

Fayard kept their legend alive by giving lectures and demonstrations until 2004, when he suffered a stroke.

Not only is the Nicholas Brother's dance skill to be admired and remembered but so is their spirit. With each advancement in their career, they overcame racial discrimination, proving that even ignorance cannot dampen one's skills and drive. The Nicholas Brothers stand as a testament and an example to all by finding joy in following one's passion. I join the NAACP in remembering Fayard Nicholas.

NAACP MOURNS THE LOSS OF LEGENDARY
TAP DANCER FAYARD NICHOLAS

NICHOLAS BROTHERS DUO INSPIRED DANCERS
SUCH AS FRED ASTAIRE, GREGORY HINES AND
SAVION GLOVER

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) mourns the loss of Fayard Nicholas, the elder half of the tap-dancing duo the Nicholas Brothers, who died Tuesday in Los Angeles after suffering from pneumonia.

Bruce S. Gordon, NAACP President and CEO, said "Both of the Nicholas Brothers will be greatly missed. They took their passion for the art of dance and turned raw talent into skill. Each performance by the Nicholas Brothers demonstrated the depth of their creativity and left audiences gasping at their show-stopping presentation."

Fayard and his brother Harold overcame racial boundaries when their vaudeville tap show headlined New York's Cotton Club in 1932. From there the brothers went on to dazzle audiences on Broadway and Hollywood.

In 1934, the Nicholas Brothers were hired to be in their first major musical titled, *Kid Millions*, and appeared on Broadway in *The Zeigfield Follies* of 1936. Despite the lack of formal training, the Nicholas brothers also pioneered in the art of ballet and in 1937, they performed in *Babes in Arms*.

Throughout the 1940s, the Nicholas Brothers updated their style and performed in a series of musical films in Hollywood. Among those films was *Sun Valley Serenade* (1941) with performances with Dorothy Dandridge, whom Harold later married and divorced. In 1948, the pair performed a memorable routine with Gene Kelly in *Be a Clown*.

After a series of international tours, nightclub and television performances, the brothers' schedule remained tight. In 1970, Fayard captured the leading role in *The Liberation of L.B. Jones* and in 1989 won a Tony Award for his choreography of the Broadway revue *Black and Blue*, featuring child tap star Savion Glover.

In 1991, the Nicholas Brothers received the Kennedy Center Honors and were honored at the Academy Awards. Harold passed away in 2000 from heart failure, but Fayard continued to give lectures and demonstrations until suffering a stroke in November 2004. Fayard Nicholas was 91.

Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. It's adult and youth members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities and monitor equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN J. PERA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Norman J. Pera of Saugatuck, Michigan, who died on January 1, 2006, at the age of 83.

Norman J. Pera was born in Gary, Indiana, where he graduated from Horace Mann High School in 1939. He served honorably from 1942 to 1946 in the U.S. Navy, including active duty in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

Upon completing military service, he attended the Rose Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana, and graduated in 1948 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He worked for Inland Steel of East Chicago, Indiana, and retired in 1982 as the Assistant Superintendent of the Mechanical Department. Mr. Pera moved to Saugatuck in 1989 and became an active volunteer for many local organizations, giving generously of his time and his many talents.

He is survived by his wife Patricia, the great love of his life for 57 years, their 5 outstanding sons, David, Timothy, Mark, Thomas, and John; his daughters-in-law Ruth, Kathleen, Leslie and Catherine; his nephew and niece Anthony and Mary Ester Merza, and his 11 beautiful grandchildren.

Norman Pera was a principled and decent man who loved his family, his faith, his community and his country very deeply.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of my dear cousin Norman and extend to his beloved family our deepest sympathy. America has lost a magnificent citizen.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TYRONNE E.
DORAM, SR. FOR TWENTY-TWO
YEARS OF TEACHING FOR THE
CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DIS-
TRICT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tyronne E. Doram, Sr., who retired on January 20, 2006, after twenty-two years of teaching in the Clark County School District.

Mr. Doram has been a role model, mentor, and constant example of what is good in education. In 1994, he was honored as Kiwanis Teacher of the Year, and when many people are winding down their careers, Mr. Doram was instrumental in expanding the Culinary Arts program at the Area Technical Trade Center (ATTC), in North Las Vegas. His senior students have had the opportunity to complete internships in various hotel culinary departments both on and off the Las Vegas Strip. Many of his graduates have secured positions in the industry immediately after graduation while other students have continued their education in postsecondary institutions. Mr. Doram and his students were recognized by President Clinton for their contributions to the 1995 White House Christmas celebration. Graduates from the 2004 and 2005 ATTC culinary arts program have received over \$90,000 in scholarships, due mainly to Mr. Doram's fine teaching.

Prior to becoming a teacher, Mr. Doram served our country for twenty years in the United States Air Force. He retired as a Master Sergeant, with his most notable tours of duty being Vietnam and Thailand. Mr. Doram was honored by President Ford for his ideals and recommendations that saved the country

money in the operations of the culinary departments, throughout the United States Armed Forces.

The Clark County School District will greatly miss Mr. Doram, who during his years as a teacher was an outstanding educator who deeply cared about the youth of Nevada. Yet his legacy of service to the community will be seen for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor that I am able to recognize Tyronne E. Doram today, on the floor of the House in front of my colleagues. I commend Mr. Doram for his fine example and exemplary service to the State of Nevada.

UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA GRADUATE PRO-
GRAMS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the University of the District of Columbia Graduate Programs Act that amends Section 326 of the Higher Education Act to provide federal Historically Black College and University (HBCU) grant funding to the qualified graduate programs at the University of the District of Columbia.

The University of the District of Columbia, or UDC, is the District's only public university and institution of higher learning. An open admission institution at the undergraduate level, the University has consistently and historically provided higher education opportunity to D.C. residents at low and affordable cost. The University justifiably prides itself on its vital role in educating the leaders of the next generation by producing theoretically sound and practically skilled graduates, ready to undertake careers in service in both the public and private sectors.

UDC also is one of the Nation's oldest HBCUs, but the university did not receive federal funding as an HBCU until 1999, when Congress passed the District of Columbia College Access Act that my good friend, Government Reform Committee Chair TOM DAVIS, and I sponsored to establish the D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant program.

Funding from the Historically Black Graduate Institutions (HBGIs) program will allow UDC to increase its production of skilled graduates in vital disciplines and jobs in which African Americans, Hispanics and others are underrepresented and to strengthen its graduate programs in occupations where there are shortages in our region. For example, the University has graduate degree programs in cancer biology prevention and control, early childhood education, mathematics, special education, and speech and language pathology, and other graduate programs in the College of Arts and Sciences, the David A. Clarke School of Law, and the School of Business and Public Administration. A graduate curriculum is being developed in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.