

The accomplishments of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO are far too many to enumerate. But to me, ensuring that transportation workers have a seat at the table, and a voice that is heard in key policy debates, has been the organization's greatest contribution to our nation. I congratulate TTD on 20 outstanding years, and look forward to many more.

HONORING MATTIE MEYERS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mattie Meyers upon being honored with the "Trail Blazers Award" by the African American Museum. Mrs. Meyers will be honored at the African American History Month Celebration and Banquet on Saturday, February 6th, 2010 in Fresno, California.

Mrs. Mattie Meyers was born and raised in Durham, North Carolina. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and mathematics from North Carolina College at Durham (now known as North Carolina Central University) in 1947. Shortly after completing her education, Mrs. Meyers met a young doctor named Earl Meyers, during his residency at Durham's Lincoln Hospital. Mr. Meyers was from a prominent black family in Fresno, California. When Earl and Mattie married, they moved to Fresno.

Upon arriving in Fresno, Dr. Meyers established a medical practice to serve the nonwhite community of Fresno, which did not have medical services that were readily accessible to whites. Mrs. Meyers was the business manager and together they built the first black owned medical center in Fresno, which contained a clinical laboratory, pharmacy, housed an x-ray facility and was home to several African American physicians. Dr. Meyers served as a catalyst in bringing a number of young black physicians to the Fresno area, providing a higher standard of medical care available to African Americans.

While Dr. Meyers continued to focus on the medical disparities, Mrs. Meyers began to recognize different disparities such as segregation within the schools. She joined with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and eventually Fresno schools adopted an "open enrollment policy" which made it possible for African American children to attend schools outside of West Fresno. Mrs. Meyers' children were among the first to take advantage of the new policy. Her involvement with the NAACP did not end there; she also served as the President of the Fresno Chapter.

During Mrs. Meyers' term as President of the Fresno Chapter of the NAACP, she was able to orchestrate many achievements and milestones for the growing organization. She served during the early 1960s. She was able to bring Andrew Hatcher, the associate press secretary to President John Kennedy, to Fresno as a featured speaker at the NAACP's second annual banquet. Mr. Hatcher was one of the most influential African Americans in the country at that time. Later, Mrs. Meyers was instrumental in bringing Dr. Martin Luther King,

Jr. to Fresno to spearhead a civil rights demonstration and march to Ratcliff Stadium.

Beyond her efforts with the NAACP, Mrs. Meyers was the first African American, and the first woman, to seek election as the Mayor of Fresno. She was not only active in local politics and local civil rights activities; she was also involved with movements around the nation. Mrs. Meyers was influential in the southern United States. She is a founding member of a number of black organizations, including Iota Phi Lambda Sorority.

Mrs. Meyers is the mother of five successful children and grandmother to nine. She is a member of the Westside Seventh Day Adventist Church, lifetime member of the NAACP, charter member of Iota Phi Lambda, a founding member of the Fresno Black Educators Association.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mattie Meyers upon being honored with the "Trail Blazers Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Meyers many years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN M. "MITCH" DORGER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John M. "Mitch" Dorger, who is retiring from his post as Chief Executive Officer of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association this month after ten years of exemplary service.

Mitch graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1968 with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. He earned his Master's degree in International Relations from Tufts University and an Executive Master's degree in Business Administration from Claremont Graduate University.

From 1987 to 1989, he served both in the Office of the Assistant to the Undersecretary of the Air Force and as the Deputy Assistant to the Undersecretary. In 1989, he participated in a year-long program of research and studies for military officers as a Research Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. From 1990 to 1992, Mitch was a Base Commander at the Keesler Technical Training Center and he served as Chief of Staff and then Vice Commander at the United States Air Force Academy from 1992 to 1994. From 1994 to 2000, Mitch was the Chief Operating Officer at the Claremont University Center, where he oversaw the three hundred and fifty person, thirty million dollar organization which provided support services to the seven colleges in the Claremont consortium.

On February 1, 2000, the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association appointed Mr. Dorger to the position of Chief Executive Officer. For ten years, Mitch has been an outstanding leader, effectively directing the Tournament of Roses' staff and supporting the nine hundred and thirty-five volunteer members who plan and stage the world-renowned Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Game.

In addition to his duties with the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association, his volunteer activities include serving on the boards of the International Festival and Events Associa-

tion, and the Football Bowl Association, as an Advisory Committee Member for the L.A. Sports and Entertainment Commission, on the Advisory Committee for the Sports Business Institute at the University of Southern California, and as an Ex Officio Member of the L.A. Sports Council.

Mitch and his wife, Barbara, have two grown children and one grandson, and they reside in Pasadena, California.

I ask all Members join me in thanking John M. "Mitch" Dorger for over two decades of remarkable leadership and dedicated service to our community and our country.

