

HONORING MARTINA “TEENA”
BOREK

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Martina “Teena” Borek, one of South Dade’s best known farmers, and a dedicated mother.

Teena grew up in a small fishing village in Newfoundland and would visit her aunt’s farm in South Dade during summer breaks. It is there where she met her late husband, Steven Borek, who came from one of Homestead’s oldest farming families. The two married and started their own farm, Steven Borek Farms. They also had two children, Steven Jr. and Michael. Unfortunately, Steven lost his life shortly thereafter in an accident on the family property and Teena was left to raise the children and run the farm. Despite the loss of her husband, and a lack of knowledge in farming, Teena managed to successfully continue the family business, which continues to thrive today. She has proven to be one of South Dade’s most innovative farmers, being Homestead’s first to use a linear irrigation system and a computer for her work. She does not shy away from using new technologies and products, has engaged in research efforts and has learned to follow the changing market, responding to demand and adapting her crop. Teena has also surpassed devastating freezes and the hit of Hurricane Andrew, which forced her to basically start from scratch.

Despite facing adversity on several occasions, Teena has not given up. Her hard work and passion coupled with her desire to succeed, have allowed her to be both a loving mother and savvy businesswomen. She is a leader in the agriculture industry and never fails to give back to our community. She has been involved with the Dade County Farm Bureau, the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, the Florida Tomato Growers Exchange, the Florida Heartland Heritage Foundation, the Florida Farm Bureau Labor Advisory Committee, South Dade High School Agricultural Advisory Council, Dade County Women in Agriculture and the Everglades Community Association, to name a few.

As we celebrate Women’s History Month, I ask you to join me in honoring Martina “Teena” Borek, a successful businesswoman, community leader and mother, who vowed to continue her husband’s legacy. Her story and accomplishments should serve as inspiration to others.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF THE
HONORABLE THOMAS H. KELLY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and mourn the extraordinary life of the honorable Thomas H. Kelly upon his passing at the age of 74.

Born on May 27, 1935, Tom Kelly was a man devoted to helping his fellow human beings through public service. In his lifetime,

Tom served as a teacher, Wayne City Councilman, Michigan State Representative; and he worked closely with the Wayne County Commission.

Regrettably, on March 24, 2010, Thomas Kelly passed from this earthly world to his eternal reward. He is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Bridget, and their four sons Thomas, Patrick, Michael and Kevin; and five grandchildren, Emma, Joseph, Carl, Kalen and Ava. Tom will also be ever remembered as a loving brother by Sister Anne Kelly.

Madam Speaker, Thomas Kelly was a loving husband, father and grandfather; an honorable and effective leader; and a true friend to all blessed to know him. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join his family and our entire community in mourning Tom Kelly’s passing; and in honoring his exemplary service to Michigan and America.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ALICE JONES
NICKENS

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, on April 10, 2010, friends and family will gather to celebrate the birthday of Mrs. Alice Jones Nickens, a retired teacher who has had a tremendous impact on North Carolina’s First Congressional District. Born on April 14, 1904 in Winton, North Carolina, Mrs. Nickens will be celebrating her 106th birthday.

Affectionately known as “Miss Alice,” she earned a Bachelor’s degree from Hampton Institute—now known as Hampton University—and a Master’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Miss Alice taught second grade at C.S. Brown School in Winton, North Carolina for 47 years. And, after retiring, she served as a substitute teacher for 10 years.

She has been active in preserving the rich history of C.S. Brown School, formerly known as Chowan Academy and then Waters Training School. It was the State’s first secondary school for children of color, and Miss Alice’s mother, Annie Walden Jones, was the school’s first graduate. She has also played a key role in documenting and preserving the history of Winton, North Carolina and the surrounding communities.

Mrs. Nickens was a charter member of the C.S. Brown Cultural Arts Center. Along with her sister, Sally, Mrs. Nickens was instrumental in securing \$200,000 from the State to help restore the building.

She has long been a devoted member of Pleasant Plains Baptist Church, and served as a member of its trustee board.

Mrs. Nickens has also served as Vice President of the Democratic Women’s Club of Hertford County, and as a volunteer of the Auxiliary of Roanoke Chowan Hospital.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Mrs. Alice Jones Nickens. She is truly a remarkable woman deserving of our deepest gratitude for the enormous contributions that she made in the lives of children in eastern North Carolina and to the entire community.

RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to mark the passage of this historic legislation and to thank the individuals whose hard work made this moment possible. Of course we would never have gotten here without the perseverance of our Speaker, NANCY PELOSI, Majority Leader STENY HOYER, and Majority Whip, JIM CLYBURN. Also, Congressman JOHN LARSON, Chair of the Democratic Caucus and XAVIER BECERRA, Vice Chair. I would also like to thank Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN for his leadership and the Committee and Subcommittee Chairs whose perseverance brought us to this historic vote today: Chairmen GEORGE MILLER from Education and Labor, CHARLIE RANGEL from Ways and Means, HENRY WAXMAN from Energy and Commerce and SANDER LEVIN from Ways and Means and Subcommittee Chairs PETE STARK from Ways and Means and FRANK PALLONE from Energy and Commerce. I would especially like to thank my regional colleagues, Education and Labor Subcommittee Chairman BOB ANDREWS, Budget Committee Vice Chair ALLYSON SCHWARTZ, House Administration Chairman BOB BRADY, Congressman MIKE DOYLE, Congressman PATRICK MURPHY and Congresswoman BARBARA LEE and Delegate DONNA CHRISTENSEN who represented the Congressional Black Caucus in critical negotiations. This bill will be good for my District, our region, and our country. We in the Congress owe a debt of gratitude to our President, Barack Obama, who led this historic effort.

I would be remiss if I didn’t thank the staff whose talents are rarely seen in public, but without whom this would never have happened. First, Liz King in my office, an ardent advocate for my constituents in this debate. In the White House, Nancy-Ann DeParle whose institutional memory and long-term commitment to healthcare access for all contributed to the success of this effort. Cheryl Parker Rose and Wendell Primus in the Speaker’s office, Catherine Tran in the Democratic Caucus, Debbie Curtis and Cybele Bjorklund on the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, Michele Varnhagen on the Education and Labor Health Subcommittee and Karen Nelson on the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee staff.

On the local level, I would like to extend my appreciation to Marc Stier at Health Care for America NOW and Bob Brand a close friend, local advocate and veteran in this fight. I would also like to thank the countless constituents who called my Washington and Philadelphia offices, sharing their stories and raising their voices on behalf of health reform for themselves and their neighbors.

I want to thank and congratulate each and every one of them for getting this bill to this point and for giving me the opportunity to vote for affordable, secure healthcare for America’s families.