

gender. Despite that, she knew that she had what it took to govern our country. She won by over 21,000 votes, but not everyone applauded Shirley's win. No one in the congress looked like her. In Congress, her first assignment was a position in the Agricultural Committee in America, but she was disappointed. She then used her position to help feed the hungry including people in Brooklyn, her hometown, Shirley Chisholm said, "You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas." She kept trying and succeeded in her goal.

In 1972 Shirley Chisholm ran to become the Democratic candidate for the Presidential election. She thought that the U.S. government should reflect America. Though her bid was unsuccessful, she broke the barrier for Black women in politics. Chisholm was the first African American to make a bid for a major party's candidate. She famously said, "If you don't have a seat at the table, bring in a folding chair." She made an opportunity for herself and for others to serve in government.

Shirley Chisholm had many firsts: She was the first Black woman to be in Congress and the first Black woman to make a bid for president in a major party. By doing this, she paved the way for Black women to serve in government. Rep. Lee said, "Ms. Chisholm's mission to include women, children, African-Americans, and other minorities in public policy opened the door to a whole new debate lacking in Congress during that time. She is a remarkable woman who paved the way for many of us . . .

RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATION OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT 159TH RECRUIT CLASS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the graduates of the 159th Recruit Class. As they prepare to join the ranks of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, I encourage the 19 graduates to reflect on the history of the department and the contributions and dedication of the brave men and women who have served before them to protect our community.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Recruit School consists of an extensive and demanding 24-week program. In addition to two weeks of orientation, recruits completed nine weeks of EMT training and eleven weeks of fire suppression training. Upon graduation, these recruits will be certified at the level of Firefighter I/II by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

These recruits have the distinct honor of joining one of the best Fire and Rescue Departments in the United States. The efforts of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have been recognized across this country. Members from the Department serve on the elite VA Task Force 1, which is among the first units called to disaster zones to provide search and rescue support. Members of that Task Force were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with the Benjamin Franklin Award for Valor as a result of their efforts in the aftermath of the dev-

astating earthquakes that struck Nepal in 2015.

Fairfax County is fortunate to have such excellent ambassadors for our community and I commend them for all that they have done to protect lives and property not only here in Fairfax County, but around the world. As the newest members of the Fire and Rescue Department, the 159th Recruit Class graduates join the department as integral parts of our community's emergency response and public safety team. I am confident that this graduating class will serve the residents of Fairfax County with honor and distinction. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 159th Recruit Class:

Michael F. Bookwalter, Blair E. Cerino, Christopher Chong, Antonio J.P. Cipolta, Christopher N. Cognetta, Collin J. Fisher, Kevin J. Flannery, Joshua M. Ford, Imani Y. Gillen, Joseph T. House, Benjamin R. Klingaman, Jacob M. McCabe, Erick Mejia, Erik K. Muhlenhaupt, Nicholas D. Sirinek, Lloyd E. Turner, Jr., Joseph S. Uriarte, Ryan E. Victor, Mitchell J. Wadas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. I thank them for their service to their community and to all members of the Fire and Rescue Department, past and present, I say: "Stay safe."

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CIVIL RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ICON, THOMAS N. TODD

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to pay tribute to a remarkable civil rights leader and social justice icon, Thomas N. Todd. Although his name may not be familiar to everyone, his contributions to social justice and equality in this country are remarkable and have benefited millions of people in ways few others have accomplished. Tom Todd was one of the most electrifying speakers of our time. His impressive oratorical skills were so impactful that his initials "T-N-T" became synonymous with the powerful effect he had on his audiences.

Tom Todd was born in Demopolis, Alabama, in 1938. He later moved to Chicago, Illinois, where he married Janice Roberts. They had two children together, Tamara Nicole and Tracey Newborn. Tom lived in Chicago until he passed away on February 8, 2024.

As a child in Demopolis, Tom's family was poor. His father passed away shortly after his birth. Tom was raised by his mother and stepfather. Unfortunately, his mother also passed away when he was only 20 years old. Due to his stepfather's illiteracy, Tom stayed in Mobile to help with the funeral and burial arrangements. He even considered dropping out of school to assist further. However, he eventually enrolled at Southern University in 1959, where he studied political science and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree.

After graduation, Todd returned to Mobile and worked odd jobs for nearly a year until a friend suggested he apply to law school. Todd returned to Southern University for law school

in 1960 and was admitted solely on the recommendation of a dean who met Todd as an undergraduate and recognized his potential. There, law professors and students represented other students who had been arrested for sitting at whites-only lunch counters at five-and-dime and drug stores—an act of civil disobedience aimed at protesting segregation in Baton Rouge. Todd actively participated in the first lawsuit regarding these protests to reach the U.S. Supreme Court, *Garner v. Louisiana* (1961). He graduated magna cum laude and passed the bar exam on his first attempt in 1963.

Todd then secured a position at the solicitor's office in the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., leaving that job in less than a year to train for the Judge Advocate General's Corps. He practiced law while serving in the United States Army from 1964 to 1967. That same year, he was appointed an assistant U.S. attorney in Chicago. In 1968, he made history by filing the first federal criminal case against a Chicago police officer for violating an individual's civil rights.

According to United Press International, Todd's case was also the first indictment in the country against a law enforcement official under a new civil rights amendment to the federal criminal code. Chicago police officer Joseph Fine was accused of beating up Eldridge Gaston outside a South Side restaurant. Gaston died as a result of his injuries. Although the case ended in an acquittal, the indictment itself sent shockwaves through the Chicago Police Department and political establishment.

