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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MY MENTOR,
FRED LANDOLPHI

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on August 18, during our August district work period, one of my mentors will celebrate his 88th birthday. This special person is Mr. Fred Landolphi. When I was a young teacher, Mr. Landolphi was the principal of my school, South Side High School in Newark, NJ. I learned a great deal from him. Today, several of my philosophies can be directly attributed to him.

I would like to share with my colleagues one of Mr. Landolphi's bright moments to illustrate why he has been such an influence on so many lives.

In 1960, Mr. Landolphi was selected Principal of the Year in the annual nationwide search for outstanding elementary and secondary school heads by Croft Publishers. The judges based their choice of Mr. Landolphi on the nominating statement submitted by his faculty. This statement read in part:

In justice, a manual on ideal school administration is necessary to convey the qualities of Fred Landolphi, for he is the creative center of the activities of South Side High School, both within the school's physical plant and in the community in general.

When he assumed the principalship of the school, morale, good manners, scholarship, loyalty and devotion had reached an unpleasant ebb. A fine by disunited faculty was valiantly, but aimlessly and dejectedly, trying to adjust to a complete turnover in the nature of the student body. An unhappy and rebellious student body was vociferously and, in some cases, violently reacting to the school situation because they were without clearly stated principles of behavior, without clearly stated scholastic aims, without leadership in the cohesive and inspiring aspects of school spirit.

This dismal situation has slowly, patiently, and decisively changed since Mr. Landolphi became our principal. He has accomplished the material rejuvenation of the structure and the revitalization of student-teacher-community morale.

At the time, Mr. Landolphi spoke of a principal that had guided him through this 29-year teaching career. He felt that you had to give the students a feeling of confidence. You had to let them know that you're interested in them and that you only bawl them out because you care for them.

Mr. Landolphi established the South Side Scholarship Fund because he noted that while the most gifted of his students were able to win scholarships, other youngsters with great potential were denied a college education because of poverty.

As a teacher and youth advocate, I have treated the thousands of young people with whom I have had contact just as Mr. Landolphi did. I treat them with respect and challenge them to plan and reach for the stars. For more than 20 years at high school seniors awards programs, I have presented the Donald M. Payne Award to seniors who

are not the stars of the graduating classes but have done the best they can, sometimes under difficult circumstances, to become a productive member of our society. I want them to know that doing one's best is extremely important. That was something I learned from Mr. Landolphi.

I want to personally thank him for the confidence he showed me during my first teaching assignment. We had many discussions about my experience as a new teacher. He always put a positive spin on any dilemma. In 1970 I became president of the YMCA of the USA probably as a result of Mr. Landolphi's encouragement and support. He supported my concepts of after-school programs and encouraged me to continue to work with our young people through the "Y" experience.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues will want to join me and many of Mr. Landolphi's former students as we wish him a happy birthday and wish him and his wife the best.

MEL RENFRO INDUCTED INTO PRO
FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate a former Dallas Cowboy and good friend, Mr. Mel Renfro, for his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He is the seventh Cowboy to be inducted.

After leaving the Dallas Cowboys, Mel Renfro worked as a scout for the Cowboys and dabbled in various business deals. In 1983, Mr. Renfro began a sojourn that took him all over the United States until he settled in Portland, OR. He returned to Portland with a dream of revitalizing the northeast community where he grew up. He understood the importance of giving something back to his community.

From the very start of Mel Renfro's tenure with the Dallas Cowboys, he was known as an impact player. In the Cowboys' man-to-man scheme, Mr. Renfro eliminated receivers from the game. His long arms and instincts allowed him to anticipate routes and deflect or intercept passes. One of Mr. Renfro's biggest assets was his ability to sprint backward, meaning he didn't have to come out of his backpedal until late in the route. He was very much the Deion Sanders of the Cowboys for the seventies and early eighties.

Mel Renfro's induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame is a well-deserved reward, and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate him for his well-deserved recognition. I urge my colleagues to join with me in thanking him for his work. He is proud to have been a Dallas Cowboy and he richly deserves his Pro Football Hall of Fame designation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HECTOR P.
GARCIA

HON. PETE GEREN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life of an American

hero who dedicated his life to others and whose actions advanced the lives of millions. He founded the G.I. Forum, he was a war hero, and he unselfishly devoted his professional life to providing health care to citizens of his community.

Dr. Hector P. Garcia, a friend and a resident of my home State of Texas, was mourned by thousands as he was laid to rest last week. An immigrant from Mexico, Hector Garcia was dedicated to education, as was his father, and received a medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston after completing his undergraduate work at the University of Texas. He then volunteered for service in World War II and received a Bronze Star with six battle stars for his service.

Hector began his greatest work when he returned from the war and contracted with the Veterans Administration to treat veterans of World War I. When he learned that the Veterans Administration was not complying with the requirements of the GI bill of rights and was discriminating against Mexican-Americans, Dr. Garcia gave birth to the American G.I. Forum with a mission to fight racial discrimination.

Hector Garcia believed in the American dream and worked to help others live that dream, using the American G.I. Forum to advance equality for all Americans. Long before the civil rights movement of the sixties, Hector Garcia confronted segregation in south Texas and helped bring it to an end. In addition to his work with the G.I. Forum, Hector Garcia continued his practice of medicine, often providing free medical care to those who could not afford it.

Hector Garcia once said that he did not deserve the awards that he had received, but appreciate them. Certainly, we all appreciate what Hector Garcia did for Mexican-Americans, my State of Texas, and for America.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, please join me in celebrating the life of an American whose dedication and work for equal rights for all people will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO HARDING N. BOWMAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, since arriving in New York City during the African-American Renaissance period of the 1930's, Harding N. Bowman, a native of Bowman, SC, has dedicated his life to uplifting and empowering his community.

Most notably, in the 1950's, Mr. Bowman founded the Barbershop Owners Association while owning and operating three barber-shops. In 1961, after moving to east New York, he was instrumental in organizing numerous community-based initiatives. Some of his key roles, to name a few, arising from such initiatives include: president, Council for a Better East New York; chairman, Community Redemption Foundation; treasurer, Citywide Council Against Poverty; director, United Negro and Puerto Rican Front; chairman, East New York Manpower; chairman, East New York Non-Profit Housing; executive director, East New York Community Corporation; and chairman, Jerome Street Block Association. In addition, for over 30 years, he has been an