

HONORING ALEXANDER MALLO-  
NEE OF SONOMA COUNTY, CALI-  
FORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alexander Mallonee on the occasion of his retirement as Secretary-Treasurer of the North Bay Labor Council, AFL-CIO, President of the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 183, and letter carrier for the United States Postal Service. Alex has honorably served his community for 30 years.

Mr. Mallonee's career in public service began in 1977 when he became a letter carrier and was immediately active in the union. He ascended to the presidency of Branch 183 in 1980 and became known as a highly approachable, dedicated, and principled leader. In a position that can often lend itself to conflict and acrimony, Alex firmly stood up for the rights of his members while maintaining a strong, civil dialogue with management. According to his colleagues, Alex even educated management on many social justice issues.

Mr. Mallonee's stellar work with the Letter Carriers earned him the position of Secretary-Treasurer of the North Bay Labor Council, AFL-CIO, representing member unions in Sonoma, Lake, Marin, and Mendocino counties. Under Alex's leadership, the Council's membership has grown to over 50 unions representing 30,000 working men and women in the North Bay.

Mr. Mallonee's coalition-building skills were essential in his role as a founding member of the Coalition for a Better Sonoma County, an endeavor that sought to unify progressive environmental, labor, and community groups under the shared principles of smart growth, environmental protection, social justice, and affordable housing. Alex's gift for bringing people together has resulted in a vibrant progressive movement in Sonoma County.

Mr. Mallonee's legacy will be felt long after his retirement. He is a one of a kind leader who is well-respected by the business community as well as the progressive community. He is leaving the labor movement markedly better than he found it, which is a testament to his strength of convictions and quality of character.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Alexander Mallonee for his many years of public service to the Northern Bay area of California, and to thank him for his many contributions on behalf of working men and women everywhere. We wish him the best as he enters this new phase of his life.

TRIBUTE TO ASTRONAUT  
BARBARA MORGAN

**HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, with great appreciation I rise today to honor an inspiring educator turned astronaut, Barbara Morgan, who has spent her distinguished ca-

reer ensuring our children have the knowledge and experience to fulfill their dreams. I also rise today, Madam Speaker, to thank Barbara for visiting my district to share her inspiring story and experience with local students.

This past August, Astronaut Barbara Morgan became the first teacher to complete a mission in space. While Barbara had to wait 21 years for her trip on the *Endeavour*, she completed the legacy of teacher Christa McAuliffe, who was tragically killed in the 1986 explosion of shuttle *Challenger*, by holding education sessions in orbit for students.

As Christa McAuliffe's backup for the NASA Teacher in Space Program, Barbara witnessed firsthand the tragic *Challenger* explosion. After the explosion, Barbara returned to teaching in Idaho, but in 1998 was drawn back to NASA and trained to become an astronaut and an integral part of shuttle missions. She has logged over 305 hours in space and completed her first space flight in August 2007 as a mission specialist on the crew of *Endeavour*.

Holding the first in-orbit classroom for students aboard *Endeavour*, Barbara said her 2 careers were very similar, saying in both roles, you "explore, discover and share." In these roles, Barbara has not only made a significant impact on space exploration, but she also serves as a positive role model for students. Growing up in Fresno, California, Barbara graduated with distinction from Stanford University and started teaching on the Flathead Indian reservation at Arlee Elementary School in Arlee, Montana. Most recently, Barbara taught second, third, and fourth grades at McCall-Donnelly Elementary School in Idaho.

Throughout Barbara's life, she has set an example for others to follow. Her courage and dedication to education serves as an example for us all, especially our students. It is because of teachers like Barbara that our students have the inspiration to follow their dreams.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of her tremendous service to our children and our Nation as an educator and astronaut, I ask that this honorable body join me in honoring Barbara Morgan.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER FRANCESCA  
ONLEY

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an exceptional educator and leader in the Northeast Philadelphia community. Sister Francesca Onley has been the guiding hand at Holy Family University, a fully accredited Catholic University in Northeast Philadelphia, for 25 years. Holy Family University celebrated Sister Francesca's year tenure on Thursday, November 29, 2007, at a Silver Anniversary event, with the proceeds designated to establish an endowed scholarship in her honor.

Under Sister Francesca's leadership, Holy Family attained university status, created an endowment where there was none, added 2 additional campuses, and substantially increased the number of full-time students. More recently, under Sister Francesca's direction, the University completed an education tech-

nology building, housing some of the latest technologies for preparing future teachers, including adaptive technology to help integrate disabled students into the regular classroom.

Sister Francesca recently accepted the invitation of the University's Board of Directors to continue as President through 2011. She attributes her success to the fact that she relies upon simple rules of leadership about economy, timely goals and delivering what you say you will deliver, on time! As a Sister of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Sister Francesca does not receive a salary for her work as university president.

Sister Francesca Onley grew up in the Mayfair section of Philadelphia, not far from the Holy Family campus. She graduated from Nazareth Academy High School, later becoming its principal. She earned her bachelor's degree in education and business, as well as a doctorate in higher education administration from Holy Family.

Sister Francesca serves as chairperson of the International Association of University Professors—UN Commission on Disarmament Education, Conflict Resolution and Peace. That organization's mission is to institutionalize peace education in universities around the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sister Francesca Onley for her years of service to Holy Family University, her devotion to education and innovation, and her efforts to promote peace.

IN HONOR OF CONGRESSMAN JACK  
BRINKLEY

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor former Congressman Jack Brinkley, who was recently honored by the Muscogee County Democratic party with the creation of the Jack T. Brinkley Service Award.

From his humble beginnings in the community of Faceville, GA, where he and his three sisters were raised by a single mother, Pauline Brinkley, who worked as a lunchroom supervisor in Decatur County schools, Jack Brinkley went on to become a distinguished attorney, State Representative, and U.S. Representative for the third district of Georgia. Jack was quoted recently saying "Our mother always held her head up high and worked hard." Jack also learned to work hard and developed a work ethic that has followed him throughout his life.

After high school, Jack went from southwest to north Georgia where he attended Young Harris College with two other future luminaries of public service: Former Congressman Ed Jenkins and former Lt. Governor, Governor, and Senator Zell Miller. There must have been something in the water at Young Harris, because it truly nourished the seed of service in its students.

Graduating from Young Harris, Jack became a teacher for 2 years, joined the Air Force as a pilot during the Korean Conflict, and returned to receive his law degree at the University of Georgia under the GI Bill. During the same year, he met and married the former