

A TRIBUTE TO LOUISA JOSEFINA MORRIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Louisa Josefina Morris on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Louisa Josefina Morris was born in Colon, Panama on January 17, 1911 to Elmina Cox and Charles Watts. She was raised by her grandparents Ella and Ernest Beury in Panama's Gatun, Cristobel Canal Zone. Her grandparents proved to be important role models; they provided a loving and caring home for her to develop and grow.

Louisa met and married Irving Benjamin Morris, and together, they had five children: Irene Walker, Davina Morris, Olivia Aikens, Leo Morris, and Elisa Morris.

In 1958, Louisa left Panama and relocated to the United States, where she got a job at a local hospital. She became a citizen five years later. Her children and husband all came to the United States shortly after Louisa.

All of her children grew up and had children of their own, giving Louisa and Irving many grandchildren. Louisa contributed to raising the first generation of her grandchildren. Now each of her grandchildren has children of their own.

Through the past 100 years, Louisa has lived a full life, through World War I and World War II, Vietnam, segregation, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and the election of President Barack Obama, and says now that she has seen it all, and has had the pleasure of doing what many have not been privileged to do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Louisa Josefina Morris.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING ARIZONA SHOOTING

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, it is with heartfelt sadness that today I remember those who lost their lives in this tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona on January 8, 2011. I remember those who reacted with bravery in trying to stop the gunman. I remember those who were wounded and even now are fighting to recover from their wounds. I remember all of the family members who are struggling with great losses. Finally, I remember with hope for her speedy recovery, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

This is a sad time for our Nation, a time when we reflect on how all too often violence strikes and randomly takes some of our best and brightest. All of the lives that were lost were special to those who loved them—to their spouses and their children and their grandchildren. Judge John Roll was a public official serving our country with distinction and dedication. Christina Taylor Green was a young child with an interest in learning more

about how government works. I hope that in the future our children will be able to meet with their representatives without endangering their lives.

As a Member of Congress who has worked with Representative GIFFORDS, I am especially touched by this senseless tragedy. Representative GIFFORDS is a very friendly, hard working colleague. She is someone who is easy to get along with and always willing to chat and lend a helping hand. She was doing what is expected of all of us who represent our constituents—we meet with our constituents and we listen to their concerns and we try to help them. That is what we were elected to do—and so it is especially hard to see that one of our own was injured while doing—what we all do—our job.

Please let me conclude by saying that my thoughts and prayers are with all of those who died or were injured and with the families who loved them. My prayers are with Representative GIFFORDS as she recovers and my hope is that soon she will be back with us here in the House of Representatives where she belongs.

HISTORIC INAUGURATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Senator Glenn McConnell (R-Charleston) presided over the historic inauguration in Columbia, South Carolina, on January 12, 2011, as President of the State Senate. With the Inauguration of Governor Nikki Randhawa Haley as the first female Governor in the 341-year history of the state and in the first all-Republican inauguration in over 130 years, Senator McConnell delivered a moving tribute to our Constitution:

Welcome to the inauguration of the 117th Governor of South Carolina and for the Inauguration of the Lt. Governor of South Carolina and Constitutional Officers.

As a wife and the mother of two, Nikki Haley understands the importance of what is at stake both for our state and for her family. With young children and a husband who wears the uniform of our state and Nation, she should know full well the importance of what is ahead in the coming years for our state and this country, and knowing that, she has offered herself for service in this difficult time. Her steadfast convictions have brought her here today ready to do what she believes is best for all South Carolinians.

We have come again to celebrate the wonder of our system of government—a system of government that allows for the transition of power from one person to another without the need for guns or violence but with only words and ideas.

We have all been called to serve for myriad reasons. We all have different ideas and varied goals. Despite our different issues and the different paths we take to get there, our legislative journey must all have the same starting point—our oath of office. No matter the political party or our philosophical bent we all have one thing in common: the bedrock of our political service is our sworn oath to uphold and follow the constitution.

