

TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA MATHEWS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of rising this evening to honor Cynthia Mathews, a dedicated member of our community who recently retired after 40 years of service with Planned Parenthood Mar Monte organization. I have had the pleasure of working with Cynthia for many of those years and I can attest to her commitment to our community as well as her steadfast support of civil liberties that will continue to protect women's health.

In 1965, Cynthia began her involvement with Planned Parenthood as a volunteer in San Diego County. She later served as both staff and board member of the organization. She was instrumental in ensuring the well-being of young mothers by organizing an abortion referral service to Mexico prior to the Therapeutic Abortion Act of 1967.

After moving to Santa Cruz in 1970, Cynthia was instrumental in forming Planned Parenthood of Santa Cruz County, where she served as the agency's first executive director. After a brief absence during which she gave birth to her second child, she rejoined the organization in 1979. Cynthia guided the growing affiliate to eventually become part of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, a network that includes much of California and Nevada. Officially, she was a part-time public affairs staff member, however, all who know her were aware that she worked well beyond her outlined duties. Cynthia actively built coalitions, engaged volunteers, sustained Planned Parenthood's community presence, and protected the civil liberties and health of her community.

Beyond Planned Parenthood, Cynthia's outstanding reputation as a public figure and liberal activist is strengthened by her tireless dedication to the City of Santa Cruz. Ms. Mathews has served as a city council member, a founding member of the Downtown Neighbors Association, a member of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board, a participant in Vision Santa Cruz, a cochair of the Santa Cruz High Centennial Campaign, and a volunteer on four successful election campaigns for schools and municipal revenues. She now holds the seat of Mayor of Santa Cruz. Through her involvement in these organizations she has positively affected the quality of life for many residents in our community. She is an ideal role model for those who seek to create change through activism and I am honored to have worked with her throughout the many positions she has held. Though Cynthia has retired from her official position with Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, her position as Mayor will allow me to continue to work with her to support and strengthen our community and ensure that women have safe access to quality reproductive healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, in a time where women's health and medical care is threatened by budget deficits and a conservative agenda, I am immensely thankful for Cynthia's selfless service. I am confident that her legacy will continue as the women she has mentored take up the torch and encourage a new generation of voters to honor their promise to America's women.

IN HONOR OF THE ASSOCIATED
GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF ST.
LOUIS**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of St. Louis. In 2005 alone the AGC has been involved in more than \$52 billion worth of construction projects that employed approximately 80,000 workers. The members of the AGC provide the skill, teamwork and spirit of innovation that makes a lasting contribution to our community; building facilities that support and enhance the quality of life in the St. Louis region. Whether it is a church or school, road or utilities, these skilled craftspeople conduct themselves and their work in a safe manner so as to avoid accidents and injuries. Their commitment to exceptional standards has been recognized by both the U.S. Department of Labor and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) along with receiving the coveted first place award for safety excellence from the National AGC Safety Awards (NASA) Program for 2004 and prior years. The AGC has also created a special safety training unit, Operation Safesite, which includes two full-time construction professionals who provide on the jobsite training along with construction training school classes. I applaud the AGC's vision and commitment toward improving construction safety in the St. Louis metropolitan community. I would like to recognize February 21–February 28 as Construction Safety Week in St. Louis County.

97TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
NAACP, FEBRUARY 12, 2006**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 97th Anniversary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, which was founded on February 12, 1909. Throughout its existence, the NAACP has faithfully promoted equality in all areas of American society, from suffrage and public accommodation to justice in our nation's courts and equality in employment.

For nearly a century, the NAACP has pushed for an inclusive American society, one that would grant all people the equality they deserve, regardless of the shade or color of their skin. The NAACP's principled efforts towards the advancement of people who were long denied their rightful place in the workforce, the schools, and the ballot box have continued to come to fruition with the Civil Rights Acts, the Fair Housing Act, and other breakthroughs in the establishment of justice and quality in this country.

The mission of the NAACP continues today and the Saint Paul Branch of the NAACP continues to work towards equality, education and justice for all. My local NAACP chapter is well known for its tireless work addressing the in-

justices affecting individuals and the diverse communities of Minnesota. Recently, they have worked to bring our community together to seek healing and justice after an appalling act of discrimination and intimidation was perpetrated upon a local church. In addition, Saint Paul NAACP is instilling hope through its establishment of the Help a Child to Read Project, where volunteers are connected with students to develop their reading ability.

A key component of the success of the NAACP has been the implementation of a holistic approach, through the promotion of understanding and education, to the eradication of race and other problems that have long plagued our society. This nonviolent approach has put students through college, given the vote back to the voiceless, and ensured that the American people will not continue to be divided by differences, but rather be brought together by mutual compassion and kinship.

It is with great admiration and encouragement that I commend the NAACP on this occasion of their 97th Anniversary. The necessity of the continued push for equality and justice for all citizens presents a great burden on all our shoulders, but the work of groups such as the NAACP gives our society the necessary guidance and reminder of our responsibilities towards one another.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the courageous and guiding history of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on this day of their 97th Anniversary.

WELCOMING OUR TROOPS HOME

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House to the brave men and women from my district returning home from fighting for freedom and democracy in Iraq.

During a visit to Iraq last year, I was fortunate enough to witness firsthand these patriots' dedication to their country and commitment to expanding the frontiers of freedom. I also was reminded of the great sacrifice that they and their families make to secure the blessings of liberty to all Americans, and help bring hope to people who have been oppressed for decades.

From decorated Marine Sergeant Luke B. Miller's selfless rescue of critically injured Marines in Karabilah to the opening of a medical clinic in Kikuk by the 116th Brigade Combat Team, these men and women serve as an example of our mission to fight terrorism and tyranny wherever it exists. The heroic efforts of these and many other individuals bring great and lasting credit to Idaho and all American armed forces.

I encourage my colleagues to join me, Mr. Speaker, in applauding and recognizing the exemplary individuals from Idaho who are returning home from Iraq. Their courage, dedication, and patriotism truly mark them as America's newest generation of heroes. They deserve our utmost respect and heartfelt thanks.