

years ago when he called for private contributions to improve our nation.

For many years, Frederica served as Operating Manager of the kitchen and dining room at the Powelton Club in the Town of Newburgh, and, along with her husband, Loren, operated their own catering business for many years.

Frederica has dedicated countless hours and held numerous leadership positions for charitable and community causes, including as a Member of the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh; President of the Board of Directors of McQuade Foundation; Honorary Member of the Board of Directors of McQuade Foundation; Member of the Newburgh Zoning Board of Appeals; Member of the Board of Managers for the Amos & Sarah Holden Home; President of the Liberty Street Day Care Center; Member of the Human Rights Commission of Orange County; Member of the Orange County Professional Advisory Committee; President of the Business & Professional Women's Club; Vice President of the New York State Church Women United; Member of the Advisory Committee of the Church Women United to the United Nations; Campaign Chairperson for the Orange Area United Fund; First Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Orange Area United Fund; Member of the Zonta International of Newburgh; Member of the Washington Street AME Zion Church; and Member of the First United Methodist Church.

Among the many honors bestowed upon Frederica for her commitment to our Orange County community include the Distinguished Service Award from the Newburgh Jaycees; the Black Humanitarian Award, Newburgh Free Academy; the Plaque of Appreciation, United Way of Orange County; the 1989 Citizen of the Year Award, Historic Newburgh; the Trustees Award for Distinguished Service, Mount St. Mary College; the 1992 Outstanding Community Service Leader Award, Temple Beth Jacob; the New York State Senate (39th District) Woman of Distinction Award; and the Ladies of Havana Award, Newburgh Developers Association.

Frederica has been a mainstay of Republican principles and dedication to our party. We are proud to claim her as an activist for Republican causes. In 1980, Frederica served as co-chair of Women for Ronald Reagan for President in New York State. Three years later, she was honored to have lunch with President Reagan, who personally thanked her for all of her community efforts.

Frederica, the descendant of freed slaves who helped organize the Underground Railroad and the Republican Party in the years preceding the Civil War, is the daughter of the late Lafayette & Sarah Flint Hunter. She married Loren M. Warner, a beloved businessperson and citizen of the Newburgh community in his own right. Frederica and Loren are the parents of Maxine Warner Burton, wife of the Honorable V. Eric Burton, former Member of Parliament of the Republic of Antigua-Barbuda in the West Indies.

Mr. Speaker, for her friendship and commitment to our community and our party, the Town of Newburgh Republican Committee will this year honor Frederica as their designee as the "Republican of the Year". Our Hudson Valley and our Republican Party express our sincere thanks to Frederica Warner for being a role model and an ardent supporter of good

government and we congratulate her on this long-overdue recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join with me in congratulating Frederica Warner for this honor and for a job well done.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
MARIA PEREZ

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sadness that I rise today to remember and pay tribute to a remarkable woman, Maria Perez, who was taken from us in the early hours of New Year's Day. A member of my Congressional staff for over six years, Maria was one of the most generous, kind-hearted people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. She was only thirty-three years old but she was already a true treasure.

People often thank me for helping them, but what they might not appreciate is how Maria dedicated herself to helping people. She wasted few words but got the job done for hundreds, probably thousands of families. She worked her will with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Social Security Administration and Medicare. She made such a difference it makes me cry. Thankfully, those families are her legacy.

Maria could often be found at the office at all hours of the day and on weekends, making the necessary calls to overseas embassies and consulates to help constituents in need. Her commitment earned her a reputation throughout the many communities of Connecticut's Third Congressional District, with rarely a day going by without someone calling the office because a friend or community member had referred them to her. It is almost impossible to imagine what our office will be like without her.

Maria never gave up her work for the poorer neighborhoods and the Hispanic community, even after she came to me. She worked with the Hill Development Corporation, a neighborhood organization dedicated to building affordable housing in the Hill section of New Haven. She had also worked with the Latino Youth Development and ProPark Enterprises. She participated in a great number of projects with Casa Otoñal, an Hispanic senior community; Junta and Centro San Jose, two community based social service organizations; and the Spanish Community of Wallingford. Recently, Maria became involved in a new initiative called Hispanics Give Hope. Developed by the National Marrow Donor Program, this new program is aimed at recruiting more Hispanics to become bone marrow donors.

Maria was a very special person. Her contagious smile and infectious good humor touched the lives of all she knew. It is not often that you find someone like her—a diamond in the ruff. With a seemingly infinite amount of compassion and patience, Maria has left an indelible mark on our community. I know she left an indelible impression on my entire staff. She was a friend to us all.

Though it saddens me beyond words to join the many family, colleagues, friends, and community members that have gathered to honor Maria's memory, I am proud to stand today to

pay tribute to her life. I would like to take this moment to extend my deepest sympathies to Maria's husband, Fernando, her mother, Maria, her sisters; Elizabeth, Nancy, and Daisy, and her brother Edilberto. Maria's memory will always be close to our hearts and her legacy will continue to be our inspiration.

IN MEMORIAL OF MR. EVERETTE
SUITT

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Mr. Everette Suitt, of Harnett County, who died on January 2, 2002. In his passing, Harnett County lost one of its most indefatigable champions. Born in Granville County, Mr. Suitt graduated from Boone Trail High School in Harnett County in 1950, served in the Army during the Korean War, and came home to become Boone Trail area's most outstanding community leader.

Mr. Suitt was a 30-year member of the Boone Trail Advisory Board, was a member of the first Board of Directors of the Boone Trail Emergency Services, and was president of the Western Harnett High School Boosters Club from 1977 to 1995. He was a founding member of the Calvary Baptist Church and was a leading tobacco farmer and lifelong Democrat.

Mr. Suitt is survived by his wife of 48 years, Ernestine O'Quinn Suitt, two daughters, Teresa S. Cummings of Mamas, and Carla S. Obiol and husband, his brother, John, of Raleigh; a sister, Lila Allen of Lillington and grandchildren, Allison and David Cummings, and their father, Lewis, all of Lillington, and Alexandra Obiol of Raleigh; and a brother-in-law, Harold Edwards of Rocky Mount.

It was my honor to be asked to offer the following eulogy at the funeral of this good man:

Everett Suitt was my friend, as he was yours. As we gather here today, I hope we can suppress as best we can our sadness at the loss of a good husband, father, grandfather, and community leader and instead concentrate on the celebration of Everette's life and contributions. They are many, and this community and this county are a better place because this good man lived among us.

It has been said that God expects only this of each of us—that we take the world into which we are born and strive to make it a better place in which to live. Everette Suitt certainly did so and did so successfully. Everette loved life and enjoyed it as few of us are privileged to do. He smiled often and laughed long. He had a personality that made us want to be around him, to talk with him, to laugh with him. He was often the sunshine drawing us through dreary days.

I knew Everette for more than 30 years; I don't remember a single time when he was not trying to help me do the right thing for our county and our state. He was one of the men who served as an inspiration to me. I often sought his counsel.

Everette Suitt loved his wife, his two daughters, his grandchildren, and the grandchild on the way who sadly will never know him except through the memories of others.

Everette was a family man in the most pure sense of the word. He loved sports, particularly the teams of Duke University and the New York Yankees. He loved his community: the old Boone Trail High School and, later, Western Harnett High School. And he