friendship will always have a fond place in my heart and memories.

So, like many, I have lost a great friend. Unfortunately our nation has lost a great leader and patriot. We will all miss Tillie. But each day now without her, we can celebrate her life and better appreciate her many contributions that helped to make our country a better America for all.

HALABJA REMEMBERED

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, on March 16, 1988 Saddam Hussein brutally attacked Halabja, Kurdistan in Iraq. When the bombing attacks were completed, over 5,000 were dead and over 8,000 injured.

The injured people were civilians. Families died together that day, orphans were made that day, a day that the Kurdish people will never forget.

As the poison gas largely cleared by noon that day, the deadly smoke lay close to the ground, sinking into the basements of the homes where people had gone to seek shelter.

They watched as their skin burned. Some were immediately blinded. Some took shelter among the corpses of their family members. The ones who were able to run, ran, stopping only when they were overcome with pain or exhaustion.

Today, I honor those men, women, and children who lost their lives at the hands of a ruthless killer, Saddam Hussein. The Halabja massacre represents 5,000 of the 200,000 Kurdish people who died or are missing during the genocide campaigns of the Saddam Hussein regime. Hundreds of thousands of other Iraqis were also killed or are missing.

Mr. Speaker, as our Armed Forces battle to build a democratic future for the people of Iraq, we should recall the horror of Halabja, and acknowledge that the hellish tyranny that shackled all but a few Baathist thugs is part of Iraq history and not part of its future. Let's recall the suffering of all Iraqis, especially the Kurds in Halabja, and honor our Armed Forces for the better future they are building in Iraq.

VERNA KING—AN INSPIRATION TO SAN DIEGO

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, Verna Lee St. Clair King, born and reared in Berwick, Louisiana, is the daughter of John Westley St. Clair and Florence Ellen Calvin St. Clair. Educated in Louisiana and Texas, she earned her A.B. degree from Wiley College in Marshall, Texas and later an M.A. from San Diego State University.

Verna grew up determined to make life better for others. She eventually became a teacher, making politics and helping others through community service her lifelong hobbies. Her intelligence and insight led her to the political arena and the fight for equal education.

A professional educator in San Diego for thirty years, Verna has a long history of involvement with the San Diego Teachers' Association (SDTA). Through the SDTA, she represented the National Education Association and served as a member of the National Women's Caucus and Black Caucus.

Verna's unselfish nature led her to become increasingly involved in a wide array of civic activities: she was vice-chair of the 79th Assembly District Committee, served on the 44th Congressional Advisory Committee, and was a charter member of the San Diego Council of Democratic Women. In addition, she is a charter member and past president of Women Inc. She is also involved with Alpha Kappa Alpha, CTA, the YWCA, her church, and the Democratic Party. In addition, she has recently served on the Community Service Association Board as well as the San Diego Historical Site Board.

Verna's involvement in the community and politics has allowed her to interact and work with individuals such as Coretta Scott King, Andrew Young, Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter, Alan Cranston and Tom Bradley.

Verna is listed in prominent annuals and has received many awards in recognition of her professional and community service. In the past, she has been the recipient of the Democratic Committee's Golden Key Award and received a Key to the City of San Diego for her outstanding work in the field of human relations. For bridging the gap between parents and teachers, Verna was honored with an Honorary Service award by the Ninth District P.T.A. Her current honors reflect the esteem in which she is held by her fellow professionals and by those who have had the pleasure of working with her in political and community activities.

Verna's husband, Alonzo King, now deceased, shared her interests both politically and professionally. In addition, Verna and Alonzo were blessed with a close family that included five children: Joyce L. King Thomas, Verna Lee E. Bickerstaff, St. Clair King, Alonzo King, and Reginald King, the latter two of whom are deceased.

Verna has always been gracious in all of her endeavors, and her knowledge and experiences have been invaluable to professionals, friends, fellow committee members and the community.

She truly has been an inspiration to all San Diego.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE TRACY O. KING

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Texas State Representative Tracy King for his many accomplishments in business and in government.

Mr. King was born in Baytown, Texas, in 1960. After graduating from Carrizo Springs High School, he attended Southwest Texas Junior College for a year, and then transferred to Texas A&M University, where he completed his B.S. in Agricultural Engineering.

Upon his graduation, Representative King began working at the Beltone Hearing Aid Center in San Antonio. He moved up quickly, and was responsible for opening the branch office in Uvalde. In 1987, he became owner of the local Beltone Hearing Aid Center, serving 16 counties in Southwest Texas. He has been active in a number of nonprofit organizations, including the Kiwanis Club and the first Methodist Church, and he is a former president of the Texas Hearing Aid Association.

Tracy King was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1994, and is currently serving his fifth term. He is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, and is Chairman of Budget and Oversight for the House Regulation Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the life of Tracy King is an example of what hard work and responsible service can accomplish, and I am proud to have the opportunity to recognize him here.

A TRIBUTE TO MARY CAMMARANO, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2005

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during the month of March. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an outstanding woman in my Congressional District, the Honorable Mary Cammarano. For many years, Mary has brought an abounding spirit and energy to her service in the community. Those fortunate enough to meet and work with Mary instantly recognize her joy, enthusiasm and passion for helping others in her community.

A native New Yorker, Mary moved to San Gabriel in 1964 with her husband Mike. As a young mother, Mary was active in her children's activities, volunteering for 3 different Parent Teacher Associations, Little League, Girl Scouts of America, Boy Scouts of America and a foreign exchange student program. Her past involvement also included board memberships on the American Heart Association, the YMCA, the American Red Cross, and the Italian Catholic Federation, where she served as President.

Elected to the San Gabriel City Council in 1989, Mary served on the council for 16 years, serving as Mayor for 3 terms, until her retirement in 2005. She was a long-time member of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments and the Independent Cities Association.

Ms. Cammarano's current volunteer service with the City of San Gabriel is extensive and impressive. A 30 year member of the San Gabriel Historical Association, where she provided her homemade lasagna for 15 years for the association's annual fundraiser; she also successfully brought the Ramona Museum to San Gabriel. For 35 years, she has been a member of the San Gabriel Coordinating Council and the Women's Division of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce, where she's brought her homemade minestrone soup for