

TRIBUTE TO MS. BARBARA BROWN'S EFFORTS FOR PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS

**HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 1999*

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Barbara Brown of Coleman, Texas who is crusading for increased awareness of prostate cancer in honor of her late father, Carl Houston Hale, of West Memphis, Arkansas, who lost his life to this cancer on December 12, 1997. Known as a silent killer, prostate cancer will affect over 175,000 men in the United States this year. Today alone, approximately 100 men will die from this disease, and in one year over 37,000 will be lost as well. Excluding skin cancer, cancer of the prostate is the most common malignancy and the second leading cause of death among men in the United States. The risk of prostate cancer increases with age; more than 80% of all prostate tumors are diagnosed in men over age 65. And while 1 in 5 men will develop prostate cancer in their lifetime, we still know far too little about the cause and behavior of this silent killer. Clearly, it is a national problem that has a severe impact on our nation.

In her younger years, Barbara sang in gospel groups, and dreamed of recording her own album. Through the grief of her father she wrote two songs, "Resting In the Arms of the Lord" and "Wind That Blows From Heaven," in an effort to cope with the overwhelming emotion of losing her father. These two songs eventually led to the recording of her first album in March 1998, entitled "Resting In the Arms of the Lord." With this Barbara achieved a life-long aspiration amidst unfortunate circumstances, and she is committed to donating a part of her tapes' proceeds to the American Cancer Society. As each tape is sold, a part of her father's life and his memory touches the lives of so many others, all while working towards the ultimate goal of a cure.

Additionally Barbara has devoted her life to bringing more awareness to this disease by urging men to seek regular check-ups and treatment if necessary. At Barbara's urging, the Coleman County Commissioners Court passed a proclamation declaring September 21st through September 27st as Prostate Cancer Awareness Week and advocating all to be aware of prostate cancer. With this proclamation, countless lives could be saved. Barbara also has plans to continue to promote awareness of this disease in the community of Coleman as well as surrounding areas by hosting various on-going promotional events raising money for the American Cancer Society.

I close by using Barbara's words which I believe have distinguished her as a heroic woman: "Out of our pain comes some of our greatest accomplishments. As I continue to educate men on this disease, hopefully it will prevent another person from having to face this needless pain. I have a responsibility to do this: in honor of my father's memory."

I ask that all of my colleagues join me in honoring Barbara for her efforts, and I encourage all Americans to take that crucial step of participating in important health screenings and visiting your doctor regarding health concerns. Early detection is critical for survival.

IN CELEBRATION OF LORRIE NELSON'S DEDICATION TO EDUCATION

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 1999*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the energy and dedication that Lorraine "Lorrie" Nelson, a fifth-grade teacher in my district, brings to her classroom and her profession. The Poinsettia Elementary School educator was honored this week as Ventura County's Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Nelson was raised to be a teacher, although she didn't realize it until she was engrossed in law school. Her parents encouraged the young Lorrie and her brother to engage in family discussions, to ask questions and expect answers. She learned to listen from her parents' example. Now, after some 10 years of encouraging other young minds to learn. Mrs. Nelson couldn't see herself doing anything else.

Children in the Ventura Unified School District who have experienced her lesson plans calls her "funny" and even "crazy." But it's fun with a purpose. Mrs. Nelson encourages her students to set high standards and helps them achieve them. She believes teachers should be skillful in the topics they teach our children, a subject I have strongly supported legislatively for several years.

To achieve her goal, Mrs. Nelson directed the Ventura Unified Writing Project from 1993 to 1997. The Writing Project is a mentoring program for teachers who write extensively, demonstrate instructional techniques and examine research in the teaching of writing.

This past summer, Mrs. Nelson taught a two-week course titled "Integrating Standards with Inspirational Teaching." She has been a presenter for the South Coast Writing Project Summer Institutes for the Ventura Unified School District and Santa Barbara School Districts, in such topics as Writing Workshop, Writing Response and Reading Comprehension. In the fall, she will work the Shoah Foundation to develop a curriculum for oral histories of Holocaust survivors.

She is, of course, a published writer.

But her real accomplishments are in inspiring her students. One way she has done that is by pairing her students with some influential adults—their parents—in a writing program suitably titled "Family of Writers."

Not surprisingly, Mrs. Nelson has garnered numerous honors, starting with her first year of teaching, when she was recognized as the Ventura Unified School District Sallie Mae First Year Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, Ventura County has rightly honored Mrs. Nelson as the model other educators should strive to be. She holds her students accountable in a fun, productive learning environment. She holds herself and her peers accountable by stressing the skills teachers need to be effective educators.

Next month, Mrs. Nelson will compete for California Teacher of the Year. Win or lose, education will always be victorious in her classroom.

Mrs. Speaker, I'd like to close with Mrs. Nelson's own thoughts, her closing words in her Professional Biography. After hearing these words, I know my colleagues will join me in

congratulating her for her award and thank her for dedicating herself to our children.

"Even though students leave my classroom with beautifully bound poetry anthologies, framed self-portraits, and cherished pet beetles, my greatest contribution as a teacher is invisible. Students leave with an understanding that their opinions are important. They know that life is a process of learning, questioning and revising. They become life-long learners."

We couldn't ask for anything more.

HONORING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF GREATER LANSING

**HON. DEBBIE STABENOW**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 1999*

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, the Big Brother Big Sisters of Greater Lansing program celebrates 45 years of bringing together young people at risk with older people willing to serve as a role model and mentor.

Before terms like "quality time," "mentoring," or "at risk youth" were buzz words in our society, Big Brothers and Big Sisters has been helping to give young people something we all need—a friend.

Perhaps more than any other program this century, the Big Brothers Big Sisters program offers an inspiring example of what can happen when an adult is willing to be a friend to a young person in need of a positive influence. Like similar programs throughout the country, the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program of Greater Lansing has been a smashing success.

I would like to thank the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Lansing and everyone who has made the commitment to serve as a big brother or big sister for a child. Thousands of children have found the friend, the confident, the role model they never had in their big brothers and big sisters. I send my sincere thanks to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Lansing for taking the time to care and make the Lansing community a better place for all children.

TANNER PRAISES CAREER OF P-I PUBLISHER, BILL WILLIAMS

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 1999*

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, Bill Williams understands what community journalism is all about: ensuring an informed citizenry.

And he practiced that kind of community journalism in the pages of the Paris Post-Intelligencer every day.

Now at 65, he has decided to retire as publisher of the Paris Post-Intelligencer on August 20, 1999. He had been the paper's publisher since 1978, when he took his father's place at the paper's helm.

Bill took seriously the responsibility that comes with a free press, and you knew it immediately when you read his editorial page.