

his students what he learned from his mentor, Dr. Finley. At Lincoln Hospital, he met his future wife, a registered nurse and flight attendant at TWA, Carol Poyner.

Dargan has published many surgical papers in leading national medical journals and has participated in preparing practicing surgeons for board certification. He has given presentations at national and international medical meetings. Dargan returned to South Carolina in 1978 and began a private practice in thoracic, vascular and general surgery in Columbia, sharing an office with the late Dr. Cyril O. Spann, who had urged him to come home. Two years later, Dargan and Dr. Gerald A. Wilson formed Midlands Surgical Associates, P.A., out of a shared sense of commitment to competent, compassionate, and appropriate patient care in South Carolina. The practice has grown to include Dr. Dennis A. Wilson. In 1979, Dr. Dargan joined the faculty of the University of South Carolina as a clinical associate professor of surgery, hoping to inspire a new generation of physicians to provide compassionate medical services to South Carolinians.

Dr. Dargan is a founding member of Physician's Health Plan of South Carolina, now Carolina Care Plan, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and a former chief of staff at Palmetto Health Richland. A life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, he is also a member of the Kappa Pi and Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor societies. The Dargans have two children, Jennifer Dargan and Catherine Dargan Phelps; a son-in-law, Peter Phelps; and two much-loved grandchildren, Addison Morgan Phelps.

Dr. Dargan is being honored in his hometown next Thursday night and I ask you, my colleagues, to join me in congratulating him and commending the University of South Carolina for helping all Columbians recognize Dr. Dargan's contributions by establishing a scholarship at its medical school in his name.

TRIBUTE TO DELORES M. HANDY

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of one of the constituents in my district. Delores M. Handy has been a valuable employee of the Acadia Parish Tax Assessor's Office for over 3 decades. On June 30th, 2005, she will retire after 33 years of service to her community.

This woman, affectionately known as Dee, has become a friendly face in local government. The most common phrase used to describe her is "tremendous asset." Working at the counter in the Assessor's Office, she will always be remembered as a woman who greeted every customer with a smile and an offer to help them solve whatever problems they were facing. Through the years, she has developed friendships with people from every walk of life and no one left her office without feeling like she had done everything possible to serve their needs.

I join the residents of Acadia Parish, along with the people of the 7th District, in thanking Delores Handy for her contribution to making Southwest Louisiana a great place to live. She is a fine example of what is right in our government and will be missed.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN P. MURTHA AND HIS WIFE, JOYCE

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our dear friend and colleague, JOHN P. MURTHA as he and his wife Joyce celebrate the 50th anniversary of their marriage. I would like to submit the following statement of Father William George to honor this occasion:

DINNER BLESSING BY FATHER WILLIAM GEORGE, S.J. AT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER FOR CONGRESSMAN AND MRS. JOHN P. MURTHA

Blessed are you, God of all Creation. We are created in your image and likeness and share the gifts you have bestowed on us, especially your gift of divine Love. Source of all Love and Kindness, we thank you for the love we share this evening of Jack and Joyce Murtha's mature and wonderful love as we celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

St. Paul speaks of how without love, we gain nothing; that Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, is not inflated; it is not rude; it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails. (1 Cor.)

The faith that Joyce and Jack have in each other is witnessed to by their 50 years of marriage, but also how hard they work to support each other and their generosity to others. Their hopefulness is revealed in their patience and continued generosity even when criticized and challenged. Their love is a witness to the divine spirit within all of us and we thank you for them.

Their gift of self to each other reveals the richness of the union of husband and wife in the sacrament of marriage. We ask you to continue to bless their love with your grace.

Jack and Joyce have united in a strong and productive way in service to their country. As one nation under God, we appreciate their dedication and love of country. If every member of Congress had such a supportive spouse, the laws of our land would be more in accord with your will, bringing peace through justice. Please, dear Lord, continue to bless them with vigor, insight and courage.

We ask your care for our young men and women in uniform all throughout the world who are in harm's way. Inspire them and make them shining witnesses to justice wherever they serve.

Please bless our celebration of Jack and Joyce's 50th. Bless this food we are about to receive from your bounty, as we have faith in you, our God, who lives forever and ever, Amen.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS BY LINDA HOWARD GARRETT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to submit for the RECORD the compelling statement of Linda Howard Garrett who gave the valedictory address at the Ann Arundel Community College Commencement Ceremony on May 26, 2005.

Linda is a wonderful and inspiring example of someone who has the will and perseverance to make a brighter future for themselves and their family. Her determination and persistence to go back to school later in life shows that it is never too late to pursue the "American Dream" and succeed!

I was proud to join Linda at Anne Arundel Community College's Commencement and am pleased to submit her address for the RECORD.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS BY LINDA HOWARD GARRETT

"Good evening, President Smith, Congressman Hoyer, Trustees, honored guests, faculty, staff, friends and families, classmates.

If anyone had told me 2 years ago that I would be standing here tonight, I would have stared in disbelief. It was with great trepidation that I returned to school after 37 years, and I wasn't sure I would succeed, much less excel. And yet here I am—here we all are because of our hard work and dedication to a goal.

Many people have asked me what motivated me to work so hard and to remain so dedicated, and as I began to think about that question, I realized there were several answers.

It helped to know that I was enrolled in one of the premier paralegal studies programs in the country, and attending Ann Arundel—a shining star in the Nation's network of community colleges.

Of course there was my family who inspired me by their unflinching support—especially my 14-year-old daughter who temporarily relinquished her self-proclaimed position as center of the universe and willingly assumed more responsibility at home because I had a test scheduled or a paper due.

And the professors who gave so generously of their time and talents: Professors Kelly Koerner, Robyn Brown, Karen Cook, Mona Clark, Stanley Robbins, Susan Kilgard, Richard Faircloth, Sarah Glenn, Cathy Hayes, Sherry Hopkins, Wade Taylor. I could go on and on as I'm sure each of you could as you remember those dedicated teachers who were a profound influence on you.

Sometimes it was a staff member—like Miss Ina in the Florestano student lounge my first year. Even though she wasn't officially scheduled to open until 8:30, she was there every morning at least an hour early, dispensing hot coffee and encouragement.

Often, it was a classmate: the student older than I—in his seventies—still seeking knowledge and growth and intellectual stimulation. Or the 18-year-old who took the earliest classes available so she could hurry home to care for her ailing mother. And all of the amazing single parents juggling families and full-time jobs and still managing to attend every class, turning in every assignment on time.

But perhaps the most compelling influence was a sense of history and an appreciation for what many Americans take for granted. I gained that appreciation while serving for 26 years with the U.S. Army. During that time I had the opportunity to travel all over the world—from the Far East to East Berlin. And the more I saw of the world, the more I came to value the freedoms and opportunities that are uniquely American. And at no time did I feel that appreciation more than during a visit to Ellis Island.

Over a hundred years ago, immigrants poured into this country seeking a better life. And they weren't satisfied to just be in America. They wanted to be Americans, and that meant that they had to learn a new language and a new history so they could pass a citizenship test. They sought out classes wherever they could find them—in church basements and elementary school classrooms and community halls.

So when it seemed he too much effort for me to write another brief, or struggle to learn the arcane vocabulary of the law or drag myself to one more early class, I would remember those immigrants who, after working backbreaking 12-, 14-, 16-hour days, went willingly, joyfully to class because they understood that every step toward that classroom brought them one step closer to realizing the American Dream. And when I remembered them, I could not dishonor their memory by turning in shoddy work or failing to fully embrace the opportunity their legacy provided because from those humble beginnings an entire system of adult education evolved. Single scattered classes became