

Democratic Party, Billie along with the legendary Frankie Randolph, enraged at local and state Democrats who had endorsed Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower for president, took action. On Texas Independence Day of that year, they formed the Harris County Democrats, a liberal arm of the party that eventually became a powerful voice in the Harris County and Texas Democratic Parties.

Billie Carr was not only instrumental in the development and success of the Texas Democratic Party, but she was also influential on the national level, having attended every national convention since 1952. In 1968, infuriated by the direction of the state party, Billie led a challenge to the entire Texas Delegation, along with a busload of over 100 people, some of whom went on to become members of Congress, to protest the selection of delegates. As a testament to her tenacity and resolve, in 1972, she was elected as a national Democratic Committeewoman from Texas and later was a member of the Democratic National Committee's, Executive Committee.

During her more than fifty years of political involvement, many turned to Bill Carr for wisdom and guidance, including former President Bill Clinton who came under Billie's tutelage when he worked in Texas for the McGovern campaign in 1972. Billie Carr, a woman of irreproachable integrity, never used her status for personal gain, instead she believed the way to expand her movement was to bring people together under a unified front. Her unflagging drive and passion for each of her causes, has had a profound impact on the politics of Texas.

Throughout her tenure, Billie Carr sought to reinforce the tried and true notion that politics are best influenced, and best practiced, when done so at the grassroots level. She came of age simultaneous with the outgrown influence of money and media in politics. And she fought to the very end to ensure that volunteers and old-fashioned shoe leather remained as influential in elections as they did in the policy effected. Few would realize that the return of grassroots politicking recently heralded in a front page New York Times article is a phenomenon, which can be attributed in part to the tenacity of Billie Carr's life work.

Although Billie Carr has served the Democratic Party well, she considered her most important role to be mother, grandmother and friend. She is survived by three sons, David, Billy and Michael Carr, three grandchildren and many friends. It is fair to say that she was as devoted to them as they were to her. In an age when many politicians sought to coin family values, Billie Carr practices them to the fullest extent.

Mr. Speaker, many in Texas and across America mourn the loss of Billie Carr but rejoice in her memory and the contributions she has made to the betterment of our nation.

IN HONOR OF THE DEDICATED
WORK OF DALE A. CALLAWAY
AND SHIRLEY LEA JOSEPH FOR
THE DELAWARE VOLUNTEER
FIRE SERVICE COMMUNITY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2002

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dale A. Callaway, President of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association (DVFA) and Shirley Lea Joseph, President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association for their hard work and continued dedication to the fire service and our State.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the volunteer fire service in Delaware. These men and women protect their communities, our State, and our Nation—and do so unselfishly. On behalf of my fellow Delawareans, I would like to commend and salute DVFA President Dale Callaway and Ladies Auxiliary President Shirley Joseph, not only for their tireless efforts on behalf of the citizens of the First State, but for their many years of contributions to fire and emergency services.

Dale Callaway has been a vital and active member of the fire services community for years. Mr. Callaway has worked diligently for the Milton Fire Company and served as past President of the Sussex County Firemen's Association. Shirley Joseph, too, has played an extremely critical role in keeping the Ladies Auxiliary of the DVFA a vital part of our communities. Her 42 years of dedication to the fire service as a charter member of Ellendale Station 75 serves as a model of service for us all. The Ladies Auxiliary has a long rich history and their commitment to the community is to be commented.

It is a tradition in the volunteer fire service for these men and women to not seek praise for what they do as volunteer firefighters, but today I offer my thanks on behalf of all Delawareans. Dale Callaway and Shirley Joseph are both exemplary models of commitment and excellence. I know they will continue to serve as valuable members of the Delaware fire service community. Their selfless commitment contributes every day to the quality of life at home in their community as well as throughout the entire State. This is why they will have a permanent place in Delaware's volunteer fire service history, and why, today, we say thank you.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD N. GRAY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career has come to an end. Mr. Richard Gray, of Marshall, MO, has retired as Executive Director of the Missouri Valley Human Resource Community Action Agency.

Mr. Gray began his work at the Missouri Valley Human Resource Community Action

Agency 13 years ago in February of 1989. The MVHR Community Action Agency has a myriad of programs to assist low-income people in the communities of Carroll, Chariton, Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis, Ray and Saline counties. Under Richard's leadership the agency has thrived and has been improved considerably. The Affordable Housing Development Program, which offers decent, affordable apartments around the community, was conceived and has flourished under his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, Richard Gray has dedicated 13 years to the MVHR Community Action Agency, serving with honor and distinction. The people of Central Missouri have greatly benefitted from his service. I know that the Members of the House will join me in wishing him all the best in the days ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2002

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 11, 2002, I was in my congressional district participating in ceremonies honoring constituents who perished in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on America. Due to this circumstance, I was unable to cast a vote for rollcall 384. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: "Yea" on rollcall 384.

TRIBUTE TO BAYMEC

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2002

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend BAYMEC, the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee, as they celebrate 18 years of advocating for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights in Santa Clara Valley and in communities along the central coast of California.

BAYMEC was founded in 1984 by local activists Ken Yeager and Wiggys Sivertsen. At that time, the Santa Clara Valley region was still reeling from the repeal of city and county ordinances which would have given gays and lesbians protection in housing and employment. BAYMEC was formed to organize the local gay and lesbian community, reverse the political tide, and advance the civil rights of LGBT individuals.

The past 18 years has produced a legacy of successes for BAYMEC and for the citizens of Santa Clara Valley. BAYMEC stands as a united front to fight for civil rights and end discrimination, to educate public officials, and to provide a voice for the LGBT community.

I am proud of the leadership, volunteers and network of supporters whose dedication has built BAYMEC into an integral part of the fabric of our local community. And, in so doing, BAYMEC is contributing to making Santa Clara Valley and the Central Coast a place where all people can expect to be treated with justice, dignity and respect.