

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOROPTIMIST WOMEN OF GARLAND

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Soroptimist Women of Garland. Soroptimist International was founded in 1921 as an international organization of business and young professionals who work to improve the lives of fellow women and girls. In 1954, the Soroptimist Club of Garland was chartered with Mrs. Lillie Alma Bradfield serving as the first president.

Today the Soroptimist Women of Garland are dedicated to providing service opportunities to women focusing their service endeavors on the local community. They support community projects ranging from renovating domestic violence shelters and providing mammograms for low-income women, to sponsoring self-esteem workshops for teenage girls. In addition, the Soroptimist Women of Garland raise funds to support charities such as Meals on Wheels and scholarships for students from the Garland Independent School District.

The Soroptimist Women of Garland are truly helping make our community and our country a better place to live. As the Congressional representative for this outstanding service organization, it is my pleasure to honor them as they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATOR JEANNE Z. CHASE

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the public service of Erie County Legislator Jeanne Z. Chase, who has served the residents of the Erie County Legislature's 12th Legislative district, which currently includes the towns of Boston, Brant, Eden, Evans, Hamburg, and North Collins, since her initial appointment in 1997, and who will leave the Legislature at the conclusion of her current term at the end of this year.

Jeanne Chase has been, above all else, someone dedicated to the sound and effective representation of her constituents, all of whom are also residents of the 27th Congressional district. It is her commitment to her constituents and to her community at large that has always impressed me about Jeanne Chase, and it is why I am delighted to honor her service to Erie County today.

Jeanne Chase is a lifelong resident of the Town of Evans. A graduate of Immaculata Academy, and SUNY Fredonia, Jeanne worked in the private sector for many years before seeking appointment to the 12th district seat upon the resignation of then-Legislator Bert Villarini in 1997. Jeanne defeated a well-

known and well-funded challenger in her first election in 1997 and won re-election to her seat in three succeeding elections.

Jeanne Chase is a longtime member of the Legislature's Public Safety committee, and has always placed the safety of her constituents as a top priority. As Chair of the Legislature's Public Safety committee from 2002 to 2003, Erie County moved forward with the construction of the state-of-the-art Public Safety Campus, which, when completed, will become the communications center and focal point for all police, fire and emergency services in our region. A longtime supporter of crime victims' rights, Jeanne has supported initiatives that increase protection for crime victims throughout New York State, and worked to establish a Domestic Violence Satellite Office in the Southtowns. Jeanne has seen many public accomplishments but cites as her greatest accomplishments her family. Husband Rob and daughter Chelsea are proud of Jeanne's service to her constituents, and we are as well.

Jeanne Chase has chosen not to leave public service. She is applying her experience in the field of real estate to her service as Town Assessor in the Town of Evans. I am proud and grateful, Mr. Speaker, to call to the House's attention the dedicated public service of Erie County Legislator Jeanne Chase, and I am certain that the whole House would join me in offering to Jeanne and to her entire family wishes of good luck and Godspeed in the months and years to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to acknowledge the Church of the Epiphany which will launch a year-long celebration of events and activities celebrating 100 years as a parish in Orange, New Jersey on Sunday, November 20, 2005.

The Church of the Epiphany represents the faith and fortitude of New Jersey's African-American Episcopalians living in the Oranges. It began as a Sunday school for "colored" children in November 1905. Miss Ruth Marsh of Grace Church, located on Main Street in Orange, founded the Sunday school program and taught its 7 students. Through the efforts of Grace church's sexton, Mr. Thomas Johnson, the Sunday school developed into the Epiphany Mission with a small congregation led by the rectors of Grace Church. By 1908, Lay Reader George Marshall Plaskett, an African American student in the General Theological Seminary held the services under the direction of the Grace Church Rector. Father Plaskett went on to lead Epiphany as its rector for 50 years after his ordination and entrance into the priesthood. Under his leadership, Epiphany thrived as an active and integral part of the community providing spiritual education and guidance, and community service.

In 1909 Epiphany's congregation purchased a lot on the corner of South Center and Pierson Streets in Orange and the first service in

the new building was held on January 29, 1911. In 1916 the Epiphany Mission sought financial independence from Grace Episcopal Church and in 1930 Epiphany was admitted to the Diocese after an ecclesiastical separation from Grace Church. While located on Pierson Street, the church served as the congregation's spiritual home under the leadership of five rectors; The Rev. John H. Edwards, The Rev. Leonard Harris, The Rev. James E. Williams, The Rev. A. Warren Bridgeman. Since 1987, the Reverend Canon Gervais A.M. Clarke, Ph.D. has served as Epiphany's sixth Rector at its present location on Main Street, Orange.

