

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO COUNCILMAN GARY
M. KELLY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Councilman Gary M. Kelly, an American hero—a soldier, a leader, a father, a husband, and city councilman in the City of Cibolo, who recently passed away on October 15th, 2006. Councilman Kelly was recently named Mayor pro tem by the City of Cibolo before his death in honor of his lifetime commitment to the city and to the community.

Gary M. Kelly was born on October 1st, 1948, in the City of Utica in the State of New York to his parents, Raymond and Arlene Kelly. He graduated from high school in Whitesboro, New York, and then attended the Syracuse University College of Forestry in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science. He earned a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Alaska in Fairbanks in 1975. Shortly after graduate school, Gary joined the Squadron Officer School in 1976, thus beginning nearly thirty years of service in the United States Air Force.

Councilman Kelly served his country with great honor in the United States Air Force and received numerous military awards and accolades such as the Legion of Merit, Joint Service Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, to name just a few. He also rose quickly within the military ranks from Second Lieutenant to Colonel. His military career was focused on program management and logistics support of weapon systems for the United States Air Force at Kelly Air Force Base. It was just not his country he served with great passion, it was the City of Cibolo in the State of Texas as City Councilman. He was sworn into office on May 25th, 2005, and made numerous accomplishments such as writing the charter for the City, overseeing the creation of two fiscal budgets, establishing the Streets and Drainage Committee, the Public Safety Committee, and the Business Development Committee. He worked as the liaison to the Capital Improvements Committee, and Planning and Zoning Commission. He also was known for being a great mentor to new members of the City Council and to commission chairs.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia C. Kelly, his two sons, Allen Dearborn and Scott Kelly, his mother, Arlene, his two sisters and their spouses, Cindy and Gregory Hobbs, Karen and Raymond Jankowski, his brother, Chris Kelly and his wife, Kathleen, and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews, and friends of the family. He truly led by example and inspired his children to be the best they could be in achieving their dreams and goals. He will be missed by us all and especially by the City of Cibolo in the State of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Councilman Gary M. Kelly.

A TRIBUTE TO CARMEN S. COMAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the jazz musician, Carmen S. Comas, distinguished musician. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding artist and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

With a smile of grace that can light up a room, Carmen S. Comas was born on November 9, 1939 in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico to Arthur Comas and Patricia America Justiniano. At the young age of eighteen, Mrs. Comas was voted "Misses Smile of Mayaguez." This was just a reminder that her smile had an impact on her neighbors and her community.

At the age of twenty-one, Mrs. Comas was married with two daughters, when she decided to move to New York City. Mrs. Comas is a woman of many talents and was unsure which she would use to become the entrepreneur that she was determined to be. While attending secretary school she changed gears to open a clothing factory. She became a mentor to people in the community, showing them that opportunity does exist with guidance and determination.

Mrs. Comas' drive and expectations allowed her to continue to pursue the land of opportunity. After thirty wonderful years of learning and growing, she pursued her second passion—cooking.

After working for Heart Share Human Services of New York for ten years as a resident cook she changed gears to Cypress Hills Child Care Corporation. This experience allowed her to do her best work of nurturing children.

Loved and adored by many, Mrs. Comas acknowledges the support of her growing family. Aside from her four beautiful daughters, she has her life partner Luis who has provided her with support and empowerment throughout their lives together. She has three granddaughters: Christina, Alisson and Javalía and six grandsons: Hector, Nelson, Javier, Thomas, John and Anthony. Mrs. Comas is also a part of the extended family at the Democratic Club of North Brooklyn, the Brooklyn Highland Park Lions club.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Carmen S. Comas. Her willingness to get involved and the smile she brings makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL
ADOPTION MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate November as National Adoption Month. Originating in Massachusetts in 1976 as National Adoption Week under Governor Michael Dukakis, the honor was celebrated nationally by President Ford in 1976 and then extended to the month of November in 1990. It is a time during which we celebrate the families who have shown their commitment to children in need by opening their homes and a time to promote awareness of the need to find permanent homes for our most vulnerable children.

