TRIBUTE TO CHARLES REID ROSS

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2000

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, one of the Titans of North Carolina's public education system, Charles Reid Ross, a pipe-smoking gentle man who left an indelible impression on the communities and state he served, died November 12, 2000, on his birthday. He was 93.

If anyone deserves to be characterized as a Renaissance man, Reid Ross earned that title. He was a teacher, school superintendent, civil rights hero, political leader, builder of schools and colleges, champion of putting art and music in schools, husband, father, friend to thousands. All were roles Reid Ross played to the hilt.

''He was very ready,'' his daughter, Sue Fields Ross, said of her father's death. ''He wanted to have a big celebration. He felt very much that he has run the race.''

''He loved a good funeral,'' Margaret Ross, a niece, said of her uncle. ''He probably went to more funerals than anybody in North Carolina. He did it out of honor.''

Arthur Ross III, a great-nephew who helped preach at the funeral, said that if his uncle could have attended the funeral, he would probably have done ''a little politicking on the lawn,'' all on behalf of the Democratic party, and would have loved the music provided by a string quartet from the school named in his honor.

Ross began his teaching career on Hatteras Island when the only way of communicating with the island was by the mail boat. He went from there to spend 40 years in the schools of Lenoir County, Harnett County, and Fayetteville. He was superintendent of schools in Harnett County for 10 years before becoming superintendent in Fayetteville in 1951, a post he would hold until his retirement in 1971.

The times and man coincided when the civil rights revolution hit North Carolina. As The Fayetteville Observer said in an editorial at Ross' death, Ross ''was an educational visionary. He instinctively knew when the public education system needed to go to be viable in the future. More important, he knew how to get it there, and had the personality to do it. That gift became crucial during the years of school integration. While many school systems in the South fumbled and stagnated, schools in Fayetteville kept moving forward. He pushed for buildings and for increased funding. Politically courageous at a time when schools had been separate and unequal, he insisted that spending had to be fair and equitable.''

One observer of the period said: ''Don't ever negotiate with a man who smokes a pipe. Between the packing and re-packing and the lighting and re-lighting, he's eventually going to get his way.''

The Fayetteville newspaper went on to give Ross credit for shaping the response of other school superintendents across the state and the South.

''In fact, to look back a the best educational decisions made in the history of this community's schools is to look closely at Ross' career. If's his managed style that helped shape the standard of how school superintendents should lead. it's his personality and insight that influenced educators throughout the state. It's the people he hired and the people he inspired who, long after he retired, continued to make lasting contributions to the betterment of public education.''

Ross was responsible for building 12 schools during his years in Fayetteville. One high school named in his honor and exists today as Reid Ross Classical School.

During the period involved, Ross was also a power behind the scenes in the North Carolina Education Association, at that time the organization representing most of the white educators in the state. Ross' gentle advice and courage was deeply involved in the merger of NCEA and the North Carolina Teachers Association in 1970 into the present North Carolina Association of Educators. Quietly, firmly, without fanfare, he insisted that his colleagues do the right thing.

Ross' other contributions are numerous. He established sheltered works for the handicapped. He insisted that art and music had a place in the public school curriculum and eventually won that battle. He helped found the Fayetteville Industrial Education Center that became Fayetteville Technical College.

He started the first girls' basketball at Fayetteville High School. He served two terms as president of the High School Athletics Association, helping to put in place many of the policies that still prevail for high school sports.

Ross was a deacon and elder in Lillington Presbyterian Church. He was a charter member of the Lillington Rotary Club. And until his death, he was active in the Democratic Party and cared deeply about how the University of North of Carolina basketball team was doing.

Our state has lost one of its great educational leaders. A man in the same mold as the late Terry Sanford. A man who did his duty as he saw it for the good of the fellow men and women he loved.

As Ross' funeral, the Call to Worship was as he directed:

''The strife is over, the battle done. The victory of life is won. The song of triumph has begun. Alleluia.''

HONORING MURRAY LENDER ON HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2000

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to a community leader, a philanthropist, a humanitarian, and a great friend, Murray Lender, on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

Murray's father, Harry Lender, introduced bagels to the people of this country. Murray continued that tradition as chairman of Lender's Bagel Bakery, the world's largest bagel bakery. He revolutionized the bagel industry when he began the process of freezing bagels in the late 1950s, bringing to life his father's dream of ''a bagel on every table.'' His astute business sense was recognized by the National Frozen Food Association, which inducted him into the Frozen Food Hall of Fame, only the sixth person to be so honored. He also received the International Deli-Bakery Association's Hall of Fame Award and has been selected Man of the Year by numerous industry associations. But these achievements are dwarfed by what Murray has done for the people of Greater New Haven, of Connecticut, and of this country through his myriad of philanthropic and humanitarian works.

Murray's efforts in New Haven have truly been exceptional. He and his family have given generously of their time and resources to Quinnipiac University. Murray was given the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1991. His family's efforts have provided students with a top-notch business program that allows students to benefit from the practical knowledge, business acumen, and impressive record of success that Murray and his family have achieved. In 1997, Murray was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from his alma mater, Quinnipiac College. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Quinnipiac, where his contributions to that institution continue. In addition, he serves as co-chair of the Yale University School of Medicine Cardiovascular Research Fund.

Murray has also had a tremendous impact on our community through his work with a variety of service organizations including the New Haven Jewish Community Center, the American Heart Association, the Leukemia Society of America and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. While he built an incredibly successful business, Murray contributed not just money but, more notably, his time, to these worthy efforts.

Murray has also been an active member of our nation's Jewish community, participating in numerous events, contributing time and financial resources, and forwarding the cause of peace in the Middle East. The Anti-Defamation League has bestowed upon him its highest honor, the Torch of Liberty Award, in recognition of a profound record of public service.

In every way, Murray has been an outstanding citizen and community member. He serves as a role model to us all. He has had a profound effect on our community and our nation. I am honored to stand today and join his brother, Marvin; his children, Harris, Carl and Jay; along with other family members and friends; in wishing him many more years of health and happiness. HAPPY BIRTHDAY MURRAY!

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN HENRY B. GONZALEZ

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to the remarkable life and career of our trusted former colleague, the Honorable Henry Gonzalez of Texas. Dogged, brilliant, committed, indefatigable, a champion for the destitute—such was our Chairman of the Banking Committee. During my early years in the Congress, as a member of that committee, I had the great pleasure of serving with this able gentleman. He served in the tradition of Franklin Roosevelt, a man who believed in opportunity for all Americans and dedicated his life to that cause.