

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the centennial of the Waldorf education system. We are grateful for its impact on the children of our community and wish it many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO GRACIA MOLINA
ENRIQUEZ DE PICK

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I stand today to remember Gracia Molina Enriquez de Pick, who passed away on August 11th at the age of 91.

A fierce feminist, educator, and philanthropist, Gracia will be remembered for her work in both Mexico City and San Diego. She was a tireless activist whose incredible contributions to San Diego and the world will not be soon forgotten.

Gracia was born into a politically active family in Morelia, Mexico. As a teenager, Gracia had the opportunity to meet Diego Rivera and Frida Khalo, whose words—“the importance of social responsibility mandates fighting for those who cannot defend themselves”—became a lesson Gracia would return to many times during the course of her work.

Before moving to San Diego, Gracia fought for women’s suffrage while living in Mexico City in the early 1950s. Gracia was known for taking a literal soapbox to the city’s open-air markets and advocating for the right to vote to anyone who would listen. Mexican women were granted full citizenship and suffrage in 1953. While living in Mexico City, Gracia met Richard Allen Pick, whom she would later marry and relocate with to San Diego in 1957.

Gracia earned her Bachelor of Arts degree, teaching credentials, and her Master’s degree from San Diego State University and went on to teach junior high school in the National City neighborhood of San Diego. She later became a faculty member at Mesa College, where she helped found one of the nation’s first Chicano Studies programs. Gracia went on to teach at Third College (later Thurgood Marshall College) at the University of California, San Diego.

In addition to teaching, Gracia was involved with politics in San Diego. She served as the Chicana Caucus Chair of the National Women’s Political Caucus and the National Council of La Raza (now UnidosUS). She was a published author, whose 2008 book “Mujeres en al Historia & Historias de Mujeres” explored the history of indigenous women in Mexico.

Later in life, Gracia turned to philanthropy. She donated money to scholarships at UC San Diego and Mesa College and helped fund the construction of the Logan Heights library branch.

Gracia is survived by two sons and a daughter. She will be remembered by her life of service and her commitment to uplifting her communities.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE PASADENA BRANCH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Pasadena Branch upon its centennial anniversary.

Established on September 8, 1919, the NAACP Pasadena Branch was founded when a small group of citizens gathered at the request of John Wright, founder, NAACP Pasadena Branch, to address the needs of Pasadena’s minority population. As the recipient of the national NAACP’s 16th charter, the Pasadena Branch emerged during the NAACP’s initial period of membership growth and meteoric rise to national prominence. The Pasadena Branch’s founding mission was to serve as the voice of all people who were denied the basic dignities rightfully due to human beings, especially African American residents in Pasadena.

Over the past century, the national NAACP has proven itself as the country’s premier civil rights organization, fulfilling its mission of ensuring the educational, political, social, and economic equality of minority groups in the United States and eliminating prejudice based on race. Among its many national achievements, the NAACP played crucial roles in the establishment of the Fair Employment Practices Committee in 1941, the integration of the U.S. Armed Forces, the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1964, and 1968, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Locally, the NAACP Pasadena Branch followed the national organization’s course of action by petitioning for school and municipal employment, home ownership, and access to public swimming pools for African Americans. Under the leadership of Ruby McKnight Williams in the 1970’s, the Pasadena Branch also supported two national precedent-setting school integration cases in the Supreme Court, paving the way for a more just and inclusive education system in our public schools.

Today, the Pasadena Branch continues its commitment to racial justice and equality through community engagement, partnering with local organizations to find solutions for issues such as affordable housing, a livable minimum wage and law enforcement matters. To inspire and prepare the next generation of leaders, activists, and engaged citizens, the Pasadena Branch organizes the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) to encourage and stimulate academic and cultural achievement among high school students. In addition, the branch awards the Maurice Morse Scholarship to high achieving African American students in the Pasadena area pursuing higher education.

I am honored to recognize the NAACP Pasadena Branch for 100 years of outstanding service to the community and its commitment to eliminating racial barriers. I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the Pasadena Branch for its remarkable achievements.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF JOAN ANN STARCHER LATIMER

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Joan Ann Starcher Latimer, who passed away on Saturday, August 10th.

