

In the Second Congressional District of Indiana there are so many good people.

Good people doing good things.

In my book, these special individuals are Hoosier Heroes.

Hoosier Heroes because they have dedicated their lives to helping others.

Mr. Speaker, Ron Clark of Anderson, IN, is a Hoosier Hero.

For the past 31 years of his life, he has dedicated himself to the admirable profession of teaching.

He taught honors English and drama with passion that inspires.

This senior thespian enthusiastically directed lives on and off the stage, offering guidance to the young men and women of Highland High School.

He touched young lives in their formative years, building up their self-confidence and nurturing their love for theater. Ron left an indelible impression on all those who took his class.

He took kids with special needs and nurtured them with an unconventional teaching style, engaging children at their own level.

Principal Brown of Highland High School called him an "exemplary teacher and excellent role model."

Mr. Brown told the tale of how Mr. Clark took a troubled child who was misguided and got him on the right path by involving him with acting.

Ron inspired a number of students to pursue theater in college. But regardless of whether they pursued theater or not, each developed a special appreciation of the stage, giving them a taste of the magic that so many dream of.

Former drama department chair and colleague Linda Trout remarked, "He always picked challenging plays and put on two a year, which is one more than people usually do. And he got students involved with everything from directing to making the props. He even wanted to get kids from the junior high school involved."

Ron was always going out of his way to help the students, conducting numerous workshops for the local junior high school. In fact, he took students to New York every year for workshops and Broadway plays. This is the kind of man he was.

He was given the "Hoosier Teacher of the Year" award by the Indiana Teachers of English in recognition for his excellence in teaching.

At the farewell production, a play of Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities" was performed to an audience of grateful students, parents, and alumni.

Former students from across the country embarked on the pilgrimage back to their old high school, just to see their beloved mentor.

They brought gifts and congratulations, thanking Ron for making such an impact on their lives. His wife, Sandra, compiled a book of letters written by appreciative faculty, staff, and students.

This was the last play in the career of Ron Clark—the final act in a rich and memorable life of teaching children.

On the final day at school, he said to Principal Brown, "I'm retired but I'm not done. If you ever need me to come and help at school, just let me know."

And for that reason, Ron Clark of Anderson, IN, is a Hoosier Hero.

Mr. Speaker, that is my Report from Indiana.

TRIBUTE TO WES BISGAARD

HON. DUNCAN L. HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable dedication and contributions of a constituent in my district, Mr. Wes Bisgaard of Holtville, CA. Wes is the manager of the Imperial County Farm Bureau, but he will soon be retiring and I would like to take a moment to commend his devoted service to his community.

The Bisgaard family's move to California reads like the "Grapes of Wrath". After the dust bowl the family moved from their farm in North Dakota to California where they joined other family members in operating a dairy farm. Later, the family members began their own farm in Holtville, CA, where they remain today.

During World War II, Wes worked for Douglas Aircraft on the new DC-3, and later became a quality control supervisor as the DC-4, the first pressurized aircraft, was developed. This plane was later appropriated by the Federal Government as a war transport plane and renamed the C-54. During this period Wes met and married Mildred "Millie" Eppelman.

In 1952, Wes and Millie along with their two children, Karen and Christopher, moved to Imperial Valley to join his brother and once again take up his first love: farming. The Bisgaard brothers farmed 1,000 acres in alfalfa, lettuce, cotton, sugar beets, barley, cabbage, and later wheat for seed.

Agriculture is of critical importance to Imperial Valley. Since he arrived in Holtville, Wes has been a very active member of the local and State farming community, serving on a number of advisory boards and commissions. Wes has been a director of the Imperial County Farm Bureau for over 40 years. During that time he served as president of the bureau early in its history, then again from 1990 through 1994, and is now its manager. He served as director for District 1, San Diego and Imperial Counties, of the California Farm Bureau Federation for 11 years, as well as director for its Cal-Farm Insurance Bureau and the Cal-Farm Life Insurance Co. Wes is a 30-year member, and first chairman, for the Cotton Pest Control Board of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. On the international front, Wes has served for nearly 30 years as cochairman of the International Cotton Pest Work Committee, which coordinates scientific information developed by both the United States and Mexico.

Salinas Lettuce Marketing Coop helped Imperial Valley farmers form the Highline Lettuce Coop with Wes as one of the founding directors. During a time when farm workers were often sacrificed in favor of increased profits, Wes successfully encourage Highline to build for the Bracero Mexicans a permanent labor camp constructed of block, with showers, a walk-in cooler, air conditioning, etc. These are just a few of Wes Bisgaard's accomplishments.

Although Wes is formally resigning from the management of the Imperial County Farm Bu-

reau, his contributions to our community and our State will be long remembered. In fact, if I know Wes, his gifts of time to and his love for our Valley are far from over. I am joined by the many families involved in the farming community of Imperial Valley when I say thank you for all that you have done, and we look forward to working with you in the future. Although the Farm Bureau will miss him, I am certain that he will continue to fight for the needs of the Valley.

THE HONORABLE CARRIE P. MEEK
HONORS MR. ODELL JOHNS,
SOUTH DADE'S GREAT COMMUNITY LEADER

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a distinct honor to pay tribute to one of Miami's unsung heroes, Mr. Odell Johns. His untimely demise from the scourge of diabetes last Monday, June 2, 1997 will truly leave a deep void in our community.

Mr. Johns, 65, represented the best and the noblest of our community. Having dedicated a major portion of his life to the civil rights movement since the early sixties, he tirelessly continued his historic struggle to ensure the creation of employment services and equal educational opportunities for our South Dade residents, regardless of ethnic background, creed, or gender.

"He was known in his community as the man to turn to when a job needed to get done in South Dade," said Col. Brodes Hartley, president of Community Health Initiative. "Whether it was public housing, economic development for local business or the health care needs of the community, he always found time to get involved."

A meticulous father and a firm believer in the centrality of God in his family and his community, he was driven by his Christian stewardship on behalf of others, especially those who could least fend for themselves. Because of his missionary zeal of consecration to the well-being of others, many of South Dade's impoverished residents can now have access to primary health care and mental health services. His brand of leadership was genuinely anchored on his sterling integrity and resilient initiative. Most of my district's South Dade constituency has credited him with virtually every major improvement that is now benefiting the community for which he cared so deeply.

In 1953 Mr. Johns graduated from my Alma Mater, Florida A&M University, with a political science degree. He subsequently responded to his country's calling by joining the U.S. Army, serving as an officer with the rank of lieutenant in the Artillery Corps.

During the civil rights movement the acumen of his intelligence and the longevity of his commitment was felt at a time when our community needed someone to put in perspective the pains and agonies of disenfranchised African-Americans and other minorities yearning to belong and participate in the American dream. Along with Col. Hartley, he was one of the leaders in the bus boycott in Tallahassee, FL, that subsequently followed the landmark