

while leading his troop as Senior Patrol Leader. Michael has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Michael renovated the landscaping around the lower level entrance of Gashland Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri, by installing stone pavers and a bench and by planting an evergreen tree along with a yellow rose bush.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael David Neeley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2013*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 1961, 484—"nay"; 354, 485—"yes."

CONGRATULATING ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

#### HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2013*

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, today I have the distinct privilege of recognizing and celebrating Actors Theatre of Louisville on its 50th anniversary season. As the state theater of Kentucky and a force of tremendous influence on the national stage, Actors Theatre has long been a source of pride and distinction for the people of our community and the Commonwealth.

Since its formation in 1963, Actors Theatre has transformed from a scrappy collective headquartered in a tiny downtown loft to one of the nation's premier artistic institutions and a staple of the city's downtown revitalization. Its world-class collection of theatre artists and administrators have introduced more than 400 new, original plays into the American theater canon, and they continue to defy even the highest expectations.

Actors Theatre also hosts one of the most exciting, innovative, and inspiring festivals in America. The Humana Festival of New American Plays is one of the precious few institutions in American arts where new work can meet its full expression, and where creativity is rewarded with the appreciation of our great city.

Whether it is debuting Pulitzer Prize-winning plays or 10-minute shorts, Actors Theatre remains a preeminent player in American drama and an unparalleled cultural asset for our community.

On behalf of the Third Congressional District, I wish Actors Theatre continued success and look forward to another 50 years of inspiring performances.

CONGRATULATING UNITED FINANCE COMPANY ON THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY AND RICHARD PARKER III ON HIS 40 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE COMPANY

#### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2013*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the backbone of American communities are small, successful, family-owned enterprises. In Portland this month we are honoring the 90th anniversary of Parker family's United Finance Company and the 40th anniversary of Richard H. Parker's involvement with the family business.

The Parker family and their business have been an anchor in Portland's eastside for almost a century. It has been my pleasure to work with Rick Parker, Jr., for virtually his entire time with the company, which coincides with my time serving in public office.

His family and employees have been part of the revitalization of Portland's central-eastside district. He was one of the key members of the central-eastside industrial council which helped form a private-public partnership with the city to protect and enhance this vital sector of our local economy.

Most recently, it was my honor to work with him as a leader with Portland's streetcar renaissance and the successful project that brought it to the eastside of the Willamette River. Whether it's dealing with issues of public policy, public investment, or civic and charitable promotion, he and his family have played a vital role in Portland's vibrancy and the renaissance of Portland's near eastside.

I extend my congratulations to him, the family business United Finance Company, and am secure in the knowledge that his son, Richard Parker III, is continuing the tradition of family stewardship and community involvement.

Congratulations and we all look forward to celebrating the centennial in October 2023.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF A HUSBAND, A FATHER, A SAILOR, AND A FRIEND: MARTY BODROG

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2013*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, the hearts of every American felt pain when we heard that a deranged man killed twelve innocent Americans at the Washington Navy Yard on September 16, 2013. My family and I were crushed when we learned that we knew one of the victims of this senseless crime, Marty Bodrog.

We lived in the same neighborhood as the Bodrog family in Annandale, Virginia. It was a neighborhood where the neighbors truly cared about each other. During weekdays, the kids would go to school while the parents went to work. The weekends were unique as there was always an event or gathering of neighbors. My family would see Marty regularly, whether he was walking his dog or hanging out with his family at the pool on a summer day. He was part of the fabric that made our neighborhood such a special place. We miss him.

Marty Bodrog's life was a life focused on others and service. A 1981 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Marty spent twenty-two years on active duty, rising to the rank of Commander. He was a surface warfare officer, known as a "ship driver" in the Navy. After retiring from active duty, Marty spent the rest of his professional career making sure that American Naval vessels were the best our world has ever seen.

Marty also served the family he loved. He was married to the love of his life, Melanie, for twenty-five years. They were blessed with three incredible daughters: Isabel, Sophie, and Rita. No father as ever been more devoted to his family than Marty was.

But, Marty's most important service was his service to the Lord. He created a regular Bible study in our neighborhood and was a religious education teacher in his church, Immanuel Bible Church in Springfield.

