

HONORING DAVE JARRETT FOR  
LIFETIME SERVICE TO VETERANS

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 20, 2004*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to a remarkable individual from my home state of Kentucky. Dave Jarrett has been a longtime unsung hero in my congressional district as an advocate for veterans and mentor to countless young men and women considering enrollment in our Nation's military academies.

Dave demonstrated unusual courage and a selfless instinct to help others from an early age, graduating with distinction from the Naval Academy and serving our country honorably in the Vietnam war. This keen sense of duty and sacrifice was an early indication of his character, qualities that have made him a brilliant public servant in the years that have followed.

A disabled veteran himself, Dave volunteers generous amounts of time as District Commander of Disabled American Veterans, attending meetings and advising fellow veterans on benefit issues. He meets with veterans at the Hardin County Courthouse every Thursday to help them with the process of filing for veteran benefits. He also serves as a member of the Second Congressional District Military Academy Nomination Board and as a Blue and Gold officer for the U.S. Naval Academy.

As we pay tribute to our nation's veterans this week, I would like to recognize Mr. Jarrett, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his lifelong example of leadership and service. His efforts, from Annapolis to Southeast Asia to Hardin County, make him an outstanding American, worthy of our collective respect and honor.

GERALD "SUBIYAY" MILLER  
RECEIVES HERITAGE FELLOWSHIP

**HON. NORMAN D. DICKS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 20, 2004*

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, on September 30, in the Cannon Caucus Room, I was privileged to present the National Endowment for the Arts' National Heritage Fellowship to my constituent, Gerald "Subiyay" Miller, from Shelton, Washington. The Heritage Fellowship is the highest honor our country gives to folk and traditional artists.

I could not be prouder of Subiyay. I am also proud of the National Endowment for the Arts for starting this program 25 years ago. And I am proud to live in perhaps the only country where such awards could be given—honoring traditions from our First Americans to cultures from every region of the world.

Mr. Speaker, in the night before the ceremony, Subiyay, gave a noble and moving closing to the banquet for the 2004 Heritage Fellows and their families. Just as he weaves his "story baskets", he wove some of the creation story of his people into his observations about the role of art in civilization. I would like to share his story with my colleagues.

AT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS' NATIONAL HERITAGE FELLOWSHIP BANQUET IN THE GREAT HALL OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS—SEPTEMBER 29, 2004

Barry Bergey (NEA Director of Folk and Traditional Arts): I've asked Gerald Miller to go last. I think it's appropriate that we're in this Library, this great repository of learning, surrounded by so much knowledge. So many of the Native Americans Elders have retained that knowledge. You know the African proverb that "When an elder dies, it's like a library burning down."

We actually have two elders here. We have a previous National Heritage Fellowship recipient, Vi (Violet) Hilbert, sitting next to Gerald. [Applause] She received the award about 10 years ago for retaining her language and her stories.

Gerald, Subiyay as he is known in his language, Skokomish (Twana), was the last living speaker of that language. Now he has taught many young people. He hasn't taught them just the language. He has taught them the crafts, the music, the ceremonials, the use of regalia, the making of regalia.

I have asked him to come up and say a few words and, if he would, to sing a song—a blessing song—for us to end the evening.

Please make welcome Subiyay. [Applause]

Gerald (Subiyay) Miller [Strong, measured, gravely voice]: In the beginning of time the humans were given the first gift. It was gifted to us before language. It was a gift before all other things. It was the gift of the drum. And its sound was the heartbeat of our mother. As unborn infants, we heard it as we grew in her body; giving us all the rhythm of life, the rhythm of the teachings and the beliefs that we would follow. The drum is an important part of most cultures of the world. We have many phrases that have to do with the rhythm of the drum. We for instance might walk to the beat of a different drum. The drum excites us. The drum soothes us. The drum puts us in step with one another with its beat.

