

Jon Butterworth, Assistant Coach Dave Heise, Program Coach Tim Graves, Assistant Alissa Vanmulem, JV Coach John Cotsonas, Frosh Coach Al Pisano, and Trainer Jen Stantz.

HONORING PATTY MANDRELL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patty Mandrell, the outgoing President of the Chowchilla District Chamber of Commerce. The Chowchilla District Chamber of Commerce honored her at an Installation and Awards Banquet on January 18, 2003 in Chowchilla, California.

Born in Madera, California, Patty grew up in Dos Palos before becoming a resident of Chowchilla. Patty is very enthusiastic about writing, reading, and people, which makes her a key component in the community. Her interest in journalism led her to a part-time position at the Chowchilla News newspaper, where she later become Editor and is currently the Managing Editor.

Patty has been highly active in her community. She has served on the Central California Women's Facility/Valley State Prison for Women Citizen's Advisory and Drug Advisory Committees. Patty also sat as a Charter Board member for the Police Activities League. The honors that she has received vary from the Golden Apple Award in 1999, the Outstanding Citizen Award from the Fresno and Madera Counties Police Chiefs Association in 2000, and the Rotary Distinguished Public Service Award in 2002.

Patty and her husband of 34 years, Lyndon Mandrell, have two daughters Tricia and Stacy. To quote Patty, "God is my best friend; my Mom has always been my role model and I've never been ashamed of being my Daddy's girl."

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Patty Mandrell as the outgoing President of the Chowchilla District Chamber of Commerce and a true support of the Chowchilla community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Patty Mandrell many years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD RAIL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a simple piece of legislation making 3 new changes to the way that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) reviews rail construction projects, particularly when in residential areas.

I am introducing this legislation following the frustration I have experienced dealing with the STB on a matter of great importance to thousands of my constituents' quality of life—the potential San Jacinto rail line in Southeast Harris County, Texas. The level of concern in the community, on many issues, and the outpouring of public opposition produced during

the STB's formal process has been tremendous.

Residents are concerned with increasing traffic delays and accidents in an area already experiencing too many problems with train traffic. Citizens are concerned about the safety of their children going to school, the potential for dangerous spills and accidents, localized noise and air pollution, and several other concerns. Amazingly, in their Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the STB concluded that the project will have a negligible impact on the surrounding community. I have spoken with hundreds of people about this project, and I can say that the STB is flat out wrong.

I do not believe that they ignore the public interest at the STB on purpose, but I believe that the agency and its decision-making process are biased against the concerns of residents who are facing rail construction in their neighborhoods. I am introducing this legislation to change the decision-making process so that it is more balanced in three ways.

First, if there is a high level of public opposition, the legislation requires that the concerns of residents and local officials be taken into greater consideration than in the past, especially when the rail construction proposal is in a residential area.

Secondly, the legislation requires that, before a final determination, the STB determine whether a proposal would have a disproportionate impact on either minority areas or economically disadvantaged areas. If so, the STB would be required to report to the public what alternatives to the disproportionate impact proposal were considered and why they were not chosen.

Finally, the legislation would require the STB to investigate the providing of false, potentially material information about the project. During the investigation, the entire decision process is put on hold, and if the STB found that the false information was intentionally provided the application is automatically denied.

I am not introducing a rifle shot bill directed at a project in my area, but instead this legislation is broad based and applicable across the country. I have learned from my experience that the STB's balance needs to be shifted back towards the affected community.

DEDICATION CEREMONY OF THURGOOD MARSHALL COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, January 7 marks the first day of the 108th Congress. I am pleased and honored to be a Member of Congress and the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. I am also pleased and honored that earlier today the Thurgood Marshall Commemorative Stamp was dedicated.

The dedication and issuance of this stamp in honor of Justice Thurgood Marshall, serves to recognize this great man for his civil rights achievements as a lawyer and for reaching the pinnacle of the U.S. Justice system as the first African-American Supreme Court Justice. President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Justice Marshall to the Supreme Court where he served 23 years on the Supreme Court, retiring on June 27, 1991, at the age of 82.

Through his knowledge, advocacy and devotion to the cause of civil rights, Justice Marshall made a significant contribution to the battle fought in the United States courts to eradicate the legacy of slavery. I believe, however, that he should be revered most for his courage and independent judicial temperament—for breathing life into the text of the Constitution. He worked tirelessly to guarantee all Americans equality and liberty in their individual choices, especially on issues involving voting rights, housing and education. It is an honor to recognize a man whose career is a monument to the judiciary system and who has inspired so many to continue his quiet crusade.

Marshall was born and raised in the Congressional District I represent—Baltimore, Maryland—and actually lived in a home which is about eight blocks from where I now reside. We both attended Howard University and, more significantly, he was once turned away from the law school I attended and graduated—The University of Maryland School of Law. As such, I am especially proud to honor Thurgood Marshall, as I share a common path with this historic figure.

I believe Justice Marshall has had a significant impact on the events of the 20th Century. His efforts on behalf of African-Americans built a structure of individual rights that has become the cornerstone of protections for all Americans.

Prior to joining the Supreme Court, in 1954 Justice Marshall argued the case of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* before the Supreme Court, where racial segregation in public schools was declared unconstitutional. In fact he won 29 of the 32 cases he argued before the Supreme Court, including cases in which the Court declared unconstitutional: a Southern state's exclusion of African-American voters from primary elections (*Smith v. Allwright, 1944*); state judicial enforcement of racial "restrictive covenants" in housing (*Shelley v. Kraemer, 1948*); and "separate but equal" facilities for African-American professionals and graduate students in state universities (*Sweatt v. Painter and McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents, both 1950*).

After his death, an article in the *Washington Afro-American* stated, "[w]e make movies about Malcolm X, we get a holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, but every day we live the legacy of Justice Thurgood Marshall."

Justice Marshall opened doors for all Americans and had a significant impact on the events of the 20th Century. Marshall was instrumental in supporting the rights of minorities and immigrants; limiting government intrusion in cases involving illegal search and seizure, double jeopardy, and the right to privacy; and in creating new protections under the law for women, children, prisoners, and the homeless.

His legacy has inspired Americans to name educational institutions, federal buildings, legal societies, libraries, and numerous academic achievement awards in his honor. And now a commemorative stamp in his honor. I know I join many in the Congress to say I am honored and privileged to be a part of history—the dedication of the Justice Thurgood Marshall Commemorative stamp.