Permanency is important in the life of a child; with over 523,000 children in foster care, we must focus our attention on finding permanent, stable, and caring relationships for these children. Approximately 20 percent of the children in foster care have the ultimate end goal of adoption. This equals around 104,600 who are awaiting or working toward adoption. The need for quality, loving and permanent homes for these children is great. Children who age out of the foster care system are more likely to be homeless and more likely to end up in jail than their counterparts.

The issue of safe and permanent homes is of particular concern to my district, the Seventh Congressional District of Illinois. The Seventh District has the highest percentage of kinship care providers in the entire United States. I hope that our efforts in the 110th Congress will promote permanency for these children and support them and their families.

I urge organizations to continue their hard work advocating for adoption and permanency. Organizations such as the National Council for Adoption, Voice for Adoption, the Child Welfare League of America, the Children's Defense Fund, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, and the North American Council on Adoptable Children, just to name a few. Parents who adopt face many challenges and deserve our recognition and thanks. These families commit themselves to a child, emotionally, financially and mentally. The bonds they form are lifelong, and, most importantly, they positively affect the life of a child.

Mr. Speaker, as John F. Kennedy once said, "Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future." We must make sure that all of our Nation's children have hope for their future. To do this, we must ensure them loving, stable, and caring environments. Adoptive parents provide this for thousands of children every year. I thank adoptive parents as well as the numerous organizations dedicated to helping promote permanency for their commitment and sacrifice.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to The Shiloh Baptist Church, its many congregants and The Reverend James B. Rodgers. During the month of October, 2006, they are celebrating Shiloh Baptist Church's 150th Anniversary, a truly remarkable achievement. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating the Shiloh Baptist Church family and Dr. James B. Rodgers, Pastor on this momentous occasion.

The Shiloh Baptist Church is located in Sacramento, California and was first organized in 1856 as the Siloam Baptist Church. Shiloh is the oldest African-American church west of the Mississippi River and the first Baptist Church organized by African-Americans in Sacramento. Its current faithful leader is Dr. James B. Rodgers, but Shiloh has been shepherded by 27 pastoral leaders during its 150 years.

When Shiloh was first conceived it had no facilities in which to hold religious services, so it forged a strong relationship with the Chinese Americans in the area. As a result, an offer was extended to Shiloh to hold religious services at the Chinese Chapel, located at historic Sixth and H Streets in Sacramento.

The Shiloh Baptist Church is no ordinary church. It has overcome many obstacles through faith and determination. It overcame foreclosure in the 1860s; significant reduction in congregant membership because of relocations; destruction of the church facility by fire in 1861 and 1905; and the inability to secure building loans on several occasions. However, today Shiloh stands firm as a testament to the strong faith, perseverance, determination, character and courage of its founders and early congregations.

With the outstanding leadership of Pastor Emeritus Willie P. Cooke, Shiloh has provided dedicated service to the citizens of the Sacramento region through its 26 year history. Shiloh provides numerous services through its many ministries and participates in a multitude of community based programs. In recognition of these services Shiloh has deservedly received numerous Presidential, Congressional, Gubernatorial and State Legislative commendations since its inception.

In honor of its 150th anniversary, Shiloh Baptist Church began a week long celebration on Monday, October 16, 2006, culminating on Sunday, October 22, 2006. The celebration's theme takes inspiration from Ezekiel 34:26, "Shiloh, A Godly Heritage: Blessed Future."

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to thank and congratulate the Shiloh Baptist Church for its 150 years of invaluable service to the greater Sacramento community. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing the Shiloh Baptist Church and Dr. Rodgers continued success in all their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF PROFESSORS MARK LEWINE AND ORMOND BRATHWAITE FOR EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Professors Mark Lewine and Ormond Brathwaite, both of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) located in my congressional district, who will be honored on Thursday, November 16, 2006 here in Washington, DC for their excellence in undergraduate teaching as part of the U.S. Professors of the Year awards program.

