

time as a training site for the Women's Reserve of the Marine Corps and the Navy's WAVES [Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service] program.

WAVES, the young women in uniform living and learning at Mount Holyoke, studied such subjects as naval organization, personnel, and administration along with the Navy's etiquette, customs, and traditions. While in training for 5 weeks, WAVES lived in Rockefeller Hall—a campus residential hall that was renamed the U.S.S. Rockefeller—sleeping in double decker beds, eating the same meals as Mount Holyoke students here at the same time. Classes for WAVES were held on campus, drills were held on the athletic fields, and the women marched to meals and to classes wearing their dark blue uniforms. Reveille was at 6:15 a.m. for these women and the day included five recitations, two study periods, drill, athletic recreation, and an evening lecture. It was a rigorous indoctrination, as it was then called, for these women and we salute them today, just as we did many years ago.

After completing their WAVES training, the women were commissioned and offered to active duty. During the 18 months the Navy occupied the U.S.S. Rockefeller approximately 2,500 officers were graduated and went out to duty throughout the United States. They played an important role in our American story and it is with deep gratitude for their efforts that we pay tribute to them and all the others who, in a range of roles, served the country.

We join wholeheartedly in this first major memorial to U.S. military women and this celebration of a very important page in history. We also commend you for the success of the foundation, which you established in 1987, and which has overseen the design, development, and construction of this new structure, and the creation of the week-long commemoration of American servicewomen that will launch the women's memorial.

Sincerely,

JOANNE CREIGHTON.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the 2d Congressional District in Massachusetts will be forever grateful for the invaluable service and dedication women in the military have provided in defense of the United States. This memorial is very welcome in our Nation's Capital and I, along with Mount Holyoke College, rise to congratulate all the women in the military for this milestone in American history.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT GEORGE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Robert George, a constituent of mine who for 30 years put on a long white beard and a red suit to play Santa at Christmas time. Many people have played Santa at shopping malls, private parties and amusement parks. What makes Mr. George unusual is that he was Santa at several White House Christmas functions.

Though a staunch Democrat, Mr. George was very much a bipartisan Santa. He began playing St. Nick at the White House during the Eisenhower years, and continued through the Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and Bush administrations. He has one of the more unusual political scrapbooks I have seen; pictures of Santa and the

Carters, Santa and Gerald Ford, Santa and the Nixons, Santa and John Kennedy and Santa and the Eisenhowers.

In addition to the photos, Mr. George has a collection of thank you letters from inhabitants of the White House. I especially enjoyed the note from Barbara Bush, written when her husband was Vice President, which included this closing line: "The stuffed animals will be great successes with our grandchildren, and we both appreciate your generosity."

Mr. George has been Santa in more places than the White House. He has participated in Christmas parades in Hollywood, Tulsa, Toledo and Phoenix, and has appeared on numerous television programs through the years.

When he's not Santa, Mr. George is still infused with the spirit of giving. He has spent more than a decade aiding the LA Mission, and has been quite active with Easter Seals, the Starlight Foundation, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

If you call Mr. George at home, he answers with the number of days until Christmas. He is obviously a man who loves his work.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Robert George, whose dedication to making this a better world inspires us all.

TRIBUTE TO THE HUNTS POINT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORP.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Hunts Point Local Development Corp. for 10 years of success working for the economic revitalization of the Hunts Point community in the South Bronx.

Today, the Hunts Point Local Development Corp. [HPLDC] celebrates its 10th anniversary with a 10th annual tent party at the Hunts Point Cooperative Market in my South Bronx congressional district.

HPLDC was established in 1988 as a non-profit community-based organization to act as an engine for economic development in Hunts Point.

During the past 10 years, HPLDC has been instrumental in providing the services that corporations and residents need to succeed in commerce. Its wide range of programs and services to the community include: a bilingual entrepreneurial development program, industrial park business advocacy, computer literacy training, Internet training, and commercial revitalization. Through its Business Outreach Center, HPLDC provides counseling, seminars, workshops, and management technical assistance to small business and entrepreneurs.

Today, the dynamic Hunts Point community encompasses 600 businesses and 19,000 employees, and is the largest distribution center in the Northeast. To HPLDC's credit, the corporation has provided assistance to more than 500 entrepreneurs and businesses and has helped secure over 4 million dollars in small business loans.

Among other important achievements, HPLDC was chosen to serve as the administrator for the Hunts Point economic development zone. It also lobbied for inclusion of the Hunts Point community in the New York City Federal Empowerment Zone for the South Bronx.

HPLDC received an excellence award from the U.S. Small Business Administration for small business development. Most recently, it has launched efforts to help rebuild the New York City 41st Police precinct and to establish a new U.S. Postal Office in Hunts Point.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Hunts Point Local Development Corp. for a decade of achievements spurring economic development in Hunts Point, and in wishing them continued success.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE LATE ADA BERRYMAN: AN OHIO PIONEER

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, throughout history, there have been trailblazers who have achieved important firsts and made enormous contributions to the development of this Nation. While the names of some of these individuals are recorded in the annals of history, there are many others who should be recognized.

I rise to acknowledge the contributions of Mrs. Ada Berryman, a former resident of Warren, OH, who was the first African-American to be appointed to the State Housing Board. This feat by Mrs. Berryman in the late 1940's was just one of many achievements during her lifetime.

Mrs. Berryman was born in 1910 in Troy, AL. When she was young, her family fled to Ohio to escape the segregation of the South. Mrs. Berryman resided in Warren, OH, for 45 years. She is credited with the founding of the Warren Chapter of the NAACP. It was Ohio Governor Frank Lausche who saw fit in the late 1940's to appoint Mrs. Berryman to the State Housing Board. She became the first African-American to be chosen for this important State board. In addition to her appointment to the housing board, Mrs. Perryman served as president of the Warren Urban League board, and as a member of the Trumbull County Welfare Board.

Mrs. Berryman was also active in the Democratic Party. She was a member of the NAACP Federated Democratic Women of Ohio. In 1957 Mrs. Perryman ran for city council on the Democratic ticket. She won the primary election, but was defeated in the November general election.

Mr. Speaker, Ada Perryman passed away in 1967 at the age of 56. Throughout her life, she sought to make a difference. She challenged segregation, she challenged the political system, and she challenged our society. I want to note that a member of Mrs. Berryman's family, her granddaughter, Ada Posey, serves as Acting Director of the Office of Administration for the White House. She brought to my attention the achievements of this remarkable individual. I share the family's pride in Mrs. Berryman's accomplishments. I am pleased to share this information with my colleagues.