

HONORING XI GAMMA OMEGA
CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA
ALPHA SORORITY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Xi Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. as it celebrates its 20th Anniversary of community service in the greater Oakland/East Bay Area.

Xi Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. was chartered on May 1, 1982, by a group of 28 dynamic women who recognized a need for greater community service. The 28 original members of Xi Gamma Omega pledged themselves to community development, sisterhood, and the ideals which are embodied in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

The members of Xi Gamma Omega saw a need for increased participation on the part of community groups in the development of the city of Oakland. They wanted to ensure that Oakland had support services available to the city's African American community, particularly its youth.

For 20 years, Xi Gamma Omega Chapter has carried out the mission and goals set down by its charter members. It has accomplished these goals through a host of services including tutoring and mentoring programs for elementary and secondary school students, visiting the elderly, adopting families in need, providing financial scholarships to deserving college-bound high school seniors, and making contributions to charitable organizations, such as the United Negro College Fund.

In its early years, Xi Gamma Omega held a Healthy Summer program, based at recreation centers, schools, and the Boys and Girls Club, that provided medical and dental screenings to uninsured young people. Doctors, podiatrists, optometrists, and dentists donated their services to this worthy project. In addition, the chapter members taught poison prevention measures to families in their homes.

During the early 1990's, Xi Gamma Omega Chapter proudly participated in many of the Sorority's International program targets. One of the major targets was Partners In Math and Science (PIMS). Xi Gamma Omega held workshops, titled "Turning African American Students on to Mathematics and Science." These workshops focused on alerting students to the need for math and science skills in all professions, as well as everyday life.

In its own right, Xi Gamma Omega has developed an extraordinary reputation in the Far Western Region as a chapter that exemplifies visionary leadership and premier service programs. Over the years this recognition of Xi Gamma Omega's leadership and community service activities has resulted in the receipt of numerous awards at a number of Alpha Kappa Alpha Regional Conferences.

Today, Xi Gamma Omega Chapter continues its rich tradition of community service through ON TRACK, a student nurturing and mentoring program at Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School, providing scholarships to talented middle school students to attend summer art camps, participating in and raising funds for the AIDS Walk-A-Thon, as well as the UNCF Walk and Tele-A-Thons; collecting

and shipping educational items for young children to countries in Africa; providing food and personal hygiene items to the residents of the Beth Eden Senior Center; as well as continuing its financial scholarships to college-bound high school seniors.

It is with great distinction that Xi Gamma Omega Chapter has proudly continued the 94 year-old tradition of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the first sorority founded by and for African American college women at Howard University in 1908. This legacy of Service to All Mankind has established Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., as a premier service organization both in the United States and abroad in West and South Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean.

I would like to commend the commitment and diligence of my former Senior Staff Assistant and friend Julie Hadnot, who is the President of the Xi Gamma Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Julie is a strong advocate and leader in Oakland as well as throughout the East Bay.

In the next 20 years and beyond, Xi Gamma Omega has pledged to remain committed to this high standard of service. Xi Gamma Omega Chapter will continue to blaze new trails and provide visionary leadership in the area of community service and programming throughout the city of Oakland and its environs.

BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 4546) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2003 for military activities of the Department of Defense, and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes:

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Chairman, while I support the highest standards of equipment and pay for our troops, and acknowledge that the most important function of our national government is to ensure the safety of our citizens, I could not support H.R. 4546, the FY 2003 Defense Authorization Act. The measure over militarizes American goals and policies at our economic and political expense.

Our nation is great. There is no other that can compete with it—particularly on the battlefield. This is true today, it was true yesterday and I will work to ensure that it is true tomorrow and into the future. Yet, the \$383.3 billion that we authorized for Defense (which I might add, does not include the \$10 billion authorization the President has requested for a terrorism contingency fund) is more than the combined defense budgets of the next closest 25 nations. Surely, we can afford other national priorities.

The bill includes \$7.8 billion for a National Missile Defense System that may or may not materialize. After spending more than \$100 billion since its inception during the Reagan Administration, National Missile Defense tests have had little success and system require-

ments continue to be downgraded. Even if successful, a National Missile Defense System would have done nothing to prevent the events of 9-11. Furthermore, the Bush Administration's insistence on this system continues our move away from strategic international laws that have helped maintain nuclear stability since the Second World War.

The \$7.8 billion spent on a National Missile Defense System, alone, would shore up our homeland security and provide 21st century classrooms to our nation's children. For these reasons,

Mr. Speaker, I opposed this measure and voted against it on final passage.

MS. LILLIAN SILBERSTEIN HONORED FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of Lillian Silberstein, the Executive Director of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) Silicon Valley Region. I would like to recognize Ms. Silberstein's extraordinary and tireless service to the people of Santa Clara County and thank her for her 30 years as the NCCJ's Executive Director. She will be honored with the Community Service for Exemplary Leadership Award on Friday, May 17, 2002.

NCCJ was known as the National Conference of Christians and Jews when Lil first started in a small office at a tiny desk by herself. The growth of the NCCJ Silicon Valley as one of the largest and most innovative chapters in the nation has been due to her tireless efforts and passionate dedication.

"Lil", as she is affectionately known to all, has succeeded in her mission: to break down barriers, ending the silence of intolerance, and building common understanding between diverse groups of people in the community. She has successfully organized programs across Silicon Valley to open communications concerning the most difficult issues of race, religion, gender, socio-economic issues, ability and disability with the goal of building bridges between people.

She has eased communications between prisoners and their jailers, given at-risk teens a safe place to express their painful struggles and confront their own barriers, and organized countless efforts, large and small, to help people get along more successfully together.

In Silicon Valley, where diversity is the norm, Lillian Silberstein's work has been critical.

As a result of her hard work and unwavering dedication to tolerance and justice, Lillian Silberstein has compiled an impressive record of community achievements, which have earned her the deep respect and admiration from all corners of this complex community. Her vision of justice has been a guiding force throughout the Silicon Valley and an example to many other growing and diverse communities around the country.