

Each year the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps embarks on an eight to ten day tour to visit and perform at historical sites. The group prides itself on a celebrated history, having performed at sites of historical importance in the personal life and military career of George Washington during its silver anniversary year of 1996. The crowning moment of the tour was receiving a standing ovation after a performance for the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, the official ceremonial unit of the Army, and escort to the President. The Old Guard has long served as a model for the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps.

Mr. Speaker, for 40 years the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps has maintained a prominent presence in the Metropolitan Detroit area and traveled extensively throughout the United States and Canada to preserve our nation's musical heritage. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the storied members and alumni of the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps, and in recognizing their four decades of patriotic inspiration and loyal service to our community and our country.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
DEBBIE SUTTON

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of California's Thirty-Seventh Congressional District to honor the courage and service of Ms. Debbie Sutton.

Ms. Sutton, a retired nurse from Long Beach, California was the sole volunteer from Long Beach's Chapter of the American Red Cross to be assigned to help in relief efforts after a devastating tornado ripped through Joplin, Missouri in May of 2011. The tornado that passed through the town of Joplin was so extensive, that it damaged the local hospital, destroyed four local schools and left surrounding areas in tatters. Ms. Sutton, one of the lead members of a volunteer team assigned to help residents of Joplin, played an integral role in securing replacements for lost medical equipment, medicine and other goods essential to public health.

Before Ms. Sutton was called to aid in the post-tornado recovery efforts in Joplin, she had been working to set up health services in preparation for floods in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Ms. Sutton's role in assisting those in need in Joplin represents her fifth assignment as a volunteer in post-disaster recovery. Ms. Sutton also assisted in recovery efforts after hurricanes Rita and Katrina devastated Louisiana.

Ms. Sutton retired from the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services in 2004, and is a truly an outstanding member of our community. In her retirement, Ms. Sutton has dedicated herself to volunteering. Her enthusiastic, adventurous, and altruistic personality serves as a model for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring Ms. Debbie Sutton for her commitment to public health and public service.

IN HONOR OF ROCCO J. COLONNA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rocco J. Colonna on the occasion of his passing.

Rocco "Rocky" Colonna was an Ohio state legislator. He served from 1975 to 1998 in the Ohio General Assembly in the House of Representatives. During that tenure, he served as the chairman of the House Economic Development and Small Business Committee. In 1998, he was appointed by former Governor George Voinovich to serve on the Liquor Board for the State of Ohio as Commissioner. Additionally, he was a councilman for the City of Brook Park.

In all that he did, Mr. Colonna made sure that he treated everyone around him with dignity and respect. He is remembered by colleagues for always having a joke ready and was universally liked in the House, an accomplishment.

Aside from his political career, Rocco was a veteran of the Korean War, having served in the United States Navy. Additionally, he was married for 54 years to Shirley (nee Meyer). Surviving Rocky are his brother Vito; his children, Tina Montagino and Lavaine Cates; his son Danny, who followed his father into politics and is currently a city councilman in Brook Park; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. Rocco J. Colonna, a man whose unending duty to the State of Ohio and to this great nation is something to which we should all aspire.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDNA
ALIEWINE

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to rise today to inform the House of the death of Ms. Edna Aliewine. Founder of the Watts/Willowbrook Christmas Parade and co-creator of the Watts Walk of Fame, Edna, a longtime Watts resident, devoted her life to instilling civic pride into residents of her community. Edna Aliewine passed away at her home on Tuesday at the age of 90 due to complications from lymphoma.

Ms. Aliewine was born in Los Angeles on January 1, 1921 and later went on to attend Los Angeles City College and Cal State LA. Upon graduation, Edna worked as a real estate agent and later as a private nurse, but many knew that Edna's real passion lay in community service and local politics. Ms. Aliewine was well known throughout the community for her many accomplishments and was held in high regard by those closest to her.

Among her proudest achievements, Ms. Aliewine founded the Watts/Willowbrook Christmas Parade. Inspired by the glitz and glamour of the Hollywood Christmas Parade, Ms. Aliewine sought to bring her own version

to the community of Watts. In 1964, Ms. Aliewine started the Watts/Willowbrook Christmas Parade by scraping together as much money and as many volunteers as she could. The parade has since turned into an annual event, which has spanned over 46 years and included many celebrities, such as Sammy Davis Jr. and the Jackson 5.

