

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING KATHARINE CARR  
ESTERS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Katharine Carr Esters. Mrs. Katharine Carr Esters, a devout Christian and member of the Presbyterian Church since the age of seven years old, gives thanks to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for her accomplishments, especially since returning home to Mississippi back in 1972.

After retiring from the Veterans Administration in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, she wanted to start a small business, so in October of 1972 she built a 12 x 15 concrete block grocery store on her parents' land. She mixed the mortar and hauled it in a wheelbarrow herself. Her small enterprise was a success that enabled her to later add two gas pumps at the store. She felt fortunate to get approval for gasoline on the gravel country road where she lived. Along with obtaining a license to sell groceries she was also issued a beer license.

Seeing the need for improving the standard of living in her neighborhood, in 1975 she applied for community water from County Supervisors. They initially denied her, so she got an easement for a waterline right-of-way from neighborhood property owners. With that breakthrough she rented equipment and bought the pipe, then hired workers to lay the waterline. Ford Motor Credit loaned her some of the money. After completion, the County Supervisors reassessed the taxes on all property where her waterline was put down and that was how she got her area of the county road surfaced.

A politician and staunch democrat, in 1976 she became a Governor Cliff Finch Colonel and placed on the Probation and Parole Board for the State of Mississippi, replacing Dr. Leslie McLeMore. Shortly afterwards she was reappointed to the Board of Directors of the Department of Mental Health where she served two consecutive seven-year terms. Working hard on the Board, she is credited with the idea of the State building group homes for mentally challenged citizens so they can have some independence while not being totally on their own, helping to keep their dignity and humanity intact. The first group home was built in Meridian and named the Katharine Carr Ray Esters Group Home and the group home in Kosciusko was also given her name in 2002.

A relative of the rich and famous Miss Oprah Winfrey, in 1988 Mrs. Esters contacted the Northern Highway Transportation Commissioner and persuaded him to name the road that passed the bend from Buffalo Methodist Church near where Oprah was born the Oprah Winfrey Road. Miss Winfrey came home for the celebration and the road was dedicated on the grounds of the Buffalo Community Youth

Center—the old church. The evening of the dedication a benefit was held in Oprah's honor at the Coliseum where money was raised. The proceeds were split. Half the money was given to the Buffalo Community Youth Center and half to the Kosciusko/Attala Cultural Center. After that Mrs. Esters refurbished the Buffalo Community Youth Center.

A history major in college she has a love for the past and people who survived hard times with dignity and respect, especially family members. So over the years she has bought and had installed permanent signs at several historical landmarks. She bought a sign for the site at the old retired Black Presbyterian Church at Ethel where she was baptized, a sign at Alexander Memorial Presbyterian Church where she is a member that is on the "Tour Guide" in Kosciusko, and a sign for the Carr Graveyard on #12 Highway near Ethel. She also reactivated the abandoned Civil War Era Cemetery and extended its entire perimeter so that indigent people today can be buried there, and bought and placed 36 granite headstones for those buried there whose graves had not been marked. She also bought and lettered a 14-foot metal gate for the cemetery.

But perhaps her best known accomplishment is her memoir titled *Jay Bird Creek and My Recollections* published in 2003 that told of when Jim Crow was law in Mississippi. Her book has sold many copies and touched the hearts of readers young and old. Also, in 2005 she wrote the history of Plantation Missionary Baptist Church for the benefit of future members.

She is a Life Member of the NAACP, a Life Member of the Attala County Cultural Center, a member of the Board of Directors of the Oprah Winfrey Boys & Girls Club, a member of the Democratic Executive Committee, and an Elder at Alexander Memorial Presbyterian Church.

In closing the interview she said, "I have given too many scholarships to number, taken high blood pressure medicine everyday for 60 years and taught Christian Education even longer. From my dialysis chair I am still privileged to enjoy my family and friends and, most of all, I remain a grateful servant person."

### EXTENDING COUNTERTERRORISM AUTHORITIES

SPEECH OF

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 14, 2011*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the new majority in the House has told us that the decisions they make will be guided by two things. First, loyalty to the Constitution. And second, a belief that the government is too large and too intrusive.

Well, here is their chance to act on those principles. The PATRIOT Act provisions we're

voting on today represent Big Brother at its creepiest and most invasive. They are a clear violation of the 4th Amendment's "right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures."

