

Under these oppressive conditions the Burnham Government reacted more and more with violence to a restless population now growing fed up with the paramount leader's shenanigans and political grandstanding. Walter was unapologetic about his political work and saw it as rendering a service to the people of Guyana. He was well aware that the Burnham regime was out to get him since President Burnham had allegedly told him to make his will.

Certainly among progressive circles in the Caribbean Walter was told that he should not go to Guyana since his life would be in real danger and that the Government would stop at nothing to destroy him.

But Walter accepted this as part of the price that he was willing to pay for the liberation of the people of Guyana.

On the evening of June 13, 1980 Walter Rodney was assassinated by a bomb placed in a walkie-talkie and detonated remotely. He left behind his wife, Patricia and three children. The Caribbean and Africa lost a gifted intellectual and a skilled political leader.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE RICHARD A. BENNETT OF NAPA, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2006*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Judge Richard A. Bennett as he retires after serving 20 years on the courts of Napa County, California.

Judge Bennett's extraordinary judicial leadership both on and off the bench not only improved the lives of thousands of Napa Valley residents and families, it saved many of them. Whether it was in small claims, family court, felony trials or his landmark efforts within Napa's Adult Drug Court, he had a gift of focusing on the human element that connects all of us. No one understood better than Judge Bennett the forces that can break families and communities apart as well as the common bonds that can be used to repair both.

It was this understanding of how important our bonds are to each other and to our community that enabled Judge Bennett to amass a remarkable record of reaching far more agreements than impasses in his court. And Mr. Speaker, it is this understanding that is unfortunately all too rare on our national stage today.

At a time when our political discourse has devolved to a level of partisan stagnation, our national leaders can learn a great deal from Judge Bennett and the community he has so proudly and effectively served over these past 20 years. He has built a foundation of cooperation, integrity and compassion that will continue to benefit many generations of Napa Valley residents long after his robe is retired.

Richard Bennett was born in Virginia and moved to my hometown of St. Helena at age 14 with his parents Larry and Doda. A graduate of the distinguished University of California Hastings College of Law, he practiced family law before being appointed to the Napa County Municipal Court by Governor George Deukmejian in 1985. He later became the first Presiding Judge of the Consolidated Municipal and Superior Courts for Napa County in 1993.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, because of the many contributions Judge Bennett has made

to our community and nation, it is fitting and appropriate that we honor him today as he retires from the Superior Court of Napa County and extend our best wishes to him and his family. Though he may be leaving the bench, I am confident that he will continue to provide leadership in Napa County for many years to come.

HONORING 65 YEARS OF  
AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, last week, I introduced a bipartisan resolution, along with my dear friends and colleagues, Representatives TOM REYNOLDS, CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, and LOUISE SLAUGHTER, to recognize the cultural and educational contributions of American Ballet Theatre throughout its 65 years of service as "America's National Ballet Company."

Sixty-five years ago, American Ballet Theatre was formed to fulfill two essential missions: Become one of the world's great ballet companies and bring classical dance to communities who typically are not able to experience world-class ballet.

Now, 65 years later, ABT has brought world-class dance to America and American dance to the world, including performances in 126 cities throughout all 50 states and 42 countries, often as representatives of the State Department.

Dwight D. Eisenhower recognized the important role of American Ballet Theatre over 40 years ago, stating that ABT brings "some measure of understanding of America's cultural environment and inspiration" to audiences through the medium of ballet.

ABT's mission extends beyond the pursuit of artistic greatness. ABT's extensive educational outreach programs include the award-winning Make a Ballet program, which inspires and empowers at-risk students by guiding them through the entire process of staging their own ballet. From choreography, costumes and performance to lighting, marketing and concessions, Make a Ballet has served students in the New York City region for over a decade; now, ABT is bringing Make a Ballet on tour to communities like Washington, DC, Los Angeles, Chicago and Cleveland.

For 65 years, American Ballet Theatre has entertained, inspired and educated thousands and thousands of people across the country and the world. I am proud to represent this important institution and thank my colleagues for joining me in celebrating the past 65 years with ABT. We all look forward to the next 65 years.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF GERARD  
FRANCIS SCHIAPPA

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Gerard Francis

Schiappa, director of federal relations for Turner Construction and former administrative assistant to Congressman Louis C. Wyman, who died of cancer March 17, in his home in Potomac Falls. Gerry was 67 years old.

Gerry, who had a 50-year career in government affairs, also was special counsel to former Secretary of the Navy J. William Middendorf II from 1975 to 1976 during the Ford Administration. He began his career as an elevator operator and mailroom clerk in the U.S. House of Representatives. After serving in the Army, Mr. Schiappa returned to the House, where he served on the staffs of Representatives Arch A. Moore (R-W.Va.), Joe Skubitz (R-Kan.), William C. Cramer (R-Fla.) and finally Louis C. Wyman (R-N.H.).

As Congressman Wyman's Chief of Staff, Gerry had a reputation on Capitol Hill as a brilliant political tactician who knew how to get things done. His counsel to Congressman Wyman, who served on the House Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations, helped save the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard from closure in the early 1970s. He served as a principal coordinator for Congressman Wyman's U.S. Senate campaign against John Durkin, a Democrat, in a 1975 runoff election, which is known as the closest Senate race in U.S. history.

Gerry left public service in 1978 to join the Panax Corp. as its Vice President of Public Affairs. He founded a lobbying firm, the Capital Group, in 1981 and served as its president and chief executive until 1996. In 1997, he became managing partner of Middendorf & Associates.

Gerry was born the third of 10 children in Scranton, Pa. He grew up in Mount Rainier, graduated from Northwestern High School in Hyattsville and attended Capitol Page School in Washington. He also attended Emerson Preparatory School and the University of Maryland.

He served on the executive finance committee of the 1981 and 1985 Presidential Inaugural Committees, and President Ronald Reagan's 1981 Presidential Transition Office for Intelligence Operations. He also served on the boards of numerous organizations, including the Educational Film Center and Prevision Corp. He was also a member of the Washington Performing Arts Society, ALS Association of Washington, Great Falls Citizens Association, Defense Forum Foundation and the Reagan Alumni Association.

Of all his accomplishments, Gerry was most proud of being a mentor to countless young men and women eager to begin their professional careers. John Dean, former White House counsel, wrote in his autobiography that Gerry helped him get his first job in government. Gerry is survived by his wife of 41 years, Jane Thompson Schiappa of Potomac Falls; two children, Brien Schiappa-Dunn and John Schiappa, both of Potomac Falls; a brother; eight sisters; and one granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Gerard Schiappa on the floor of the House today.