

us to "go for it", and went out of her way for others. Her generous nature made us feel honored to be accepted as her friends.

When you needed a spokesperson, a mediator or a dragon fighter, Helen was there. Helen was known for her high sense of values, family pride, love for life and integrity. Compassionate and dignified could be used to describe this gracious and joyful woman. She showed us what it meant to have courage and to value family, friends, and life. She shared her life with all of us—moment by moment. She encouraged us, she challenged us, she brought out the best in us. Helen taught all of us. She taught us how to enjoy every bit of life. She taught us, through her own example, how to live."

Her thoughtfulness and influence extended far past the campus of John F. Kennedy High School. She can count on many other students as her pupils. Joshua Tenorio, one of my legislative assistants is included as one of those students. He met her many years ago during a trip to Washington he had made to participate in the Close-up Program. As a representative of the Guam Youth Congress, Joshua did not have an advisor. Helen adopted her group and they bonded from then on. Joshua told me:

She was a true inspiration to us all. She was always encouraging and provided us with her full support. Her death is a loss to the entire island of Guam for she represented everything positive about being an educator. She lives on in the minds of the hundreds of students she touched with her heart. I know that her husband and her children can safely say that she led the best possible life. That is why we should celebrate it whenever we think of her. One thing is for sure, she will never be forgotten.

Helen was my colleague in various projects over the years. She was intelligent, committed, and a positive influence on everyone she came into contact with. I will miss her, her students will miss her, and the people of Guam have lost a great educator.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I submit this statement for the RECORD. May others take note and use her as an example of the best that we can be. My sincere condolences go out to her husband, Kenneth, and her children and their spouses, Kenneth and Llolanda, Monique, and Brett, and her two grandchildren, Katherine and Kieran.

IN MEMORY OF JANIE TIJERINA
OF HOUSTON, TX

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a valuable member of the Houston community, Mrs. Janie Gonzales Tijerina, who passed away on Sunday, March 2, 1997. Mrs. Tijerina was among Houston's most prominent community leaders, but perhaps will be most remembered as the owner of Felix Mexican Restaurants which she founded with her husband, the late Felix Tijerina, Sr., in the 1930's. Following her husband's death in 1965, Mrs. Tijerina continued to run the restaurants with her family until her death last week. As much as the community of Houston loved and respected Mrs. Tijerina, her family has suffered an even greater loss.

Mrs. Tijerina touched the lives of many generations in Houston. While I was a regular

customer at her restaurant since almost birth—in fact both of my daughters can claim to have eaten at Felix's under her watchful eyes within one week of their respective births—I came to know Mrs. Tijerina while serving as chairman of the Harris County Democratic Party, when we leased space in the flagship restaurant on Westheimer for use as a polling place. I will always remember her enthusiastic greeting and her meticulous dedication to satisfying her customers. She truly ran what is now a Houston institution. She was one-of-a-kind and will be greatly missed by generations, including four in my family, who were fortunate enough to have met her and spent time with her.

Janie Tijerina treated everyone in Houston as a family member, and now that family mourns her passing. I ask unanimous consent to insert in the RECORD at this point an article and obituary which appeared in the Houston Chronicle on March 4, 1997.

RESTAURATEUR JANIE TIJERINA DIES AT AGE
88

Services will be held Wednesday for Janie Gonzales Tijerina, who helped her husband, Felix Sr., launch Felix Mexican Restaurants 60 years ago.

She died Sunday at age 88 after a long illness.

Tijerina had served on the Municipal Arts Commission and numerous other boards.

"Her death helps mark the passing of the founding generation of the truly prominent Hispanic Houstonians who began to attract citywide attention," said historian Thomas H. Kreneck.

Tijerina's husband, likewise deeply involved in civic projects, was national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens before his death in 1965.

In the 1930s, the Tijerinas were a struggling couple in Houston. He had tried to launch a restaurant, and they were living in a spare, one-room house.

One day, her boss at a variety store gave her \$50 to bet on a horse at Epsom Downs, the area's former horse track. He was such a skinflint, she knew he wouldn't risk that much money unless he was sure the horse would win.