It's been close to a decade now that we've lived under the PATRIOT Act. For close to a decade, we've been told that our individual freedoms needed to take a backseat. For close to a decade, we've been told that our civil liberties must be shredded in the name of a so-called war on terrorism. We've been told that the national security imperatives of the moment are so great—and so different than any we've faced in our history—that we must submit to roving wiretaps, that we must empower the government to obtain "any tangible thing" related to a terrorism investigation.

"Any tangible thing"—that gives the government pretty broad discretion to ferret out just about whatever it is that they want. It is an invitation to overreach and abuse.

Meanwhile, it's not at all clear that the PATRIOT Act has made us safer. I believe it has stifled freedom more than it has advanced it. There is a real incoherence to an approach that says we have to do violence to our values in order to protect them. Benjamin Franklin's words are just as powerful today as they were more than 200 years ago: "Any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both."

I was impressed that so many members of the majority, in particular those just elected, voted against this measure when it came up on the suspension calendar earlier this week. I strongly urge them to do so again, and I hope they will be joined by more of their Republican colleagues who claim such a passionate belief in modest government. Or do they want to be known as the party that believes we should be tapping Americans' phones but not giving them affordable health care?

I believe we must let these provisions expire. And let's not stop there. Let's move toward a fuller debate about civil liberties and national security, one that revises and ultimately repeals the PATRIOT Act once and for all. This law is Constitutional graffiti. Patriotism means affirming and celebrating the values that have given America its strength and vitality for more than two centuries. A bill that violates several constitutional amendments has no business calling itself the PATRIOT Act.

### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 72, DIRECTING COMMITTEES TO RE- VIEW REGULATIONS FROM FED- ERAL AGENCIES

SPEECH OF

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, today and tomorrow we are spending more

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

than 10 hours of our time debating whether or not we should tell committees to do what they are already supposed to be doing.

Lake County, in my district, has 19 percent unemployment rate.

The people of Lake County know that we are not creating jobs by telling committees to do their jobs.

The people in my district, who are waiting on banks to call them back about their loan modification applications, know that this debate will not help them keep their homes.

There is real work to be done in Congress and this is not it.

I think we can stipulate that there are regulations that are redundant and unnecessary.

I, for one, know that a regulation from Federal Housing Finance Agency has shut down the incredibly successful Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program.

PACE is an innovative program in my district, and districts across this country, that has created jobs, saved energy, and slashed homeowners' utility bills.

Spending 10 hours of debate on this meaningless resolution is not going to reinstate the PACE program.

It is not going to bring back the jobs for the people who installed residential solar panels and weatherized houses under PACE.

This resolution is a lot of talk and no action. Committees have oversight responsibilities; it would be a much better use of our time to have simply scheduled 10 hours of Committee hearings on the matter.

#### A TRIBUTE TO LES OESTERREICH, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

### HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2011*

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Les Oesterreich, a resident of Dixon, California, a man respected as an American, a husband to Pat Oesterreich, a father to their combined seven daughters, and a grandfather. Perhaps more germane to this moment is his position as chairman emeritus of Superior Farms, the largest harvester and processor of lamb in the United States. Under his leadership, the company has grown from having a single plant in Dixon, California, to having plants in Denver, Colorado, Boston, Massachusetts, Hawarden, Iowa, and Blue Island, Illinois, with contractual arrangements in Australia as well. Today, Superior Farms employs 494 employees and operates under an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), so that every employee has a stake in the company's bottom line.

As CEO of Superior Farms, Mr. Oesterreich skillfully guided the company by working with other industry organizations. He was honored in 2008 by the American Sheep Industry Association with its Campender Award. He served several terms as a director of the National Meat Association, and as chair of its Small Stock Committee. He was recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture for his work with the Agricultural Marketing Service on the implementation of fair standards for lamb grading. He served on the Advisory Committee for the Animal Science Department

at California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo and the University of California at Davis. His input to the American Lamb Board and the California Sheep Commission has guided those organizations, and during all these activities he has guided the growth and prosperity of Superior Farms to ensure that he recruited the brightest and best professional management talent available.

