

Raymond "Kent" Richardson, Sr. of Streator, Illinois on December 8, 1998. Born 81 years ago in Tonica, Illinois, Mr. Richardson was a life long resident of the 11th Congressional district and was active in many community activities.

Mr. Richardson graduated from Tonica High School in 1934. He worked as a truck driver for Melvin Trucking in Streator, Illinois and was elected as the President for the Teamsters Local #722, where he served in the interest of local workers for 15 years until his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps more importantly, Mr. Richardson served his country with honor in the Pacific Theatre during World War II as a Sergeant with the United States Marine Corps 11th Amphibious Tractor Battalion. Because of his service to his country, Mr. Richardson was a life member of the VFW Post #1492 in Streator. Additionally Mr. Richardson was a member of American Legion Post #217 in Streator, a life member of the Marine Corps League and a 50 year member of the Masonic Lodge #364 in Tonica.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire House I offer my heart felt condolences to Kent's wife Marjorie and the entire Richardson family and I wish them the best this holiday season.

EXPRESSING UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR ARMED FORCES CURRENTLY CARRYING OUT MISSIONS IN AND AROUND PERSIAN GULF REGION

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 1998

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, last night the president ordered an American missile attack on Iraq. Going to war is one of the most serious decisions that Congress can make, and that is why I chose to not take this vote lightly. As a veteran and a Member of Congress, I will honor our troops by working to keep them out of harm's way and the world at peace.

I am convinced that the effect of H. Res. 612 will be for Congress to abandon its proper role on deciding when to go to war, one of the greatest issues of Constitutional importance. This act of war being undertaken raises many questions in my mind. How long does the bombing need to go on before the executive will obtain congressional authority? At what point will we deem the bombing a success? What are our goals in the bombing? If the stated goal of the bombing is to destroy weapons of mass destruction, then that is what this resolution should have declared.

The United Nations must remain a central component of our policy toward Iraq. I believe it is extremely dangerous to carry out this bombing without the full support of our allies. Failing to do so not only undermines our trust internationally, it also denies our troops the additional military support they deserve. In addition, I do not believe that it is up to the United States to unilaterally determine what constitutes a violation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions. That role properly resides with the UN Security Council. China, Russia and France are already outraged with

the American decision to interpret the resolution unilaterally.

I am also concerned because this bombing campaign will in effect, if not intent, abandon UNSCOM, the special commission created after the Gulf War to carry out weapons inspections. This clearly begs the question: What will our new disarmament policy be? And how will we conduct inspections, since, as the Pentagon has pointed out, much of the inspection equipment will be destroyed? UNSCOM is an imperfect tool, but it is a necessary tool.

This resolution affirms that it should be the policy of the United States to overthrow Saddam Hussein. Members of Congress need to know if this means that our troops will remain engaged in combat until that happens.

If overthrowing the government is a reference to a massive covert operation, I would point out that the record of such undertaking in Iraq is not comforting. The New York Times has called the proposed operation an "expensive fantasy," and I think there are a lot of serious problems to consider. For one, we're not sure if the opposition in Southern Iraq actually controls any territory or how united they are. I also doubt that we will be able to get our allies in the region to endorse the overt overthrow of the Government of Iraq, however unpopular that government may be among our friends and the Iraqi people. Kuwait has insisted that any covert action should be part of a larger policy, including one that better addresses the humanitarian crisis in Iraq. Otherwise it is unsustainable.

Most critically, when we get down to life or death decisions during a covert action, how far will U.S. support be willing to go? I can imagine some horrible scenarios if the U.S. is asked to help the Iraqi resistance if their rebellion appears to be failing. Haven't we been down this road before?

We need to keep the United Nations at center stage, and reinvent a vigorous weapons inspection regime that facilitates disarmament in the Middle East. We need to build political support in Iraq and in the region by revisiting the economic sanctions that have caused a great humanitarian disaster. Most importantly, all of these efforts must be the product of a clear and strong international consensus.

COMMUNITY SERVICE LEADER
CYNTHIA ECKHART

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay a tribute to an outstanding citizen; a leader who places others before herself and a fine lady who has dedicated her life to community service and to improving the lives of others, Ms. Cynthia Eckhart.

For the past eight years, Cynthia has expressed and demonstrated genuine concern for various social issues affecting South Florida and has committed herself to improving the quality of life for many South Floridians. Although her presence is not always highly visible, her efforts for the Miami community are strongly felt. Cynthia has devoted herself to raising funds for charities such as improving the health care for our community, where she

has assisted in the allocation of funds for leukemia and various cancer research. She has had the grand opportunity to serve as the Chair of a school's auction, where she was able to raise \$87,000 to provide quality, private school tuition for many of South Florida's underprivileged and less fortunate children.

On November 6th, 1998, I was privileged to speak at the 45th annual gala for Beaux Arts of the Lowe Art Museum at The University of Miami. There I witnessed first-hand Cynthia's dedication and contributions to our community. The wonderfully conducted gala that Cynthia organized raised generous funds to provide permanent acquisitions for the Lowe Art Museum. As Chairman of this gala, Cynthia raised an additional charitable amount to be used to fund visits to the museum and educational art programs for children of low-income families. It is Cynthia's unselfish and loving nature that has enabled many underprivileged youth to be introduced and encouraged in pursuing culture in the world of the arts.

Cynthia's involvement in our community is exemplary of a committed and concerned individual who seeks to extend a helping hand to those in need. In giving much of her time, her energy and herself, Cynthia continues to be a true leader, an inspiration to many, and an example to all. South Florida is grateful and proud of her many accomplishments and service to our community. We wish her the very best for continued success!

TRIBUTE TO J. REESE PHIFER

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Alabama's most outstanding business leaders, the late J. Reese Phifer, who recently passed away in his hometown of Tuscaloosa. With your permission, I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article that appeared in the New York Times which noted Mr. Phifer's many contributions, not only to the business world, but in service to the greater community as a whole. Mr. Phifer was a noted civic leader and philanthropist, and his death leaves a void, not only to his family, but to his beloved state and nation. The article is entitled: "J. Reese Phifer, 82, Founder of Aluminum Screen Empire".

J. Reese Phifer, who turned a tiny aluminum screen factory into a business that dominates its worldwide market, died on Sunday at DCH Regional Medical Center in Tuscaloosa. He was 82.

Phifer Wire Products Inc., which was stated in 1952 in an old warehouse by Mr. Phifer, a lawyer with no previous manufacturing experience, now employs more than 1,000 people to produce more than half the world's aluminum insect screening and more than 60 percent of the world's fiberglass insect screening.

The company that Mr. Phifer founded also produces Sunscreen, which block out solar rays and reduce heat, and Phifertex, a vinyl coating used on outdoor furniture.

Born on February 19, 1916, Mr. Phifer was the son of William and Olga Gough Phifer. His father operated a grocery store, and Mr. Phifer and his brother grew up delivering groceries and stocking shelves.