contributions to our community. He was uniquely American—a dreamer, a doer, a giver, a lover of life. In short, he was a community treasure.

I join so many North Texans in mourning W.W. Aston's passing, and in extending condolences to his wife of 62 years, Evelyn, and family and friends. You are all in our prayers.

RECOGNIZING THE 18TH ANNUAL MULTICULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 18th Annual National Multicultural Diversity Day celebration that was held in my hometown of Flint Michigan. A multicultural dinner and program were held on October 11th to kick off events celebrating diversity in our country.

Cleora Scruggs presented the idea of creating a National Multicultural Diversity Day to the National Education Association 1993 Representative Assembly. Cleora developed this proposal to teach students about the contributions of persons from a wide variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Her proposal was adopted and educators across our nation use the third Monday of October to kickoff diversity programs. Now retired, Cleora was honored by the National Education Association in 2000 with the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Award for her ongoing efforts to advance the teaching of multiculturalism in our schools. She continues to make presentations and visit schools, spreading the idea that diversity is strength, not weakness.

Madam Speaker, the celebration held last month was themed, "Valuing Multicultural Diversity," and was highlighted by ethnic displays, performances, foods and speakers. I commend Cleora Scruggs and the National Multicultural Diversity Institute for their work promoting understanding, appreciation and acceptance of persons of different ethnic backgrounds. Through their efforts students, parents and educators will have increased insight into our world and a deeper understanding its people.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Philanthropy Day, a day dedicated to the millions of Americans who donate their time, money and talents to improving the lives of others. They ask for no reward for their efforts, but each year on November 15 we thank them and honor them for their work.

The Greater Cleveland chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals has selected three individuals and two organizations to recognize for their contributions. This year, awards go to youth leader Shannon Visconti, philanthropist Deborah Ratner, fundraising volunteer William D. Ginn, the Community West Foundation and the Third Federal Savings and Loan. Each has made an outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of our community.

Having chosen to dedicate their time and/or money to help meet a greater need, they lead by example, inspiring those within their reach to do the same. Such generosity, dedication and humility nurtures the individual and the collective.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of these admirable community leaders, as well as countless others like them who work unrecognized in cities and towns throughout the country.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL I. JORDAN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Michael I. Jordan, who this year was inducted as a Fellow into both the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Sciences, a dual honor that has not been achieved in the past 150 years. In the sheer rarity of earning two invitations into separate Academies in the same year, Dr. Jordan distinguishes himself in the international science community, as well as in our Bay Area constituency, for his immense contributions to academia and the greater good.

After receiving a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, in Psychology from Louisiana State University in 1978, Dr. Jordan went on to complete a master's degree in Mathematics (Statistics) at Arizona State University and a PhD in Cognitive Science from the University of California, San Diego. Prior to being recruited to the University of California, Berkeley in 1998, Dr. Jordan served for 10 years as a faculty member of the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Jordan currently serves as the Pehong Chen Distinguished Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and the Department of Statistics at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Jordan's scholarly work focuses on statistical machine learning, Bayesian nonparametric statistics, graphical models, as well as human

motor control and speech production. Additionally, he has authored or edited over 100 peer-reviewed scientific articles, 39 book chapters and six books.

Dr. Jordan is a devoted member of many professional organizations and has received myriad accolades throughout his career, including the 2009 ACM/AAAI Allen Newell Award and the 2006 IEEE Neural Networks Pioneer Award. He is also a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science and President of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (2010–2011).

Moreover, Dr. Jordan's status as an internationally recognized, eminent scientist has allowed him to travel throughout the world to provide hundreds of invited lectures and scientific presentations at refereed conferences.

On behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, I want to thank Dr. Michael I. Jordan for his groundbreaking scientific work. We congratulate Dr. Jordan on his acceptance into both The National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Sciences, and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

JOHN HALLMARK ROBERTSON

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Hallmark Robertson, of Branson, CO, who passed away on August 17th, 2010.

John was born in Branson, CO on February 14th, 1922 to Lon and Nettie (Hallmark) Robertson. He had two older sisters, Louise and Georgie, and grew up primarily in the area he ranched most of his life. He went to school at Tobe and Kim CO, graduating from Kim in 1941. Following graduation John enlisted in the Navy and served as sonar operator on an anti-submarine patrol in the South Pacific during WWII. After the war he came home and began work at putting together the ranch and home that he would enjoy for the remainder of his life.