To paraphrase Hugo Black, our constitution was not written in sand but in the foundation of our state and Nation. It is our bedrock and is not to be altered by the shifting winds of current sentiment. Our constitution must always be followed strictly and faithfully by those who elect to serve. It is what our founders put in place to protect those at home from those of us in Columbia and Washington. It is a limit on what we can do. The constitution is both the means to an end as well as the beginning and end of what we do. We must never allow our desire to achieve some laudable goal tempt us to try and bypass the constitution. No great right will ever justify the wrong needed to get there.

Let us depart from each issue we confront as we leave this celebration—united in a desire to provide for a better future for our children and grandchildren. With God's will, we will muster the strength, wisdom and patience to do what we must do.

Our state's motto is "Dum Spiro Spero" or "while I breathe, I hope." Let us leave here and have each breath we take and each word we speak give hope to those at home that our best days are not behind us but yet are still ahead.

HONORING DAN PETTY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to a good friend, great Texan, and wonderful individual, Dan Petty, former President and CEO of the North Texas Commission, who passed away on January 11, 2011, leaving a legacy of accomplishments and good will that will last for generations to come. Dan was a kind man with a drive to bring people together to collaborate on projects that impact the entire North Texas region. His proudest moment was the region-wide collaborative efforts that resulted in North Texas hosting Super Bowl XLV.

Dan Petty was a 1957 Texas High School graduate, received a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, Master of Government Administration from the Fels Institute of Government at The Wharton Graduate School, Master of Arts in Public Administration from the University of Texas, and a Master of Management in Electronic Commerce from the University of Dallas.

A lifelong Longhorn, Petty played football on scholarship at the University of Texas in Coach Darrel Royal's first recruiting class. His modesty kept these and other recognitions in the background as he worked with state, local and academic leaders across the state for the benefit of Texans.

In addition to being the former President and CEO of the North Texas Commission, he served as President of Henry S. Miller/Grubb & Ellis Commercial Realtors; President of the Woodbine Development Corporation/Hunt Realty Services and Wilcox Realty Group; Assistant City Manager of Lubbock, Texas; Director of Urban Affairs for the North Central Texas Council of Governments; Executive Assistant to the Governor of Texas; Director of Public Affairs for the University of Texas; Assistant

City Manager of Dallas, Texas; President of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, Past Chairman and Board of Directors of the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association, Board of the State Fair of Texas, and a Member of the Super Bowl Bidding Committee who were instrumental in North Texas winning the 2011 Super Bowl XLV.

His civic service included: Chairman for the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau; Texas Economic Development Commission, Museum of African American Life and Culture, American Cancer Society, Cattle Baron's Ball, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, Kindness Foundation and Dallas County Children's Services Task Force.

Dan will be greatly missed by his family, especially by his wife Mary Jane Petty, children Adrienne Watson and her husband Chas, Kent Petty and his wife Jennifer, and step-children Maggie Culbertson and her husband Geoff, and Robert Riley; and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in mourning the death of Dan Petty and recognizing his legacy.

A TRIBUTE TO STEIN BUER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Stein Buer for his leadership as the Executive Director of the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, SAFCA. Stein recently departed SAFCA after six successful years to return to the California Department of Water Resources, where he will serve as Assistant Chief of the Division of Flood Management. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Stein for his dedication to protecting the people of Sacramento from flooding.

Over the past six years I have worked with Stein to improve Sacramento's flood defenses and I have always found him to be a man of intelligence, integrity and vision. Under his leadership, SAFCA was instrumental in repairing some of Sacramento's most vulnerable levees, he worked with the California legislature to implement better flood management policies, and led by aggressively moving forward on both the Folsom Dam Joint Federal Project and the Natomas Levee Improvement Project.

Since Stein's tenure began at SAFCA in 2004 he has worked to finish ongoing levee projects and quickly start new ones. Some of Stein's most successful projects include working to certify the levees along some of Sacramento's urban creeks, and along both the American and Sacramento Rivers. These certifications were instrumental in improving public safety and removing tens of thousands of homeowners from the 100-year floodplain. Under his watch, SAFCA has also started over 40 miles of levee improvements in the Natomas Basin.

From Folsom Dam to South Sacramento, Stein's imprint can be seen throughout the Sacramento Region. Shortly after arriving at SAFCA, Stein and his colleagues from a number of government agencies had to rapidly redesign a series of modifications to the Folsom Dam in the wake of potential cost overruns.

