

POEM BY DULCE MURILLA OF SAN LEANDRO HIGH SCHOOL

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the wisdom of a student in my district. At one of my recent town meetings while we were discussing people's concerns with the President's war with Iraq, teacher Karen Green rose to read a poem by ninth grader Dulce Murilla of San Leandro High School.

Sometimes we need to pause and listen to our children—who often have meaningful insights into even the world's largest problems. I commend this poem to your attention.

It's all 'bout the war in Iraq
what are these dumb fools on crack?!

Don't you see all the lives that have been taken

and how many souls have been taken

I hate these moments in history
Like they say life before your eyes
And that our government is full of lies

And ask myself why
why why Why

why all the pain
why all the tears

all these fears that haunt us behind each corner

this is all so complicated
Did you hear that missile
and did you hear that bomb

Imagine all the lives that have been taken
and all those children without their parents
can't we have some peace
and just stop the damn tease

Doesn't it break your heart
'cause i feel my heart falling apart
after each child that dies
and each woman that is burned

I wish the soldiers would've thought and turned

turned back to their homeland to the USA
But hey what's there for me to say

HONORING DR. KENNETH E. MITCHEM

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Kenneth Mitchem, who is one of the Central Valley's most outstanding citizen leaders. As a doctor he has dedicated himself to increasing the availability of medical services to his community and as such he has touched many lives. As his friends and family gather to celebrate Dr. Mitchem's numerous achievements, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting his most accomplished career.

After Dr. Mitchem graduated from the University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine he opened his practice in Mokane, Missouri. In 1957 he moved his practice to Camdenton, Missouri. There in the midst of the Ozark Mountains he was the only full time doctor. With the nearest hospital 65 miles away he opened his practice as a clinic, two-bed emergency hospital, and birthing center. This clinic was complete with a laboratory,

X-ray capabilities, and pharmacy. In his clinic he treated everything from broken bones and car accidents to delivering babies.

In 1969 he moved to Turlock, California where he joined the office of Drs. Stanley Todd and Hugh Washburn. As a general physician and surgeon, Dr. Mitchem was able to provide medical care for thousands of patients in the Central Valley at a time when there were few doctors in this area.

Not only is Dr. Mitchem widely respected as a very important and competent physician but he is also widely respected in the community for all of his public service. In the past Dr. Mitchem has served as a board member to the Stanislaus County Medical Society. Currently he serves as a member of the Board of Directors to the Stanislaus Foundation for Medical Care. Not only has he displayed an incredible amount of integrity and dedication to his colleagues, but he has worked to increase the availability of medical services to patients throughout our community.

As a Medical Advisor to the Elness Convalescent Hospital, the Bel Air Lodge, and the Hale Aloha Convalescent Hospital, he has demonstrated his commitment to seniors and the important medical care they need.

Dr. Mitchem also serves his community as a Board Member of the Creative Alternatives Board. As a member of this board he helps run three separate programs in our community. These programs include a foster family agency, a residential care program, and non public schools. This board was established in 1976, and with Dr. Mitchem's assistance, has helped hundreds in our community. His dedication to children, families, and seniors is astounding. Dr. Mitchem is truly an invaluable member of our community.

Mr. Speaker, on May 29th, as Dr. Kenneth E. Mitchem's friends and family gathered to honor his years of incredible service to the medical community and his patients, he was honored as the recipient of the John Darroch Memorial Award by the Stanislaus Medical Society. His successes are considerable, and it is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his contributions. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing Dr. Kenneth E. Mitchem continued success in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING MR. ABDEL SALEM

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to honor Mr. Abdel Salem on the occasion of his retirement as City Manager of El Centro, California in my Congressional District. Abdel was honored by his friends and colleagues at a Farewell Dinner on May 30, 2003.

A native of Facous, Egypt, near the Suez Canal, Abdel was born into a farming family, along with two brothers and two sisters. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Alexandria University in Alexandria, Egypt in 1965. Influenced by an uncle who had earned his Doctorate Degree from the University of California at Berkeley, Abdel came to North America in the early 1970s—first to Toronto and then to New York City. He

has furthered his education through post-graduate courses in Public Administration at San Diego State University.

Choosing to move to sunny Imperial Valley of California, Abdel became Assistant Finance Director of El Centro in 1973 and was promoted to Finance Director four years later. Then came an appointment in 1980 to Acting City Manager and to City Manager in 1981. He has also served as Executive Director of the city's Redevelopment Agency and Executive Director of the Community Development Commission.

He has been involved in many roles in the organizations and activities of Imperial Valley. He is past chairman of the Imperial Valley Emergency Communications Authority, past chairman of the Imperial Valley City/County Managers Association, and a founding board member of the Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation. He served as secretary/treasurer and president of the Optimist Club and is past chairman of the Oratorical Contest of Optimist International/Southern California District.

Abdel is also a member of the International City Managers Association, the California City Managers Executive Committee, the Community Redevelopment Agencies Association, and the League of Cities Fiscal Reform Committee, as well as the League of California Cities Committee on Diversity.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Abdel Salem for these many fine contributions to our community. Upon his retirement, he leaves the City of El Centro a far better place. He is joined in celebrating his accomplishments by his wife, Samia, a teacher at Southwest High School, and his children, Sherif and Omneya, Salma, and Kareem. Sherif received his Bachelors' Degree in Biology in 1998 from USD and is currently employed at a biotech company in Irvine as a microbiologist. Omneya, his wife, is an architect, and they reside in San Diego. In 2001, Salma received her Masters' Degree in Human Development and Psychology from Harvard University. Kareem is Vice President of the Class of 2003 and an honor student at Southwest High School.

My best wishes go to Abdel Salem and his family upon his completion of a fruitful and noteworthy term as El Centro's City Manager. He will be missed!

IN RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW BRONFMAN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Matthew Bronfman for his numerous achievements during his years of service to the 92nd Street Y. A dedicated and passionate philanthropist, Mr. Bronfman has long been a guiding force behind the Y, one of New York City's premier cultural institutions.

The 92nd Street Y is a New York City landmark, having been in operation for nearly 130 years. Founded in 1874, the Y has become a center for people of all races, ethnic backgrounds and religions to meet and participate in activities ranging from concerts at the Tisch