Mr. Oesterreich's father worked for Armour Food Co. for 35 years and he learned a lot about the meat business during his formative years in Brownsville, Texas, and Sterling, Illinois. He started work in the slaughter facilities at age 16, then learned how to load trucks, and was finally trained in meat cutting, all at Armour. He joined Superior Farms in 1981 as general manager of the Dixon, California, facility and moved up the chain of management, by dint of hard work, to become its CEO in 2004.

Off the job, he has served as president of the local fire district in Dixon; he is passionate about cars and horses; and he is a member of the American Quarter Horse Association.

As Mr. Oesterreich moves into retirement, he leaves behind an incredible legacy to be continued by the professionals that he has recruited to Superior Farms. Men like Mr. Oesterreich make the United States of America a wonderful place to live. Congratulations, Les Oesterreich!

#### HONORING LOU ELLA ROBINSON- WELTON

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lou Ella Robinson-Welton. Ms. Welton was born to the late Reverend John D. (Doc) Robinson, a Baptist Minister, and Ella Jones-Robinson, a homemaker, on April 10, 1921, in Itta Bena, Mississippi. She was the youngest of six and is the only surviving member. Her siblings were Russell, Frank, Arie, and Seavon and Cleavon (twins). She was married to Sammie Lee Welton Senior, also from Itta Bena, Mississippi, for 41 years until his death in 1986. Sammie Sr. was a World War II Disabled Veteran, a Purple Heart Recipient, a Radio Technician, Printer, and Retired Mississippi Valley State University Laundry Technician. They have 5 children: Vernola, Arie Lue, Sammie Jr., Joyce, and Wanda, all graduates of Mississippi Valley State University. Lou Ella has 12 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Lou Ella Robinson Welton is an educator, community activist, and for 42 years, was a full-time teacher to generations of students in and around Leflore County, and is affectionately known throughout her community as "Miss Welton." Miss Welton began her career as a teacher/educator when she graduated high school, taking her first teaching job when she was 18. Public schools for African Americans in the early 1900s were rare, so her family sent her to private boarding schools. She was the first in her family to complete high school and the only one to graduate college.

She began her education in Humphreys County but the family moved back to Leflore

County after only several months. She attended school at the Saint John's Palo Alto and the Leflore County Training Schools in Itta Bena and graduated from the Stone Street School in Greenwood, Mississippi in 1941. She attended Rust College, and later Mississippi Vocational College, now Mississippi Valley State University, when it was little more than a dream in the eyes of its first president, Dr. James Herbert White. Attending Saturday and summer sessions, she and her husband, Sammie (vocational degree in printing), were among the first graduating class of 1953. She was the only sibling to graduate from college and is one of only two surviving members of the first Graduating Class of 1953 at Mississippi Vocational College in Itta Bena, Mississippi.

After receiving her B.S. degree in elementary education, Miss Welton taught in the Leflore County School System for over 42 years. She taught elementary education, special education, and migrant education with an emphasis on independent living, during her career. She has attended numerous training programs at universities around the country and received certificates in many academic areas related to teaching.

Miss Welton has also been active in her community and church where she has lived for the last 89 years. She was a member of the church choir, Sunday School teacher, Home Mission Society, and still serves as a Mother of the church. Miss Welton has been a member of the Goodwill Industrial Club, which she co-founded (a group of women who assisted needy families), The Cancer Network Control, Leflore County Homemakers, and the Mississippi Education Association.

Her other activities have included selling a variety of commodities in the community that included: Avon, Shaklee, Sarah Coventry, World Book Encyclopedia and Sewing for anyone who wanted something special. She made costumes for many years for the sororities and fraternities at Mississippi Valley State University.

She worked part-time at the Roses Department Store and the Spotless Cleaners in Itta Bena, Mississippi. She has mentored numerous students who still call and come by to maintain the friendships that were garnered many years ago. She has a good memory and likes to talk about the good old days to former students, family and friends. Miss Welton remains active by attending local functions, Adult Day Care, talking on the telephone, and keeping abreast of current events through the newspaper and television.

#### IN HONOR OF ANN SOLDO

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2011*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ann Soldo, a generous community leader in California's Pajaro Valley and the first female mayor of Watsonville, California. Ann passed away at the age of 90 on January 24, 2011. She was an admired teacher that taught from the heart and touched the lives of thousands in the Pajaro Valley.

Born in Watsonville, California, on May 27, 1920, Ann received a bachelor's degree from