

face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." Our prayer today is that America would be a nation that daily seeks You and that our ways would be pleasing in your sight and that You would indeed heal our land.

We ask all these things in the name of your son Jesus. Amen.

HONORING PRESIDENT HARRY S  
TRUMAN

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, May 8, 2004, will mark the 120th anniversary of the birth of Harry S Truman in the town of Lamar, Missouri. He would go on to serve in the military in World War I and hold elected office as judge, United States senator, Vice President, and President of the United States. His is a story and a life that we can all learn from.

Harry Truman answered the call to duty in World War I. He helped organize the 2nd Regiment of Missouri Field Artillery. The regiment was called into Federal service, renamed the 129th Field Artillery, and sent to serve on the battlefields of France. Earning the confidence of his fellow soldiers, Truman rose quickly to the rank of captain and was given the command of the regiment's Battery D, a regiment that still exists today in the Missouri National Guard.

Truman entered elected office in 1922, successfully seeking the position of Jackson County Court judge. Following winning campaigns for presiding judge of the Jackson County Court in 1924 and 1930, Judge Truman sought and won the office of United States Senator for Missouri in 1934.

Senator Truman won reelection in 1940. In the Senate, he distinguished himself in the passage of the Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938, the Transportation Act of 1940, and as the chairman of the Senate Special Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program.

In July, 1944, the Democratic Party nominated Harry Truman to run for Vice President with President Franklin Roosevelt. With President Roosevelt's unexpected death, Harry Truman was sworn in as President only eighty-two days after taking the vice-presidential oath.

President Truman's first year saw some of the most significant events of the twentieth century. The death of Adolf Hitler and the end of the European front in World War II was soon followed by Truman's courageous decision to drop two atomic bombs on Japan, bringing a quick surrender and an end to the war. Truman's first year also saw the creation of the United Nations and the first steps into the century's next great struggle: the Cold War.

Truman tackled the Communist challenge with a singular determination. The Truman Doctrine enunciated the willingness of the United States to provide military assistance to countries determined to fight Communist forces. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization created a wall between the free nations of Western Europe and the communist forces of the Warsaw Pact. As President Truman

sought to guarantee Western Europe's physical security, through the Marshall Plan he worked to secure the economies of America's European allies. In the ultimate show of his resolve to fight Communism on every front, President Truman responded with military force to an invasion of South Korea.

Following his years as President, Harry Truman returned to Independence, Missouri. He took to calling himself "Mr. Citizen". His daily walks became a popular local story that soon spread nationwide. After all of the extraordinary events he witnessed and in which he participated, Harry Truman desired no more than to return to a simple life.

Mr. Speaker, President Truman left us with the phrase, "the buck stops here". It is a philosophy of life that all Americans could learn from and is one reason why he has the respect of both Republicans and Democrats today. Harry Truman was a valuable leader and a great president. I know my fellow Members will join me on this day in remembering his important contributions to the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIM DeMINT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall votes 142, 143, 144, 145, and 146. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 142, 144, and 146. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 143 and 145.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE  
CORINTHIAN NUTTER

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 50th anniversary of the Brown vs. Topeka, Kansas, Board of Education decision, I rise today to note the recent passing of a civil rights pioneer who resided in the Third Congressional District of Kansas.

Corinthian Nutter, an African-American teacher whose rejection of degrading conditions in her Kansas school during the 1940s led to an important role in our nation's desegregation struggle, died on February 11th at her home in Shawnee, Kansas, at the age of 97.

Nutter was an important witness in a 1949 lawsuit that helped open the courthouse doors for Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, the landmark 1954 case in which the U.S. Supreme Court declared segregated schools unconstitutional. A Texas native, she was the only certified teacher at Walker Elementary School in Merriam, Kansas, in the late 1940s. Only black children attended Walker, where eight grades studied outdated textbooks in two classrooms in a run down school lacking indoor plumbing.

In 1947, administrators in school district No. 90, which included Merriam, built a new school with the proceeds of a \$90,000 bond election. Unlike Walker, the white students-

only South Park Elementary School had indoor plumbing, an auditorium and a cafeteria. It also had one teacher and one classroom for each of its eight grades, along with a music teacher and a kindergarten.

When the black parents of Walker Elementary School demanded that their children be admitted to the new school, the school district leadership refused, contending that enrollment was based on the attendance areas drawn for each school. A local NAACP chapter then aided the families in filing suit against the school system, while Nutter, who received only a small financial stipend from the NAACP for her work, taught 39 children whose parents withdrew them from Walker for the duration of the trial.

In 1949's *Webb v. School District 90*, the lawsuit filed on behalf of the 39 families, Nutter was the key witness, detailing the many inadequacies of the separate and unequal facility. "I just told them the truth," Nutter said in an interview with the *Kansas City Star* in 2002. "The school was dilapidated. We had no modern conveniences, had to go outside to go to the toilet. . . . Schools shouldn't be for color. They should be for the children." The NAACP's victory in this case paved the way for the Brown decision five years later.

After the *Webb* decision, Nutter moved to nearby Olathe, Kansas, where she taught and later became principal at Westview Elementary School, despite being the only African-American on the school's staff for decades. After retiring from education in 1972, Nutter received the YWCA of Greater Kansas City's first Racial Justice Award for 2003, was named to the Rosa Parks Wall of Tolerance, and was inducted into the Mid-America Education Hall of Fame at Kansas City, Kansas, Community College.

Mr. Speaker, I am placing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD two recent articles concerning Corinthian Nutter: an article from the *Kansas City Call* regarding her induction into the Mid-America Education Hall of Fame and her obituary from the *Kansas City Star*. I am pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to this important, yet unheralded, resident of the Third Congressional District of Kansas.

[From The Call, Oct. 17, 2003]

CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER CORINTHIAN NUTTER  
INTO EDUCATION HALL OF FAME

(By Alan Hoskins)

Corinthian Nutter knew at an early age she didn't want to follow in her mother's footsteps scrubbing floors.

But no one could ever foresee the profound effect she would have on the world of education and her deserved induction into the Mid-America Education Hall of Fame at Kansas City, KS, Community College November 1.

The third of five children born 96 years ago in Forney, Texas, Mrs. Nutter realized early that she wasn't going to get much of an education—particularly when she was held out of school when the cotton got ripe. Her mother, who scrubbed floors and took in white people's washing, never saw the inside of a school. Her father was the uneducated son of a slave who lived to 102.

"I could see I wasn't going to get much schooling," says Mrs. Nutter, who married at age 14 because "nice girls didn't run away from home." When the marriage fell apart two years later, she fled Texas but not before taking a course in beauty school.

"I wanted to get enough education to get me a good enough job to get others to do the