She had promised her husband to stop gambling but couldn't resist betting on the same horse. She hocked her jewelry and furs and their car, plus got a few dollars from other shop girls, and bet \$450.

The horse won, but Felix, then a beer truck driver, was shocked and said: "Janie, what have you done?"

She confessed about renegeing on her promise, gave him the winnings (about \$1,100 after their property was redeemed), told him to open a restaurant and pledged, "You're going to be the only boss."

Tijerina is survived by a son, Felix Jr., and a daughter, Janie.

JANIE GONZALES TIJERINA

Janie Gonzales Tijerina (Mrs. Felix Tijerina, Sr.), 88, owner of Felix Mexican Restaurants, died Sunday, March 2, 1997 in Houston. Mrs. Tijerina was born December 20, 1908, in Sandyfork, Texas. She was a member of St. Anne Catholic Church, was past president of the Downtown Women of Rotary and was the first woman granted a membership in the Rotary Club of Houston, (Downtown). She was past president of the Pilot Club of Houston, a member of the Salvation Army, the Chamber of Commerce of Houston, South Houston and Pasadena, was a former board member of the National Hotel Association of Mexico City, member of the City Art Commission, past member of the

Board of Directors of The University of Houston, Sheltering Arms, and the Houston Women's Club.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Felix Tijerina, Sr. and is survived by her daughter Janie Tijerina; son Felix Tijerina, Jr. and wife Sandra Kay; grandchildren Cary Jordan Tijerina and Katherine Ann Tijerina.

Friends may call at Geo. H. Lewis & Sons, 1010 Bering Drive, after 12:00 noon Tuesday, where a Rosary in English will be recited at 6:30 p.m., and in Spanish at 7:30 p.m. The funeral mass will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, 1997, at St. Anne Catholic Church, 2140 Westheimer, with Rev. David Zapalac celebrant. Rite of Committal will follow in the Garden of Gethsemane, Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery. Active Pallbearers will be Eugene Galindo, Alejandro Parra, Sia Ravari, Cary Tijerina, Janie B. Tijerina and James E. Wiggins. Honorary Pallbearers will be Frank Barrera, Joe Gonzalez, Hewitt Jenkins, Thomas Kreneck, Paul Pressler, Sr. and Joseph Soper. For those desiring, memorial contributions may be given to The University of Houston System, 1600 Smith, Suite 3400, Houston, Texas, 77002 Attn: General Endowment Fund for Scholarships, or to a charity of your choice.

IN MEMORY OF MARTIN SLATE

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to take a few moments to express my sadness at the passing of a truly dedicated public servant. His name was Martin Slate, Since 1993, Mr. Slate had served as executive director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation [PBGC]. In this capacity, he was charged with safeguarding the hard-earned pension benefits of millions of working Americans. It was a job he did brilliantly. He arrived at the PBGC at a time when the agency was in danger of failing in its mission to guarantee the pension benefits of American workers. He developed a plan to set things right and went about doing so. Director Slate led the effort to make needed reforms in the pension laws, he restored the PBGC to a level of solvency it had not seen in decades, and he spearheaded a new initiative to track down missing pension participants and provide them with the benefits they had earned but not received.

While at PBGC, Director Slate worked closely with leaders from Capitol Hill, particularly with former Congressman J.J. "Jake" Pickle. Writing to Director Slate's spouse last week, Congressman Pickle remarked:

We should give eternal thanks for Marty's leadership in the Pension Benefit Guaranty Program. For years neither the Administration nor Congress could remove road blocks that kept badly-needed pension reform from enactment. Marty Slate knew the problem, and knew how to chart a course of action. As Chairman of the Congressional Subcommittee that had jurisdiction over pension reform, I can vouch that Marty, more than anyone, led the fight that resulted in the passage of the Retirement Protection Act of 1994. Countless millions of American workers, now and in the future, owe a deep debt of gratitude to this great man.

Having worked closely with Director Slate on pension policy over the past several years, I share Congressman Pickle's enormous gratitude for the leadership and vision he provided