In 1988, along with Dr. James Mays, Ms. Aliewine decided to create the Watts Walk of Fame, a monument to community heroes. The Promenade of Prominence, as it is called, was placed along the edge of what is now Ted Watkins Memorial Park at 103rd and Success streets. Edna also served as President of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women, founded the Watts-Willowbrook Chamber of Commerce, and the Watts Community Beautiful Corp.

Edna's community involvement and selfless attitude were a powerful example for her three children: Paula Aliewine, Marsha Feaster and Wilnora Ewell. She will always be remembered by Watts-Willowbrook residents for her wonderful spirit and dedication to community improvement. I ask all Members to join me in a moment of silence to honor the memory of the late Edna Aliewine.

RECOGNIZING PURPLE HEART DAY

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Purple Heart Day.

On August 7, 1782, General George Washington issued an order establishing the Honorary Badge of Distinction, otherwise known as the Badge of Military Merit or the Decoration of the Purple Heart.

The Purple Heart bears the profile of George Washington, the man who led our country through the Revolutionary War and eventually became the nation's first President.

The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to members of the armed forces who are wounded in conflict with an enemy force, or while being held by an enemy force as a prisoner of war, and may also be awarded to the next of kin of members of the Armed Forces who are killed in conflict with an enemy force, or who die of a wound received in conflict with an enemy force.

The Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit is our oldest military decoration.

Purple has always been a symbol of royalty and it is fitting that we award the Purple Heart to our wounded heroes, those American military members who have bravely served their country and risked their lives to secure our freedom. I want to thank all veterans for their bravery on behalf of the United States of America. I am personally inspired by the selfless service and devotion of the veterans who have fought for our nation.

The United States of America honors the service men and women who on distant fields of death gave their life blood for their country, not forgetting warriors of yesteryear or those still in Iraq or Afghanistan, today.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional District, it gives me immense

pride to recognize August 7 as the anniversary of the Purple Heart award, and as Purple Heart Day. Today is a day to reflect and take great pride in being Americans. We must never forget the sacrifices all veterans have made in the name of freedom.

HONORING SANDY COVALL-ALVES
OF SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, together with my colleague, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, to recognize Sandy Covall-Alves, who is retiring after three decades in the emergency management field. Throughout her 30 years of service, including 16 as Emergency Manager for Sonoma County's Fire and Emergency Services Department and the Sonoma County Operational Area, she dedicated herself to making sure that people in her charge were safe and received the

resources they needed in the wake of natural disasters.

During her tenure in Sonoma County, Ms. Covall-Alves coordinated the response, recovery and mitigation efforts for the 1995–1999 and 2006 winter storms and floods, the 1996 Cavedale fire and the 1998 Rio Nido debris flow. In total, she oversaw the implementation of 14 local emergency proclamations, 12 Emergency Operations Center activations, 8 gubernatorial proclamations and 6 events that were designated by the President to be national disasters.

Ms. Covall-Alves was also the guiding force in establishing, implementing and coordinating emergency programs for the country, its cities and special districts. Her commitment to improving emergency management did not stop at the county line. She is a founding member and current Chair of the California Operational Area Coalition (COAC), a forum for information exchange and advocacy on emergency management issues. The coalition's mission is to enhance closer cooperation and collaboration with its members and with the State Emergency Management Agency.

Ms. Covall-Alves began her career in emergency management as a 9–1–1 dispatcher for the Tuolumne County Sheriffs Department. After developing disaster recovery plans for private businesses, she returned to public service with the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services and from there was deployed to the 1994 Northridge earthquake in Southern California as part of the state's mutual aid program. She joined the Sonoma County Office of Emergency Services in 1995 and quickly became an integral part of the county's response and recovery team. Our offices appreciated working with her, knowing that she was the consummate professional who could use all of her connections to develop a coordinated response.

Mr. Speaker, Sandy Covall-Alves has had a long and distinguished career in serving and protecting the people of the State of California. We wish her well in her retirement as she enjoys time with her husband, Ron Alves, and their three special pets, Beesley, Mowse and Wilson.