Born in Florida, Gladys came to Toledo with her family in 1924. She attended Toledo schools and its university, and married a firefighter, Capt. Robert D. Herron, from whom she was widowed.

Gladys' fortitude first became publicly apparent when, in response to the discrimination prevalent at the time, she founded the first beauty school for young black women. The Herron Beauty School was the first black school of cosmetology in the Toledo area, and it eventually yielded twenty independent beauty salons. Hundreds of women owe their businesses and careers to this persevering, dignified woman. In 1955, she became the president of the Ohio Association of Beauticians, and she also served as president of the Toledo Beauticians and the Toledo Business Women's Club. She accomplished this at a time when racial equality and women-owned enterprises were only horizons on the American landscape.

She mothered our community in every way. Continuing in community activism, Mrs. Herron was involved in more than a dozen organizations including 1970s-era social programs CETA, SASI, EOPA and PIC, Toledo Affirmative Action, the Urban League, NAACP, the Head Start Policy Council, the Cordelia Martin Health Center Board, the Lucas County Welfare Advisory Board (which she chaired for fifteen years), the Concerned Women for Better Government (of which she was a charter member), the Perry Burroughs Democratic Club and the Lucas County Democratic Party. A religious woman, Mrs. Herron also served her church, Third Baptist Church, singing in the Sanctuary Choir and serving as a member of the Board of Trustees, the Advisory Council, and the 20th Century Literary Club.

Not content to rest on the laurels of her earlier years or settle down into retirement, Gladys in her later years was a founding leader in the senior citizen movement, involved in both the AARP and the Area Office on Aging of Northwest Ohio. It was Mrs. Herron's tireless effort and expert leadership which led to the establishment of the J. Frank Troy Senior Center. She was the center's first director, and together with two other Toledo women who established centers in other parts of the city, made up the core of senior rights in our region. I appointed her as our district's delegate to the decennial White House Conference on Aging held in 1995, where she represented her fellow seniors most ably and admirably.

Gladys Herron leaves an imprimatur on our community and in our hearts. Her passing writes the preface to a new chapter in American life that will be felt through generations and will be better for all because of her vigilance, faith, and vision.

COMMENDING JESSICA ANN OWENS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Jessica Ann Owens on her completion of the Aviation Machinist Mate school program with the U.S. Navy. Miss Owens is the first female to ''ace'' the entire course since its inception in 1947. She was also awarded the Military Excellence Award at Boot Camp out of over 600 sailors.

A local news station interviewed Miss Owens while she was home for Christmas. She will be stationed on the NAS Oceana in Virginia Beach. Her parents, Randy and Gini, are very proud of Jessica and know that she will do well wherever she goes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Miss Owens' efforts and commend her for a job well done. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jessica's service to our country and wishing her all the best for future success.

REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.: LEADER, VISIONARY, HERO

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, each year, we Americans commemorate the birthday of one of the outstanding citizens of the 20th century, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Many years ago, I was pleased to be one of the original sponsors of the legislation making his birthday a national holiday, and I urged all Americans to commemorate January 15 with appropriate ceremonies, sharing Dr. King's message, vision, and legacy.

We should all avail ourselves of this opportunity to once again honor the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. more than thirty years since his life was senselessly snuffed out by an assassin in Memphis, Tennessee. It is more important than ever that all Americans, especially our young people, are reminded of his significant contributions and his message.

Regrettably, many Americans view Martin Luther King Day as a holiday just for African Americans. Rev. King would have been the first person to repudiate that attitude, for his message was for ALL people, of all races, creeds, colors and backgrounds. His message of equality in both government and economic opportunity is universal and should be heeded by all citizens of America and, in fact, all citizens of the world.

Dr. King contributed more to the causes of national freedom and equality than any other individual of the 20th century. His achievements as an author and as a minister were surpassed only by his leadership, which transformed a torn people into a beacon of strength and solidarity, and united a divided nation under a common creed of brotherhood and mutual prosperity.

It was Dr. King's policy of nonviolent protest which served to open the eyes of our nation to the horrors of discrimination and police brutality. This policy revealed the discriminatory Jim Crow laws of the South as hypocritical and unfair, and forced civil rights issues into the national dialectic. It is due to the increased scope and salience of the national civil rights discussion that the movement achieved so much during its decade of our greatest accomplishment, from 1957 to 1968.

It was in 1955 that Dr. King made his first mark on our nation, when he organized the black community of Montgomery, Alabama during a 382-day boycott of the city's bus lines. The boycott saw Dr. King and many other civil rights activists incarcerated in prison as ''agitators,'' but their efforts were rewarded in 1956, when the U.S. Supreme Court declared that the segregational practices of the Alabama bus system were unconstitutional, and demanded that blacks be allowed to ride with equal and indistinguishable rights. The result proved the theory of nonviolent protest in practice, and roused our nation to the possibilities to be found through peace and perseverance.

In 1963, Dr. King and his followers faced their most ferocious test, when they set a massive civil rights protest in motion in Birmingham, Alabama. The protest was met with brute force by the local police, and many innocent men and women were injured through the violent response. However, the strength of the police department worked against the forces of discrimination in the nation, as many Americans came to sympathize with the plight of the blacks through the sight of their irrational and inhumane treatment.

By August of 1963 the civil rights movement had achieved epic proportions, and it was in a triumphant and universal air that Dr. King gave his memorable ''I Have a Dream'' speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. In the following year, Dr. King was distinguished as Time magazine's ''Man of the Year'' for 1963, and subsequently, in 1964, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Throughout his remaining years, Dr. King continued to lead our nation towards increased peace and unity. He spoke out against the Vietnam War, and led our nation's War on Poverty. To Dr. King, the international situation was inextricably linked to the domestic, and thus it was only through increased peace and prosperity at home that tranquility would be ensured abroad.

When Dr. King was gunned down in 1968 he had already established himself as a national hero and pioneer. As the years passed his message continued to gather strength and direction, and it is only in the light of his multigenerational influence that the true effects of his ideas can be measured.

Dr. King was a man who lacked neither vision nor the means and courage to express it. His image of a strong and united nation overcoming the obstacles of poverty and inequality continues to provide us with an ideal picture of the ''United'' states which still fills the hearts of Americans with feelings of brotherhood and a common purpose for years to come.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to bear in mind the courageous, dedicated deeds of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to join together on Martin Luther King Day, in solemn recollection of his significant contributions for enhancing human rights throughout our nation and throughout the world.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JAMES CHRISTIANSEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I would like to pay tribute to the life and memory of cattleman James E. Christiansen, who recently passed away in