The second gift to the human beings was the gift of song. And the song came before the spoken languages that we have as people on this earth. It was given to us by the bird people. It was given to us to express ourselves in the truest form of expression that we as human beings would ever have, the expression of song. Song allowed us to express every emotion that we as human beings would feel. Song is so important that many of our early cultures used it as a tool in teaching, because it causes something called subliminal implanting. If we sing a teaching, it will stay with for our entire life.

Long ago we sang the teachings of our ancestors. We are all born with a song—Our Spirit Song. From the moment we leave the womb of our Mothers our song is within us. We have songs that we call mood music. How many nations are there without a song or anthem? How many religions use song to express their hopes and convictions? We have songs to honor another year of life. We have songs for weddings. We express ourselves through song. And all of us, although we might acknowledge or not acknowledge ourselves as singers, when something wonderful happens, we feel like singing. It's the spirit of the songs that lives within all of us.

My elders say we are all born with a spirit song. Our children will prove it to us. As they learn to speak, they all sing little songs about their world; regardless of what culture we come from. If a song expresses our true emotions, we sing it.

The next gift that came was dance. We were also given dance before language. We were given dance to "tell the story"—to tell the story of our people. Song and dance are probably the oldest forms of art that we as

human beings have to this day. In my language the word dance means more than "get up and boogie." Dance is non-verbal. It is communication by gesticulation.

There's one dance that we can do with one finger and we all know what that gesture/dance means. We don't have to express it with words. We dance with the expressions of our faces. We dance with the gestures of our hands. We dance with the posture of our bodies. We dance with the tilt of our head. Children, even before they learn to speak, understand these dances. They see it in us as parents and as teachers. The power of dance will forever be with us.

Then came the spoken language. With language came the story of our People. With language came the gift of long memory. We were given language to carry the knowledge of our ancestors from the beginning of time to this very moment, in this room, and on into the future. The power of language contains the power of the story. We see in this room all the races of mankind represented. All of us started from a different trail at the beginning of time, we have conjoined here at a common spot, sharing this moment in time together. We sit here, our hearts beat together. We breathe the same air and we are enjoying each other's company. We eat together.

History would not exist if it were not for the artists. There are cultures all over the world that no longer exist. The important thing that they left behind was their art—writings on the rocks, artifacts, beautiful songs from the beginning of time. Some dances are thousands of years old. They are still alive, giving testimony to those who created these forms of art. All of us who are artists have had our mentors. We have our ancestors to thank for the gifts that we as humans were given—given to express our soul, and our hearts to the people. Art is a powerful form of expression. Our art tells our stories. And we, the artists, who are here can appreciate one another from that mutual understanding.

I want to extend my gratitude on receiving this award to all of our ancestors who left with us the gifts that we exhibit today; the gift of the song, the gift of the dance, the gift of the story and the gift of creativity. As long as we keep these traditional arts alive, we speak for our people.

I look at our sister artist Koko (blues musician Koko Taylor from Chicago) and know how her blues music moves me. I look at the family of puppeteers (Yugin Wang and Zhengli Xu from Aloha, Oregon) who carry on an art form over two thousand years old. I look at our sister here from India (Kathak dance Anjani Abegokar from Diamond Bar, California), carrying on an art form known to be at least four thousand years old. And because of her it lives and flourishes. Because there was someone who cared. There was someone who listened. There was someone who had a teacher.

For all of us who live, for all of us who are being recognized in this room, we honor those who had an influence on our life. Because now through our art form we speak for them.

Einstein said there are two kinds of knowledge, stored knowledge and living knowledge. Stored knowledge can be put in a book and set aside, and looked at later. But living knowledge has to be expressed, felt, spoken and demonstrated. There is no replacement for living knowledge. My grandfather told me that I could be anything that I wanted; and I believed him. He said our people became lazy when they learned how to write because they no longer relied on their memory and their personal discipline. They think that they can look it up in a book or listen to a tape recording. But the written word is