On December 14, 1986, following the dissolution of Grace Church by the Diocese of Newark, Epiphany moved to the old Grace Church building at 105 Main Street. In an effort to honor and retain Epiphany's history and create a new home that would provide a place for worship, fellowship, education and outreach, the congregation incorporated a marble altar, pipe organ, and other furnishings from Epiphany's original properties into the renovated church. With pride, Epiphany celebrated its first service on Main Street in January 1987.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues agree that the Church of the Epiphany has every right to be proud of the lasting contributions that it has made to the residents of Orange. Overcoming obstacles caused by segregation and demographic change, and addressing the needs of its neighbors are the legacy of Epiphany's forefathers and mothers. I rise today to honor Epiphany, who for 100 years have steadfastly and faithfully created a community of worship and service in Orange.

RECOGNITION OF THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding group of young women from Southern Illinois. The Central High School volleyball team from Breese, Illinois, won the 2005 Class A State championship on November 12, after going through the State finals without losing a single game. The Cougars finished the season with 33 wins and 9 losses.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Head Coach Jim Cook and assistant coach Kelly Potthast on a truly outstanding season. Most of all, I want to recognize the members of the 2005 State champion Breese Central Cougars volleyball team: Britni Holtmann, Melanie Gartside, Bethany Becker, Sarah Barth, Megan Winkler, Cassy Becker, Lindsay Holtmann, Amanda Backes, Lauren Endres, Kelsi Scheer, Kelsey Straeter, Lauren Budde, Cassandra Deiters, Brittany Schrage, Kassi Buehne.

These young women did an exceptional job of representing themselves, their school and their community, and I wish them best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

HONORING DAVID KRAMER

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and achievements of David P. Kramer of Oakland, California.

Serving the working people of California for 34 years, David Kramer has been known throughout his career for his dedication to civil rights as well as his unwavering commitment to the labor movement. Today our community comes together to celebrate his career and achievements on the occasion of his retirement from SEIU Local 535 in Berkeley, California.

David Kramer was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1941. After graduating from Scott High School in North Braddock, Pennsylvania in 1959, he attended the Carnegie Institute of Technology, now known as Carnegie Mellon University. Following his studies there, he was hired by the Ford Motor Company, where he worked toward honing the skills he had acquired in school. However, in 1964 he quit his job and immersed himself in the burgeoning civil rights movement that was gaining strength throughout the United States.

As part of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), David was involved in countless picketing and protest efforts that were aimed at achieving integration and equal employment. He was part of a crew of 60 involved in testing and enforcing the Civil Rights Act of 1964 through the integration of public facilities and voter registration procedures in Monroe, West Monroe, New Rhodes, and Baton Rouge, among other places in Louisiana. When he returned to Detroit in the spring of 1965, he became the first community organizer to work for the West Central Organization, which rallied members of the African American and rural Appalachian communities, together with neighborhood churches, union halls, block clubs, and social organizations. This coalition organized around issues such as school and police community relations, tenant rights, and urban renewal.

In 1967, David enrolled in the University of Michigan Graduate School of Social Work, where he graduated with a Masters of Social Work degree in Community Organizing in 1968. As part of his studies, he served in the Wayne County Office of Equal Opportunity and Detroit People Against Racism (PAR), an organization of which he eventually served as the executive director. During this time he also became deeply involved in the anti-Vietnam War movement, participating in demonstrations across the country, including at the Democratic Convention in 1968.

In 1969 he worked as a "lumper" on the night shift in a warehouse in Detroit, where he began to get more involved with the labor movement as a member of Teamsters Local 299 and from which he still holds his honorable withdraw card. In 1971, David was appointed as a field representative of SEIU Local 535. His was first assigned to represent the Santa Clara County social workers and to organize county eligibility workers for Local 535, and was instrumental in securing representation rights for the workers. From 1971 to 1976, David worked with the Santa Clara County, Sacramento County, Stanislaus County,

Berkeley, St. Vincent's School, Irwin Memorial Blood Bank, Sunny Hills, and Alameda County chapters of SEIU, and was elected to the Executive Committee of the Central Labor Council of Alameda in 1975. In the following year, David underwent an intense and unforgettable experience in which a 49-day strike involving 5,000 members took place, the longest county-wide strike in California history. In October 1976, he became the Executive Director of SEIU Local 616, where he served until May of 1980. He ultimately resigned from 616 in order to pursue a career as a self-employed carpenter.