For more than 20 years Dr. Mark Lewine has remained committed to undergraduate education. During his tenure at Cuyahoga Community College, he has done much to support the teaching and learning environment. He founded and directed the Center for Community Research at the college and was active in promoting the Society for Anthropology in Community Colleges. He is active with the American Anthropological Association, serving on its Advisory Committee. Dr. Lewine regularly gives informative and passionate presentation about undergraduate teaching and the importance of providing opportunities to non-traditional students. For his work, Tri-C has awarded him with the College's Besse Award recognizing the energy, creativity, discipline and high expectations he brings to his teaching.

Dr. Ormond Brathwaite has consistently demonstrated effective teaching both in and out of the classroom. Dr. Brathwaite holds a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the City University of New York. He began his career at Cuyahoga Community College in 1994 as an assistant professor in chemistry and biology. Dr. Brathwaite is committed to student learning and student success. He serves as a faculty mentor to Bridges to Success in the Sciences students and has been very instrumental in the success of the program. Additionally, Dr. Brathwaite was a recipient of the NISOD Excellence Award in 2004 and received the National Role Model Mentor Award in 2003.

Therefore it is my pleasure, on behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District to recognize Professors Mark Lewine and Ormond Brathwaite—two gifted educators whose commitment to providing quality education to all is to be commended.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEAP ACADEMY LANCER BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the LEAP Academy Lancer Basketball Team on their first South Jersey Group I championship.

The Lancer Basketball team completed their season 18–7–0. The LEAP Academy basketball program, in its second year, is affiliated with Rutgers-Camden University. Much of their

schedule consists of playing teams from the Philadelphia area and Central and North Jersey.

Coach Marco Morcos led his team to a phenomenal season that included a seven game winning streak and defeating teams like Bishop Eustace from the South Jersey region. The team included four seniors, Earl Knight, Nathaniel Cooper, William Mace, and Lance James; four juniors, Crawford John, Michael Craig, Chauncey Gillian, and Jamal Baylor-ali; two sophomores, Gary Lyons and Dylan Talley; and four freshmen, Jeremy Delgado, Orlando Hidalgo, Tyrone Parker, and Eric Johnson. Scoring leaders of the team include William Mace (196), Lance James (191), and Dylan Talley (190). Assists leaders include Lance James (103), Crawford John (42), and Dylan Talley (34). Blocks leaders include William Mace (40), Crawford John (19), and Earl Knight (10). Rebound leaders include William Mace (161), Crawford John (121) and Dylan Talley (89). Steals leaders include Crawford John (54), Lance James (40), and William Mace (26). Three point field goal leaders include Lance James (17), Dylan Talley (17), and Crawford John (12).

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to the LEAP Academy Basketball Team for an exceptional 2005–2006 season and on their championship. I wish the entire team and school the best of luck in their future athletic, personal, and professional lives.

TRIBUTE TO THE GATEWAY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, INC.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the inauguration of the new Main Facility of the Gateway Community Health Center, Inc., on October 20th, 2006, in the City of Laredo.

The Gateway Community Health Center, Inc., first began as a Migrant Health Clinic administered by the Laredo-Webb County Health Department in 1963, and has rapidly grown to one of the largest community health centers in South Texas in providing a variety of much-needed services to underserved residents of Webb County. Today, the Gateway Community Health Center operates over five sites in Webb County, serving over 18,007 residents of Webb County in 2005 alone. The new facility, which is being inaugurated today, is expected to increase the number of users in late 2006 and 2007.

The continued growth of the population in Webb County present challenges for the Gateway Community Health Center, Inc., but the dedication of its staff, especially that of Mr. Miguel Trevino, the C.E.O., will be able to make sure these challenges are met with the support they have from the community. The new Main Facility will help Gateway in providing more services and expanding its outreach to the residents of Webb County. I am very proud of the staff of Gateway Community Health Center, Inc., and their partners in making this dream possible for Laredo and Webb County.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to honor the inauguration of the new