

noted the incredible power of the press and decided its black-and-white pages desperately needed more color. Both as a strategist working to draw minorities to newsrooms, and as a groundbreaking journalist in her own right, she paved the way for women and African Americans in an industry home to few of either group. She rose from New York Post copy girl to reporter by age 20 and soon thereafter became a member of the New York Times' metropolitan staff—the youngest and first African American woman to do so. There, she covered New York and Washington science, health, education, and domestic policy issues until 1977. At Long Island University, she earned her bachelor's degree and studied journalism, and later, she earned a law degree from Stanford University.

But her love affair with journalism did not end at the written word. In 1983, she and her husband, Robert C. Maynard, purchased the declining Oakland Tribune, which then became the only major daily with African American owners. She and he founded the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, where they ran a summer program aimed at training minority reporters. Cultivating a broader cultural perspective for American media became the cause of her life. She served as a role model to aspiring journalists of all colors and genders, an exemplar of what dedication to a cause and a strong work ethic can accomplish.

That tenacity and sense of purpose will be missed, but because of her work, her dream of a diversified newsroom has, and will continue, to concretize.

#### CAMPUS SAFETY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, September 7, 2008*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6838, "Center to Advance, Monitor, and Preserve University Security Safety Act of 2008", introduced by my colleague Congressman BOBBY SCOTT of Virginia.

Sadly, this legislation is in reaction to the numerous tragedies occurring at colleges and universities, including the disastrous events that occurred at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University. The Virginia Tech shooting resulted in the slaying of over 30 members of the Virginia Tech family and many others being wounded.

The shooting that occurred on the campus of Northern Illinois University on February 14, 2008 also killed and injured several individuals on the campus. Unfortunately, because these events were the first of their kind for the schools, they were not fully knowledgeable on how to respond.

#### CAMPUS SAFETY ACT

This legislation will assist all institutions of higher education and states receive the best information possible on campus safety.

This legislation establishes and organizes a National Center for Campus Safety (Center) which will:

1. Provide quality education and training for campus public safety agencies of institutions of higher education and the agencies' collabo-

orative partners, including campus mental health agencies;

2. Foster quality research to strengthen the safety and security of the institutions of higher education in the United States;

3. Serve as a clearinghouse for the identification and dissemination of information, policies, procedures, and best practices relevant to campus public safety, including off-campus housing safety, the prevention of violence against persons and property, and emergency response and evacuation procedures;

4. Develop protocols, in conjunction with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Education, State, local, and tribal governments and law enforcement agencies, private and nonprofit organizations and associations, and other stakeholders, to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from, natural and man-made emergencies or dangerous situations involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of the campus community;

5. Promote the development and dissemination of effective behavioral threat assessment and management models to prevent campus violence;

6. Coordinate campus safety information (including ways to increase off-campus housing safety) and resources available from the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Education, State, local, and tribal governments and law enforcement agencies, and private and nonprofit organizations and associations;

7. Increase cooperation, collaboration, and consistency in prevention, response, and problem-solving methods among law enforcement, mental health, and other agencies and jurisdictions serving institutions of higher education in the United States;

8. Develop standardized formats and models for mutual aid agreements and memoranda of understanding between campus security agencies and other public safety organizations and mental health agencies; and

9. Report annually to Congress and the Attorney General on activities performed by the Center during the previous 12 months.

The Center will train campus public safety agencies, encourage research to strengthen college safety and security, and serve as a clearinghouse for the dissemination of relevant campus public safety information. By having this information, institutions of higher education will be able to easily obtain the best information available on ways to keep campuses safe and secure and how to respond in the event of a campus emergency.

#### TEXAS

The good state of Texas has 214 institutions of higher learning alone, with Texas Southern University, University of Houston, and Texas Technical University to name just a few.

With so many institutions comes, so many different standards of campus safety regulations.

#### CONCLUSION

This legislation would consolidate the information from the various colleges and universities so that the standards for collaboration in prevention, response, and problem-solving methods among law enforcement, mental health, and other agencies is consistent throughout the nation. What is done at Prairie View A&M University is also done at UCLA, is done at New York University, and is done at the University of Florida.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6838 and ensure that our colleges and universities are safe places for our young people to study and learn.

#### TRIBUTE TO ELLEN LANER

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 3, 2008*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and constituent, the late Ellen Laner of Mission Hills, Kansas, who passed away on September 28th.

Ellen Laner led a long and productive life, which served to make Johnson County, Kansas, a much better place for her neighbors and friends. Ellen was a committed and passionate community volunteer who also was very politically engaged. She was named Citizen of the Year by the United Community Services; twice named Volunteer of the Year by the Johnson County Mental Health Association; received the Hannah B. Solomon Award from the National Council of Jewish Women; awarded the Stand Up, Speak Out Award from the Mainstream Coalition; helped in the establishment of Johnson County Community College and served as a member of its Board of Trustees; had many years of service in the Kansas League of Women Voters, eventually serving as President; was very active in the establishment and growth of the Mainstream Coalition and served as President; volunteered as a Board Member of the Johnson County Library Foundation; was an active volunteer for Planned Parenthood of Kansas City and Western Missouri, working as its Resource Development Director and for a short time was its Executive Director; and was a founder of the Johnson County Coalition for Prevention of Child Abuse, now known as Sunflower House.

Ellen Laner was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, the daughter of Noland and Isabel Blass. She came to the Kansas City area in 1950 after her marriage to S. Harvey "Bud" Laner, who preceded her in death in 1980. She was a member of the New Reform Temple and Oakwood Country Club, and loved golf, bridge, dogs, and professional sports. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Joel and Marsha Laner, and their three children, Allison Laner, Blass Laner and Duncan Laner of Kansas City, Missouri. She also is survived by her brother and his wife, Gus and Patricia Blass of Little Rock, and their children, Gus Blass, III, and his wife, Becky; by her sister Constance Blass O'Neill and her husband, Chris; her sister-in-law, Barbara Phillips of Little Rock and her children, Beverly Wittenberg and Peter Phillips and her great-nieces and nephews.

Ellen Laner's civic accomplishments range far and wide, and our community owes her a great deal for her leadership in making Johnson County the strong and caring community that it is today. I was a part of the same generation of many young women, educated in colleges across the Nation in the 1960s, who ended up in Johnson County as the wives of the young men who worked in various professions and businesses in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Motivated by the political turbulence of the 1960s, we wanted to do more for