A wise man once told me that the greatest gift one human being can give another is the gift of a smile, or a laugh, or an extra heartbeat of excitement. Marty spent a lifetime giving others those gifts.

In closing, I'd like to say to my fellow Sailor and friend, "Bravo Zulu on a life lived well. May you enjoy fair winds and following seas in your new, eternal life. We'll see you again, soon."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2013*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I missed rollcall votes 484 and 485. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes: rollcall No. 484—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1961—"yes." rollcall No. 485—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree H.Res. 354—"yes."

TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARIA LUISA VERA

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2013*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments, service, and contributions of Sister Maria Luisa Vera, as a community leader of Laredo, Texas.

Sister Maria Luisa Vera was born on October 7, 1941 in Brownsville, Texas and is a third generation Mexican-American. For over 20 years she resided in Laredo, Texas and has contributed to the community through ministry in health care.

Although she was educated in a public school system, she received religious instruction from her mother and the parish catechist. After graduating from Brownsville High School in 1960 she decided to continue her education by enrolling in Canales School of Vocational Nursing in Brownsville, Texas and became a Licensed Vocational Nurse in 1961. Within the next two years she joined the Sisters of Mercy and applied for membership in 1963.

By 1970, Sister Maria Luisa Vera received her bachelor's in registered nursing and

served as a clinical supervisor at Mercy Hospital in Brownsville, Texas until 1973. She then went on to serve as a staff nurse for another year until she went off to Incarnate Word College in San Antonio, Texas to receive a second degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing. It was in that same year that she became the Director of In-service Education at Mercy Hospital in Laredo, Texas. In 1978 Sister Maria Luisa Vera was made Emergency Department Supervisor and served in that position for three years. She later became certified in Ministry Training Services, focusing on leadership programs in Denver, Colorado in 1981. Thereafter, she would spend the next four years serving as Pastoral Assistant at the San Martin de Porres Parish in Laredo, Texas. It was there that she had the opportunity to understand church from the "people in the pews". During these years she was also able to serve as a member in other ministry centers such as the St. Louis Province Advisory Board and St. John's Regional Health Center.

For the next two decades, Sister Maria Luisa Vera would come to serve, and actively continues to serve, on many different boards of trustees, committees, commissions and networks alike. Included, are the presidencies of Sisters of Mercy of St. Louis Regional Community and most recently, the Republic of the Rio Grande, trustee of the Mexican American Cultural Center, among many others.

Although "many of [her] transitions have been challenging and most enriching" she continues to serve the community passionately through ministry. Her contributions to Laredo, Texas have demonstrated dedication and devotion to the community. Moreover, as the current President of Mercy Ministries of Laredo, she is committed to help the religious community grow and continue making a difference.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the dedication and contributions of Sister Maria Luisa Vera, and I thank you for this time.

#### HONORING SENATOR JOHN BROOKS HENDERSON

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the late Senator John Brooks Henderson, a native of the Sixth Congressional District town of Louisiana and co-author of the Thirteenth Amendment, on this 100th anniversary of his death.

Sen. Henderson was a quintessential pioneer man. Having moved with his family from Virginia to Missouri, he studied law while working as a farm hand and gained admittance to the Missouri Bar at the age of 18. He served two terms in the Missouri State House, and was commissioned as a brigadier general of the Missouri State Militia at the onset of the Civil War before being appointed a United States Senator in 1862. There, as a slave-state senator, he co-authored the Thirteenth Amendment, abolishing slavery throughout the United States. Sen. Henderson subsequently made an impact by joining seven other Republican Senators in voting against the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson, supporting women's suffrage, and by prosecuting tax cheats in the Whiskey Ring in St. Louis in 1875.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Senator John Brooks Henderson for his many contributions to the State of Missouri and the United States that ultimately changed the course of history for this nation.

#### BILL GRAY TRIBUTE—DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH BILL AND ANDREA GRAY FROM BILL AND CAROL CLAY

#### HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, Bill Gray was very special to many people. Andrea, you were gracious enough to share Bill's special talents with Carol, me, and indeed many others around the world.