In 1982, David returned to the labor movement and joined the Alameda County Tri-Local agency shop campaign to serve as an organizer, and in 1983 he once again became an organizer for Local 535, albeit for only a short period of time. During this time, he aided in the largest union security election in the history of the labor movement to date, involving more than 80,000 State workers and four bargaining units, of which 3 were won.

When David permanently returned to Local 535, he succeeded in organizing the North Bay Regional Center. He also made negotiations for the first contract for the Clinica de la Raza, and served the San Francisco chapter of Local 535 for 2 years. In November 1988, he became the northern regional director of Local 535, where he supervised 14 field staffs in 535's Sacramento, Oakland, Santa Clara, and Fresno offices. David Kramer was eventually named Executive Director of Local 535 in the fall of 1996. Less than a year later in June of 1997, he was elected to serve on the SEIU's International Executive Board, a position he will continue to hold until February 2006.

David also serves our community on the Oakland Board of Port Commissioners, a post to which he was nominated by former Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris. He has been reappointed three times since, making his record fourth appointment a first in the history of the Port of Oakland, and making David the Port's longest serving commissioner.

Today David Kramer's family, friends and colleagues come together to celebrate the impact of his life and work not only on the innumerable lives, particularly the lives of working people, he has touched here in Alameda County, but the lasting effects his dedication and leadership have had and will continue to have on our community. On behalf of the 9th Congressional District of California, I salute and thank David Kramer for his invaluable contributions to the people of Alameda County, the 9th Congressional District, the State of California and our entire country.

HONORING EBBY HALLIDAY ACERS

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional leadership and outstanding achievements of Ebby Halliday Acers, founder of Ebby Halliday Realtors. I would like to congratulate her on 60 years of extraordinary service to the North Texas community and to the real estate industry at large.

Ebby Halliday Realtors was recently honored as one of the "50 Best Companies to

Work For" in Texas, as named by Texas Monthly, the Texas Association of Business and the Society for Human Resource Management.

Founded in 1945, Ebby Halliday Realtors began as a single office operation that now consists of 28 branches and serves 12,000 square miles in North Texas. Today, Ebby Halliday Realtors is the 20th largest independent residential real estate company in the nation and the single largest in Texas. In 2004, their 1,500 sales associates and staff assisted more than 18,000 families in finding new homes.

Ebby Halliday has also remained an active and important member of our community. Her civic and professional endeavors have earned her the highest recognition and awards. I am proud to honor Ebby Halliday and her valuable contributions to the real estate industry and her community in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR MICHAEL MILLER

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael Miller of West Covina, California. Mr. Miller was first elected to serve the citizens of West Covina in March of 2001 and is completing his service as Mayor to the city this December.

Mr. Miller has a long history of service to his community. Mr. Miller worked for the City of Garden Grove for 8 years and continued his service for the City of West Covina serving in the planning and development of the community. His distinguished service of 24 years in the City of West Covina's Office of Planning, Public and Environmental Services was followed by an elected position to West Covina City Council for 4 years marked by merit. Mr. Miller also owns a small consulting business which addresses environmental and municipal issues affecting cities, individuals and small businesses.

Mr. Miller's service extends beyond his duties as an elected official and city staff member. He serves as Director and Board Member of the California Waste Association; Director and Board Member of Southern California Waste Management Forum; and member of the Southern California Council for Environment and Economic Development. Mr. Miller is a member of the Lyons Club, serving as President from 1977-1978; member of the Citrus Valley Health Foundation 2100 Club, serving as President from 1999-2000; Director and Board Member of the West Covina Historical Society; House Supervisor for the Heritage House Restoration; Committee Member of the West Covina Chamber of Commerce Economic Development and Government Affairs; Committee Member of the YWCA Women of Achievement; and Committee Member of the West Covina Rose Parade Float.

For his many contributions, Mr. Miller has been named West Covina Citizen of the Year (1998), West Covina Volunteer of the Year, Recreational Services (1999) and CovinaWest Covina Coordinating Council Volunteer of the Year (1999).