In 1969, Todd opened an office devoted to civil rights that became the country's first local U.S. attorney's civil rights office. His next police brutality case would originate from a fight between black and white students at Chicago's Tilden High School, where police officers had allegedly beaten black students. A newspaper photographer captured one incident, which showed Officer James J. Gorman standing over 16-year-old Roxanne Norfleet with his baton raised as she lay on the ground. Todd got that case to trial, but it ended in 1971 with a hung jury, though 11 panel members favored conviction.

Tom Todd was admitted to many bars and courts, including the Supreme Court of Louisiana, the United States Court of Military Appeals, the Supreme Court of Illinois, and the United States Supreme Court. He was a distinguished black lawyer in the U.S. attorney's office—standing tall, fighting for police brutality victims, challenging the status quo, and prosecuting police brutality cases at a time when the families of murdered Black Panther leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark had filed civil rights lawsuits against federal, state, and Chicago officials—a time when it was almost unheard of for a U.S. attorney's office to prosecute a police brutality case.

Todd received honorary doctorates from Grambling State University in 1987, Syracuse University in 1990, and Wilberforce University in 1993. Between 1970 and 1974, Todd taught at Northwestern University School of Law, becoming the school's first full-time black law professor. Genuinely interested in seeing young lawyers succeed, he was known to use a lot of anecdotes, legal stories, and significant cases in his teachings.

Todd was also known for helping to improve programs at historically black colleges in Louisiana, ensuring they were on par with other

schools in the state. Former Grambling State University President Joseph B. Johnson credits him for helping to secure \$300 million in state funding that enhanced campus facilities and introduced graduate-level courses.

In the early 1980s, Todd became president of the local chapter of Operation Breadbasket and helped launch Operation PUSH, now known as the Rainbow PUSH Coalition. He advocated for social change and economic empowerment.

When Harold Washington ran for mayor in 1983, Todd headed the campaign's speakers bureau and served as Washington's surrogate. Because of his magnetism with audiences, he was often called on to warm up the crowd before Washington took the stage.

Todd had a deep voice with a mesmerizing cadence that resembled the voice of James Earl Jones. His tone was powerful, fluctuating in waves and creating a fascinating rhythm. A Chicago journalist once described Todd's speaking style as "a deep, rhythmic growl that carried a sense of the South's segregation history and the civil rights movement and conveyed a sense of urgency and anger about the present and the future."

Todd's booming voice got the attention of the iconic hip-hop group Public Enemy, who incorporated Todd's voice as a powerful tool in their 1989 song "Fight the Power" for the first 16 seconds and also used his voice to sample "Revolutionary Generation" in 1990.

Todd is reputed to have delivered speeches at every historically black college in the country where he would encourage students to let verbs like give, serve, and help guide their actions but to lead their lives defined by nouns like courage, commitment, and compassion.

Tom Todd's journey was one of resilience, courage, and unwavering commitment to the principles of justice—challenging systemic injustices and uplifting marginalized communities. Through powerful oration and bold, courageous advocacy, he fought to dismantle barriers to equality, promote minority-owned businesses, and advocate for fair employment practices. Tom Todd transformed lives, empowered communities, and inspired a generation to stand up and fight for what is right. He leaves a profound and impactful legacy of lasting change that continues to shape our Nation's path forward.

RECOGNIZING MR. JACK AMOROSO

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jack Amoroso for his dedicated service to the Kings County community and to congratulate him on his well-earned retirement from the Hanford Police Department.

Mr. Amoroso was born and raised in San Francisco and moved to the Central Valley in 1974 to attend College of the Sequoias, where he played baseball. His passion for law enforcement was inspired by his father, who retired as the Deputy Chief of Police of the San Francisco Police Department. Mr. Amoroso's career in law enforcement began in 1979 at the Hanford Police Department, where he earned two stripes and was promoted to Sergeant. In 1988, Mr. Amoroso became the Swat Team Leader and Range Master at the

Kings County Sheriff's Office. During his time at the Sheriff's office, Mr. Amoroso was awarded the Medal of Valor to honor his bravery while protecting the Corcoran community and was later promoted to Commander. In 2009, he retired as Commander and was sworn in as the Police Chief of the Avenal Police Department. During his tenure as Police Chief, Mr. Amoroso was steadfast in his commitment to reducing violent crime, leading the department to reduce the city's gang crime rate by nearly 80 percent. In 2023—more than 40 years after he was first hired by the department—Mr. Amoroso returned to the Hanford Police Department, this time as its Interim Police Chief.

In addition to his more than 35 years as a law enforcement officer, Mr. Amoroso has served for decades as an instructor at the Tulare-Kings Counties Police Academy, where he teaches young recruits the skills, responsibilities, and dedication required of future Central Valley law enforcement officers. From 2017 to 2019, Mr. Amoroso served as the Academy's Director. It is because of the dedication of public servants like Mr. Amoroso that our future law enforcement officers are prepared to protect our Central Valley communities. Mr. Amoroso's dedication to his colleagues, his work, and his community is a true testament to his character and leadership. I know that his service to the Department and his commitment to the safety of Kings County will have a lasting impact for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Mr. Amoroso for his decades of service to the Central Valley and wishing him a happy and well-deserved retirement.