I am sure that thousands had the privilege enjoyed by Carol and me of really getting to know this unique individual and benefited by the association. We have met hundreds of persons whom we are certain they too can relate the kinds of stories that still linger with us about the good times experienced with him. He was not only a remarkable, affable individual but had a gift for touching many lives in a very special way.

We in the Congressional Black Caucus knew or suspected that he was going to be something exceptional by the "attention" he generated before we ever met him. He won the Democratic Primary by an overwhelming margin and had just coasted to victory in the general election when CBC members requested an urgent meeting with Norman Lear, producer of "All In The Family."

However, our meeting was not to commend him for highlighting the kind of insidious raw, racist views exposed in his portrayal of the Archie Bunkers of America but to prevent him from maligning black members of congress in making fun of one of us. The session was painful because Lear had been a supporter of the CBC from its inception and was a personal friend of several members.

The meeting was to discuss his publicly announced plan of another television weekly. It would caricature an African American as a buffoon who was just elected to congress from Philadelphia. Although each CBC member believed in the right of free expression and free speech, the contentious encounter was necessary because the collateral damage done to the image of the few black members in Congress, would have been devastating.

Lear presented his side and contended that working on the concept started long before Bill Gray's election. But he was not persuasive. It was obvious to us in the Caucus what the negative impact of the show would be when viewed nationally. He shared with us some of the scenes scheduled for showing. They were horrible and certain to be interpreted by a substantially naive white public as factually representative of black elected officials.

After more than an hour of back and forth, it was obvious to Parren Mitchell that nothing was being resolved. He rose and announced in departing that his intention was to organize a nationwide boycott of Mr. Lear's production. The issue was resolved quickly as Norman Lear stated, "I intend to announce upon leaving this session that the show has been cancelled."

Norman Lear continued to be a supporter of the Caucus and the organization's agenda.

Immediately after Bill was sworn into office, he began displaying the natural leadership abilities that eventually led him to become the first African American elected to leadership positions in the U.S. House of Representatives.

You and Bill became good friends with Carol and me. You guys were the ones that introduced us to the great seafood dining provided by the famous Bookbinder's Restaurant in Philadelphia. It was a great evening and a real learning lesson from you and the master storyteller.

Hey! What about those great parties at your house! You reigned as Queen and little Billy as the Crown Prince-in-Charge of all Operations. Everybody knew who ran that shop and it wasn't some ole big city professional politician.

How about the televised show that Bill and I did with Charlie Rose, to discuss my recently published book "Just Permanent Interests" It documented the history of black members of Congress from 1870 until 1992.

But the after show was the best. Bill and I went to get a drink to celebrate a great T.V. appearance. I ordered a befeater martini with two olives. Bill told the waiter to cancel my order and bring two bombay sapphire martinis with lemon peels and very dry.

He guaranteed that I would like it. If not, he said that he would let me pay the tab. Bombay sapphire martini became my drink of choice from then on.

Martha's Vineyard in August capped many summers for us. The whole gang from the east coast all the way down to Florida usually showed up. Do you remember that great tennis match between Bill and James (Jim) Brannon? It was a close, hard fought contest that went on and on.

As an aside, Bill Giles was in the stands cheering his favorite player on to victory. At one point it was him shouting, "come on Bill". The next, it was "Jim, my man, you can do it". Giles was determined to be on the winning side, no matter whom that might be.

You knew Bill Giles always with a winner.

Speaking of Bill Giles—he was a great guy with hundreds of friends and a heart as big as a 747 airbus. He donated heavily to charitable organizations, and raised more in fundraising events. One of his favorite fundraising events was The Evening of Elegance dinner that through the years raised more than a million dollars for the United Negro College Fund.

Once Bill Gray was invited as featured speaker at the "Evening's" gala affair held at a prestigious ballroom in Manhattan. Somehow there was a mix up in communication and Gray was not informed that it was a formal affair.

Giles was a stickler for procedure and had never permitted anyone, regardless of his check size to enter without tuxedo and black tie. His stern rule presented a chaotic situation of some embarrassing proportion. However, I happened to have brought an extra formal shirt and black tie. Bill was the same size as I. He wore the shirt and tie under his usual dark blue suit and nobody knew the difference.

Bill Gray gave a fantastic speech. Bill Giles was impressed and showed it as he presented him with a check for \$120,000 for the United Negro College Fund.