Mrs. Latimer was born on May 31, 1946, in Alum Creek, West Virginia and was a proud resident of Horn Lake, Mississippi. Joan was the wife of Horn Lake Mayor Allen B. Latimer. She and Allen shared a 42-year long marriage. Throughout her life in Horn Lake, she worked for the Federal Reserve Bank, Sacred Heart School, and the City of Southaven.

Left to cherish her memory is her husband, Allen B. Latimer of Horn Lake, MS; her step-daughter Collen Latimer Sears; her two grandchildren; as well as many other beloved family and friends.

Joan’s life was one of service, grace, love for her family, and community. She will be greatly missed by all who she encountered.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER LOUISIANA GOVERNOR KATHLEEN B. BLANCO

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of former Louisiana Governor Kathleen B. Blanco. Governor Blanco passed away on Sunday, August 18, 2019 at the age of 76.

Governor Blanco was a giant whose life and presence in Louisiana politics made an indelible mark in history, and I am saddened by the news of her passing. As Louisiana’s first woman to serve as governor coupled with her time spent in the Louisiana State House, Governor Blanco was a trailblazer whose work and dedication to the state of Louisiana remains unquestionable. Her legacy of leadership during the plight of Hurricane Katrina will be marked by her championship of all Louisianans.

It has been an honor to work with Governor Blanco during my career, and I am grateful for her service. I send my sincere condolences, prayers, and strength to the Blanco family during this difficult time. May her soul rest in peace.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Governor Kathleen B. Blanco.

RECOGNIZING THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROOKSIDE SHOPPING DISTRICT

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate one hundred years of Brookside, Kansas City’s first suburban shopping area. It brings me great joy to

have such a historically significant establishment in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District.

Located in the Brookside neighborhood of Kansas City at 63rd Street and Brookside Boulevard, the historic shopping district was founded on September 1, 1919. Headlining the Country Club District Bulletin as "the first group of neighborhood shops", it brought a sense of utility and practicality. Construction for the Brookside Shopping District began before World War I and would be completed over the next decade. An innovative undertaking that proudly followed the model of other developments taking place across the United States, particularly Yorkship Village, New Jersey. Like the historic Yorkship Village of 1918, the Brookside Shopping District emerged steadfast in its goal to meet the needs of the community it served. In its founding, the district consisted of grocery and drugstores, medical offices, a community center, as well as the first southside police and fire stations, providing all the necessary resources for the community in a neighborhood-focused model. In the same spirit, one hundred years later, this welcoming and vital collection of businesses serves as a hub of a community and exemplifies a model neighborhood center.

To this day, the Brookside Shopping District continues to add to Kansas City's rich historical fabric by providing community members with a charming, diverse place to shop and experience the city's history. Brookside is home to over eighty shops, restaurants, and offices; all unique while keeping with the original neighborhood allure and design. Moreover, in an effort to further promote the interests of individuals and property owners alike, the Brookside Business Association, originally the 63rd and Brookside Business Association, was founded in 1939. The association's efforts have ensured the continued improvement of the district, making it a better place to live and work.

Today, the Brookside Business Association is a voluntary organization that preserves the history of the Brookside Shopping District and neighborhood, maintains an aesthetically beautiful area for all to enjoy, and ensures that the historic community center withstands the test of time for future generations to visit and appreciate.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the Brookside Shopping District's tremendous milestone of one hundred years of service to the people of Kansas City and recognizing the district as a model for what good urban planning and stewardship can provide to its citizens.

RECOGNIZING BEVERLY LEE OF
LOS ANGELES

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Beverly Lee in 40 years of service to the Los Angeles Communications Center, or LACC.

A Public Safety Operator at LACC is responsible for answering any and all 911, pub-

lic information, and allied agency calls in the 88 cities within Los Angeles County. LACC is the largest dispatch center in the state and Los Angeles County and answers an average of 7,000 calls a day, and over 10,000 calls a day during holidays, special events, or catastrophes.

Beverly Lee's journey at LACC began on July 23, 1979. Her younger brother was a dispatcher at LACC, and he encouraged Beverly to apply and test for a position. Beverly worked hard during her training and passed probation; the rest is history.