John married June Green of Branson, CO on September 14th, 1950 in La Junta, CO. Together they raised their five children on the ranch that John and his father started. The ranch was his livelihood, his treasure, his church, and his responsibility and he didn't take any of those lightly. John was proud of his children and their accomplishments and the fact that they all learned to stand up for themselves and their families. He enjoyed being around, playing with and talking to his 14 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

He was an ardent supporter of the opposition effort against the expansion of the Piñon Canyon maneuver site. He spent countless hours writing letters and poems that were printed regularly in many of the newspapers in the area in an effort to help people understand the potential atrocity. Although John preferred and felt it necessary to work every day, a hobby of sorts in later years came from his love of cutting wood and posts with his chainsaw. No matter the time of year or the temperature, relaxation for him consisted of gassing and sharpening up his saw and spending an entire morning in "the cedars" cutting wood or posts.

He will be missed, and my thoughts and prayers go out to his family during this difficult time.

IN HONOR OF TOMMY IRVIN,
GEORGIA COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Tommy Irvin, an accomplished public servant and a personal friend. He is retiring after devoting over 40 years to his state and country, serving as the Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture.

His 54-plus years of public service began in 1956, when he was elected to the Habersham County Board of Education. From there, he went on to serve as Chairman of the School Board and President of the Georgia School Boards Association. Throughout his time in public office, he has remained dedicated to educational advancement in the State of Georgia, and as such, he is an honorary Lifetime Member of the Parent-Teacher Association of Georgia and the Georgia School Food Service Association.

Commissioner Irvin continued his commitment to education during his four terms representing Habersham County in the Georgia General Assembly. He served on the House Agriculture, Education, & Appropriations Committees and as the Chairman of both the House Industrial Relations Committee and the Governor's Conference on Education. In addition, he was the Governor's Floor Leader and Executive Secretary to the Governor.

He is the longest serving statewide official in Georgia, having been appointed Commissioner of Agriculture in 1969 by Governor Lester Maddox. Commissioner Irvin is the only Georgian to serve as President of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

In addition to serving as the President of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture, he served two terms as the President of the Southern United States Trade Association, an organization which he helped found to promote the export of Southern food and agricultural products.

Commissioner Irvin has received many honors throughout his distinguished career, including the Progressive Farmer Magazine Man-of-the-Year in Service to Agriculture, the National Award for Agricultural Excellence by the National Agri-Marketing Association, the National Future Farmers of America Honorary American Farmer Degree, and the Southeastern Poultry and Egg Association's "Workhorse of the Year" award, which is considered to be the most prestigious recognition bestowed by the poultry industry.

He has been inducted into the Halls of Fame of many organizations, including National 4-H, Georgia Agrirama, Vidalia Onion, Georgia Seed Association, Habersham County, Hall County, and University of Georgia College of Agriculture.

He has received the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine's Distinguished Service Award. He received the Richard B. Russell Public Service Award, the Jefferson

Jackson Day HOPE Award, and most recently received the American Farm Bureau Federation's Distinguished Service Award for his service as an agriculture leader with merit and distinction.

Commissioner Irvin set up an international trade division in his department and pursued markets for Georgia's agricultural producers in the Soviet Union, China and Cuba. His initiative has inspired other states to follow his lead, and the United States Department of Agriculture and leaders in other countries have sought to emulate Georgia's procedures to eradicate animal diseases, and control plant pests.

Madam Speaker, the State of Georgia, especially the agriculture community, and our nation have greatly benefitted from the tremendous leadership of Tommy Irvin. He will be remembered for his ingenuity and dedication. His many awards are well earned and he leaves an unparalleled legacy as he retires.

IN MEMORIAM: FIRST
LIEUTENANT MARK NOZISKA

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, last Friday, 24-year-old Army First Lieutenant Mark Noziska was laid to rest at West Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Grand Island, Nebraska. He was killed on August 30 near Malajat, Afghanistan, following an IED attack on his patrol. His decorations include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Army Commendation Medal.

Lieutenant Noziska was born in Grand Island, and attended high school in Papillion. He enlisted in the Army National Guard in March 2004, before he graduated from high school that year. He was named Nebraska Soldier of the Year in 2005, and after graduating from the University of Nebraska-Omaha in 2008, earned his commission. His love of Husker football was well-known among his family and friends, many of whom wore "Husker Red" to his funeral. He also loved the Army. He planned a lifelong career of service to our nation, and hoped to one day become a General.

While Lieutenant Noziska's life was tragically cut short, it is clear that he touched and inspired so many of those around him, including the many people from the local community who lined the streets to honor his service and memory. May God bless Lieutenant Noziska and his family, and all our nation's fallen soldiers.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD MICHAEL
"MUGGS" MCGINNIS

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life of an outstanding individual, Richard Michael "Muggs" McGinnis, who retired this year after over 3 decades of service as a teacher, coach and