

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RICHARD CHARLES "RC" ROBINSON, SR.

**HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to salute a fallen hero. Richard Charles 'RC' Robinson, Senior. RC passed away on Saturday, January 27, 2001. The irony is that he gave so much of his heart to others, and it was his heart that failed him in the end.

RC was many things: the first African American appointed to the Missouri State Barber Board, early civil rights activist, and mentor, husband, father, and friend to many, including myself. Whenever duty called RC was never one to turn his back on the task at hand. During the turbulent times of the 60's, RC led a sit-in at a restaurant that refused him coffee. This grassroots effort led to the end of similar discriminatory practices by businesses of the day.

Everyone who knew RC always succumbed to his charisma. The words of Rudyard Kipling's poem "If" depict RC well, for he could "walk with kings" without losing "the common touch." He walked with great celebrities and public officials as well as with those disenfranchised or homeless. The legendary Muhammad Ali once sat in RC's barber chair and the police mistook the fan fare for a riot. "The Greatest" paid great respect to RC. The service that RC provided to the community will never be replaced, just as his many kind deeds will never be forgotten.

When I visited R.C.'s Barber Shop he would always welcome me with open arms. The talk of the day would turn not only to the current events, but also the historic struggles and the resulting progress which led the way to greater equity for African Americans in our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting Richard Charles "RC" Robinson, Senior, a dedicated public servant and a soldier for justice and equality. Also, Mr. Speaker please join in sending condolences to his wife, Dottie and his daughter, Terri. This great human being will be missed, but his memory will live on in all those whose lives he touched. We are a better community for his having lived.

CONGRATULATING KAWEAH DELTA HEALTH CARE

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kaweah Delta Health Care District for being awarded the coveted Foster G. McGaw Prize.

The Foster G. McGaw Prize is widely recognized as one of the most significant honors in the health care industry. The prize honors health care delivery organizations that have demonstrated exceptional commitment to community service. It is awarded by the American Hospital Association and supported by the Baxter Allegiance Foundation.

Kaweah Delta Health Care District has always believed that strong community relation-

ships and comprehensive programs are the keys to quality community health. It is therefore quite appropriate, and not surprising, that Kaweah Delta Health Care District has been honored for their proactive role in establishing the web or relationships needed to address the community's health. Its contributions to improving the community's well being have truly been outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to congratulate Kaweah Delta Health Care District for winning the Foster G. McGaw Prize. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Kaweah Delta Health Care District many more years of continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF COMMISSIONER RAFAEL FRAGUELA

**HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Commissioner Rafael Fraguela, recipient of the "Los Próceres Antillanos Award," which was presented by Save Latin America, Inc., on January 25, 2001.

Save Latin America, Inc., a non-profit organization that honors Hispanic community leaders for their contributions to society, provides information to Hispanics regarding their rights and responsibilities in the areas of education, health care, housing, and other social services and economic development opportunities.

Rafael Fraguela, who was born in Cuba on June 7, 1955, immigrated to the United States as a boy, and attended Union Hill High School in Union City, New Jersey. He received his BA in Social Studies/Political Science from Montclair State College and his MA in Education from Seton Hall University.

Since receiving his undergraduate degree and teacher certification, Commissioner Fraguela has dedicated his life to public education and to the New Jersey education system, serving as teacher, vice-principal, and principal. He is currently the Principal of Grant School #7 in Passaic, New Jersey.

In addition, Commissioner Fraguela has served the residents of New Jersey as an elected official in a variety of positions over the past decade. He served as President of the Union City School Board and as President and Commissioner on the School Board of Estimates. In 1993, Commissioner Fraguela was elected to replace me as a Commissioner of Union City, an office to which he was re-elected in 1994 and 1998. He served as Commissioner of Revenue and Finance and Public Affairs and Recreation, and as Commissioner of Public Affairs, Parks, and Public Property.

Commissioner Fraguela is a member and founder of the Alliance Civic Association; the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO); the Mid-West Northeast Voter Registration Project; the Summit Avenue Merchants Association; the Hispanic Leadership for Political Action Committee; the Democratic National Committee; the Committee to Elect President Clinton; the National Democratic Steering Committee; the Union City Day Care Board of Directors; the Union City A.B.C. Board; and Gore 2000.

For his continued and selfless public service to the community, he has received numerous

honors and awards, including the Human Values Award, Man of the Year Award (1993, 1995, 1998); the Babe Ruth League Award (1997); the Summit Avenue Merchant Association Award (1998); the Duarte, Sanchez & Mella Award (1996); and the Hispanic Law Enforcement Society of North Hudson, NJ Achievement Award (1998).

In 1991, it was my distinct honor to appoint Rafael Fraguela to be the President of the School Board of Union City. I am extremely proud of his record, his dedication to public service, and his many achievements since that first appointment. Over the years, I have cherished his friendship as an educator, school board president, and commissioner. More importantly, he is an invaluable asset to the residents of New Jersey.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Rafael Fraguela for his leadership and for his important contributions to New Jersey and to the Hispanic community:

WHITESIDE SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS 150TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Whiteside School District in Belleville, Illinois which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. This school has a rich history and has enhanced the Belleville area by consistently demonstrating excellence in teaching.

Mr. William Lot Whiteside, the original owner, was granted land by former President James Monroe in 1817. He deeded the one-acre property to school trustees in 1843 for \$100 and a one-room schoolhouse, named after the Whiteside family, was built. A formal school district was established in 1865. At the turn of the century, a second room was added to the school enabling this two room schoolhouse to serve children from Belleville to Shiloh.

A new school was built in 1958 on five acres of land acquired from the Whiteside family and placed directly in front of the old two room schoolhouse. The new school consisted of three classrooms, a multi-purpose area, and an office. Subsequent additions took place in 1965, 1973, 1979, 1987, and 1996 to meet the needs of its growing student body.

With enrollment currently over 1,000 students, the Whiteside School District is now expanding to a second building which will stand on a hill once occupied by Mississippian Indians. Middle school students will occupy the new facility, roughly one mile from the original school site. The new building is scheduled to open in 2002.

Since starting as a one-room schoolhouse, the Whiteside School has operated continuously for 150 years and has been producing students that make and will continue to make a significant contribution to not only Southwestern Illinois but the nation as well. Their impressive level of achievement and accomplishment for a century and a half is a milestone for the school district and the education profession as a whole. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in expressing our appreciation to the Whiteside School District for its