CONGRATULATING THE TRANSPORTATION TRADES DEPARTMENT ON ITS TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Transportation Trades Department (TTD), AFL-CIO on its twentieth anniversary as an invaluable advocate for our nation's transportation workers. As the Chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor, I have seen the critical role that TTD plays in making heard the voices of those on the front lines of our nation's transit system.

TTD is a leader in ensuring that an industry as safety- and customer service-intensive as transportation has the most well-trained and experienced workforce possible. TTD has enabled employees in this industry to present a unified and effective voice, one that helps make policymakers aware of the needs and concerns of the people who form the backbone of the industry. TTD serves as an important check and balance guaranteeing that financial pressures do not lead to cutting corners on safety and security and ensuring that those in government carry out their vital oversight responsibilities in a thorough and effective manner. Our nation owes transportation workers and their representatives a debt of gratitude on these issues.

TTD's fight for workplace fairness has most recently turned to a proposed rule change at the National Mediation Board (NMB) which would allow a majority of voting employees to prevail in a union election under the Railway Labor Act. Currently, the NMB treats non-participating voters as opponents of forming a union. This current rule clearly contradicts the standards under which elections are conducted in this country. It is a matter of basic fairness that workers covered under this Act not have lesser rights than employees in other industries. With the transportation industry facing great uncertainty and change, it is more important than ever that workers have a fair and full voice in the workplace.

TTD serves an essential role in our nation's labor and transportation policy debates. In a responsible and effective manner, they help policymakers remember the needs and concerns of the women and men whose work contributes so much to our national economy. I congratulate the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO on its many accomplishments over the past 20 years, and look forward to continuing to work with them on

issues of profound public interest, ranging from safety to rebuilding and strengthening our nation's middle class.

HONORING THE COURAGE AND DE-
TERMINATION OF VIRGIL HAW-
KINS

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the courageous civil rights hero Virgil Hawkins. Mr. Hawkins was the leader in the fight for the desegregation of Florida's universities. Mr. Hawkins is a true role model for his determination and personal sacrifice.

Born in 1906 in Okahumpka, Florida, Mr. Hawkins decided from a young age that he wanted to be a lawyer after witnessing the unfair treatment of African Americans in the judicial system. Mr. Hawkins graduated high school in Jacksonville, Florida, and attended Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. By the time Mr. Hawkins was 42, he had saved up enough money to attend law school by selling insurance and working as a school teacher. In 1949, he applied to the University of Florida Law School in Gainesville.

At the time Mr. Hawkins applied, it was against Florida law for African Americans and

whites to attend school together. Mr. Hawkins was denied admission because of the color of his skin, not because he did not meet the qualifications. He decided to challenge this unjust practice by filing suit with the state Supreme Court. The state offered to pay Mr. Hawkins tuition for an out of state school, but he refused. To prevent similar lawsuits the state opened a law school for African Americans at the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College (FAMC) for Blacks in Tallahassee. In 1952, the Florida Supreme Court dismissed his case, arguing he could attend FAMC. Mr. Hawkins turned to the United States Supreme Court and in 1956 the Court ordered the state of Florida to admit Mr. Hawkins to the University of Florida Law School. Initially, the state did not comply with the Supreme Court's order, citing the violence that would erupt if Mr. Hawkins was admitted. Finally, a district court judge ordered the University of Florida graduate school to open its doors to all qualified students, regardless of race. This was a major step forward in Mr. Hawkins's struggle; unfortunately, University of Florida claimed he was not qualified and did not admit him.

After a nine-year struggle to desegregate Florida universities, Mr. Hawkins attended the unaccredited New England School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts. Due to the lack of accreditation of the law school, he was not allowed to take the bar when he returned to Florida. Mr. Hawkins was not allowed to practice law and worked as a salesman, teacher, a public relations director, and as the director of a community action agency.

Holding on to his dream to practice law, at the age of 69, Mr. Hawkins asked the Florida Supreme Court to admit him to the Florida bar. In 1976, the court allowed Mr. Hawkins to become a lawyer without taking the bar examination. After spending 30 years fighting the discriminatory foundations in the educational system, Mr. Hawkins opened his own law firm in Leesburg, Florida.

Today the law library at the University of Florida is named the Virgil Hawkins Library in honor of the sacrifices he made in his struggle for justice and equality in the admissions processes of the state's university system. A monument honoring Virgil Hawkins stands in his hometown of Okahumpka, Florida, and is located a few blocks from his childhood home. These are just minor tributes to a man who contributed so much to the civil rights struggle in Central Florida, and America as a whole.

Madam Speaker, as Black History Month comes to a close, it is with great honor that I recognize the incredible activism of this civil rights leader. Mr. Hawkins's lifelong struggle for justice is inspirational to all future generations of Floridians, and Americans. As a fellow lawyer, I admire his dedication to seek justice and equal educational opportunities for all. Florida is indebted to Mr. Hawkins for the personal sacrifices and the pathways to equal access to education in the desegregation of our school systems.