Beverly's career is historic in many ways. She was part of the last training class to document critical information on cards and the first to learn the computer-aided dispatch system. Throughout her 40-year career, she has handled innumerable high-priority emergency calls proficiently and calmly, being the voice of help in many hopeless moments. She was an integral part of rendering safety, service, and security to the public during the 1984 Olympics, 1991 LA Riots, 1994 Northridge Earthquake, 2000 Democratic National Convention, Y2K computer changeover, numerous LA Lakers Championships, the LA Kings 1st Championship, and many other notable emergencies. She has spent an untold number of holidays away from family and friends to assist others that need her help.

Beverly has an excellent work ethic and displays it daily. She physically, mentally, and emotionally exceeds her job expectations and does it with a smile. She is a strong and dedicated supporter of LACC's training program, and her guidance has led to many supervisorial and managerial promotions. She has donated food, clothing, and monetary gifts to the homeless and to Hurricane Katrina Victims, and is an active member of "Team CHP", supporting the Revlon Breast Cancer Walks and CHIPS for Kids. Her infectious laugh contributes to the morale of LACC, and her willingness to go above and beyond is truly an inspiration.

Beverly never imagined having a 40-year career at LACC, but has maintained her goal of having an excellent work ethic and a grateful attitude. She says the most rewarding gift of working at LACC has been the friendship, loyalty, and support she has experienced here. Beverly's heart and attitude are an example to us all.

HONORING THE IMPACT OF
SOWING SEEDS OF HOPE

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the important work of Sowing Seeds of Hope, a faith-based non-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in Perry County, Alabama. The organization was founded in 1999 by a group of mission-driven people, drawn together by a worthwhile vision for improving their community. Twenty years later, Sowing Seeds of Hope has grown by leaps and bounds, and now boasts a committed Executive Director, Mrs. Frances Ford, a hard-working staff, a board of directors and

a task force of members committed to improving the quality of life for residents of this rural county in the Black Belt.

One focus of Sowing Seeds of Hope has been providing low-income residents in the area with access to affordable prescription drugs. Rising prescription drug prices can often be prohibitively expensive for the under-insured, but Sowing Seeds of Hope has worked to fill in those gaps by providing assistance to those in need.

Sowing Seeds of Hope has a longstanding partnership with Samford University's McWhorter School of Pharmacy which provides outreach opportunities within the Perry County community to emerging pharmacy students. This includes access to diabetes support groups, cardiovascular risk reduction research, hypertension clinics and opportunities to assist qualifying constituents to sign up for Medicare.

Sowing Seeds of Hope has worked diligently and successfully to advocate for the establishment of a DaVita Dialysis Center in Marion, Alabama. Since its establishment, the DaVita Dialysis Center has provided crucial care to the community. Thanks to the center, citizens no longer have to drive thirty minutes to an hour to receive treatment, helping countless individuals to lead healthier, fuller lives.

On the educational front, Sowing Seeds of Hope hosts "Seed Camp," which is a week-long summer camp held on the campus of Judson College. During "Seed Camp," school-aged children from across the Black Belt are exposed to an array of stimulating subjects including science, math, arts, cooking, recreation and character education.

Additionally, Sowing Seeds of Hope offers social services, including parent training seminars, census counting initiatives and job placement services, along with many other resourceful programs. Their cornerstone offering is the "Self-Help Housing Program" which is truly unlike any other program in the state of Alabama. The program provides a pathway for low-income families to secure their own version of the American dream of homeownership. This is made possible through low-interest USDA mortgages and the homeowners providing "sweat equity" by helping build their own home with the assistance of community members. Nearly 20 families have transitioned from substandard housing to high quality, affordable homes thanks to the Self-Help Housing Program.

The work being done by Sowing Seeds of Hope is integral to building stronger communities, economically and morally. In a county that faces extreme adversity, this nonprofit serves as a beacon of hope, letting the community know that there are people that believe in them and their abilities and are willing to invest in a brighter future, not only for individuals and families, but for the overall good of the entire community.

Let the extraordinary efforts of this organization continue to inspire others to be engaged in compassionate community service, making this state and country a better place, one day at a time.