Through this refined project, a second spillway will be added to the Folsom Dam which will significantly improve the management of larger flood events. Thanks in large part to his efforts, this project is on time and on budget.

An advocate for both public safety and environmental conservation, Stein was a driving force behind the Levee Vegetation Science Conference and the California Levees Roundtable. During these discussions, he brought the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California Department of Water Resources, and other key stakeholders together to discuss the impacts of removing trees and other vegetation from levees. Through these discussions, Stein was able to spearhead a comprehensive framework that included key stakeholders in levee improvement decisions that reduced flood risks, while maintaining both vegetation and levee integrity.

After a great deal of success and more than six years as the Executive Director, Stein has decided to return to the California Department of Water Resources as the Assistant Chief of the Division of Flood Management. In this role, Stein will assist in the design and implementation of the State's FloodSafe Program, an undertaking that will significantly benefit from his experience and comprehensive approach to flood protection.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize and honor the exceptional leadership of Stein Buer. His ability to address the concerns of many and work towards common goals has been truly remarkable. I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Stein for his service as the Executive Director of the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency. I would also like to take a moment and thank Stein's wife Noelle and their three children, who have shared Stein with the wider Sacramento community for the last six years. I wish Stein and his family continued happiness and success.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORT BRAGG LIBRARY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the first hundred years or continuous service by the Fort Bragg Library on the Mendocino Coast in Northern California. From its beginning on January 18, 1911, Fort Bragg's beloved library has persevered through funding cuts, political ballot measures and an arson fire. It has flourished due to the ongoing support of the Mendocino Coast community.

Located in picturesque Fort Bragg, California, a former mill town that was incorporated in 1889, the library was opened with collections from the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Union Lumber Company library. When the Union Lumber Company offered to donate property, plans were drawn and the library was built on Main Street and opened in January 1913. By 1924 the average monthly attendance had grown from 311 to 2,053. In the library's first decades, activities including new books received, hours of operation and programs available were regularly reported in the weekly newspaper.

In 1966, the Fort Bragg Library joined the two-year-old county library system. The City of Fort Bragg owned the building but the library was run by the county. The Mendocino Coast Genealogical Society rented space in the mezzanine. The biggest booster came when community members created the Friends of the Library in 1974 with the intent of upgrading the facility.

Tragedy struck on September 20, 1987, when the library was destroyed by fire seven minutes after another historic structure on Main Street, the Piedmont Hotel, was set ablaze. The Friends of the Fort Bragg Library and the community immediately came together to restore the library.

In their search for an existing building the purchase of a former mortuary was proposed using fire insurance money. The county, city and Friends of the Library partnered to buy and remodel the building. The library reopened on May 25, 1989, stocked with thousands of books donated by book dealers, libraries and individuals.

In 1996, the Fort Bragg Library was the first branch in Mendocino County to open Internet access. Over the years the Friends of the Library had wisely invested and wanted to modernize the library for the new millennium. They contributed \$470,000 to the library's remodel which was completed with a celebration on July 3, 2007. Use of the new and improved Fort Bragg Library soared and became equal to and sometimes exceeded the operations of the County's main library at the county seat in Ukiah.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, for its hundred years (and counting) historic and civic importance and invaluable service to the community it is appropriate that we honor the Fort Bragg Library.

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the one year Anniversary of the devastating earthquake in the island nation of Haiti. One year ago, the United States joined the rest of the world in witnessing the aftermath of the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that left hundreds of thousands dead and one million people homeless. We joined the rest of the world in donating billions of dollars in financial and material aid. The Obama Administration acted quickly and compassionately, making an impressive impact on the emergency phase of one of the largest coordinated international disaster responses that the world has seen. The President quickly awarded Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitian nationals living in the U.S. to increase remittances back to Haiti. The International community rallied around the Haitian government providing unprecedented support. The Haitian Diaspora instantaneously responded with the same diligence and fortitude necessary to assist our Nation with the distribution of aid, as well as keep our government accountable every step of the way. Lastly, the Haitian people exhibited the type of quintessential strength and perseverance that many of us could only imagine.