

It is my privilege to recognize Stanton College Preparatory School for its outstanding achievements.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH GALANTER

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2003*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend, Ruth Galanter, on the occasion of her retirement from the Los Angeles City Council. Ruth is an amazing, passionate and intelligent person who has accomplished so much in her political career without ever compromising her impeccable integrity or diminishing her idealism. I have had the pleasure of working with her since the 1970's when she was a prominent environmental activist and later as a member of the California Coastal Commission. I not only respect her professionally, but I value her friendship and advice.

Elected in 1987 to the Los Angeles Sixth City Council District, Ruth has spent the last 15 years shaping and improving the city of Los Angeles. Ruth was President Pro Tem for 4 years and became president of the council in 2001. She is admired and well-respected by her friends, colleagues and associates. In addition to her legendary success in solving constituent problems and her well-known legislative prowess, Ruth has made a name for herself protecting the environment. She spearheaded the city's recycling program, authored the city's major water conservation programs and led the effort to fluoridate the city's water supply. She also directed the city's conservation efforts to ensure an adequate safe water supply for the next century.

Early in her tenure, Ruth created a network of Community Planning Advisory Committees which assisted her in significant land use decisions throughout the city. Also, as chair of the Council's Committee on Commerce, Energy and Natural Resources, she worked to negotiate the challenges posed by electricity deregulation and the current energy crisis facing the State. And, as the city council's expert on aviation and airport issues, Ruth's futurist vision has improved the quality of life for all who live in southern California. She knows that the decisions made today regarding airport capacity and other transportation services directly impact our quality of life today and in the future.

Born in New York City, Ruth received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Michigan and a Masters Degree in Urban Planning from Yale. Los Angeles has been blessed to have her at the helm, and I am proud to call her my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Ruth Galanter for all she has done and wishing her continued success in all her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF PUERTO RICO  
KARST CONSERVATION ACT OF  
2003

**HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2003*

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Puerto Rico Karst Conservation Act of 2003. This bipartisan legislation is a common sense legislative approach that will protect a vital ecosystem in Puerto Rico, the Karst Region. The region is comprised of a unique geological and hydrological system of limestone caves, sinkholes and underground rivers, collectively known as karst, and is widely valued to the livelihood of Puerto Rico.

The Karst Region of Puerto Rico, located along the North and Northwest coasts of the Island, has many outstanding features. This region is home to the largest remaining tropical rainforests in Puerto Rico, and has a greater density of tree species than anywhere else on the Island. These forests provide habitat to a wide array of plants and animals, too many of which are endangered or threatened. In fact, the Karst Region has been identified as a secondary habitat for the restoration of the Puerto Rican parrot, a bird that is among the ten most endangered birds in the world, and the existence of which has plummeted to only 24 birds in the wild.

In addition to the extraordinary flora and fauna of the Karst Region, the water and watersheds are the most unique feature of the Karst Region. While rivers and streams are widespread throughout Puerto Rico, the vast majority of the water in the Karst Region flows underground. Where this water flows out of the ground, from springs and along the coast, it provides fresh water to nearly one-quarter of the Puerto Rico population. In addition, specific manufacturing and industrial sectors, such as the pharmaceutical industry, rely on the Karst Region's supply of clean water for their business. Without a doubt, the Karst Region sustains a large percentage of wildlife, human life, and the economy of Puerto Rico.

Yet Puerto Rico has among the highest population densities of any jurisdiction in the United States. Large, undeveloped tracts of land are becoming increasingly less common on the Island. However, the Karst Region has remained rural in nature, and has not been beset by the development and growth of the rest of Puerto Rico. The hills and unique geology of the Karst Region have forestalled similar population growth. Unfortunately, threats to the Karst Region are growing. Continued population growth will create increasing pressure on the conservation of this important region. Development of roads, resorts and other infrastructure in the region would fragment wildlife habitat, reduce water quality, and would reduce the preserved nature of the Karst Region for the rest of time.

But the Puerto Rico Karst Conservation Act will help conserve the lands and waters of the Karst Region, and stave off the threats of development. This bill, I believe, is an ideal piece of preservation policy. It places the responsibility of conservation and management not with any single entity, but requires that lands in the Karst Region be acquired and managed in a cooperative fashion.

Using funds collected in a fund established on the books of the U.S. Treasury, the Karst

Fund, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will distribute grants to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, conservation organizations and others for the purpose of acquiring and managing lands for conservation in the Karst Region. Acquired lands, purchased only from willing sellers, may only be managed for conservation, and the bill includes provisions that will protect those lands from development. Resources in the Karst Fund are derived from the existing programs of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Forest Legacy Program, from receipts generated from the Caribbean National Forest and GSA sale of property in Puerto Rico, from donations, direct appropriations, and from interest derived in the Fund. While the U.S. Forest Service is authorized to acquire lands, authority that in fact exists in current law, the agency focus will be on technical assistance and management guidance rather than actual land acquisition.

It is my belief that this bill is the most appropriate manner of approaching the conservation needs of the Karst. The Federal Government can bring important resources and experience to the table, yet the land will be primarily acquired and managed by local entities, who are best able to relate to, understand, and advocate for the conservation of the lands of the Karst Region.

I am proud and honored by the support that this bill has gained from my colleagues. Congressman JIMMY DUNCAN of Tennessee has joined me, along with six of my distinguished Democratic colleagues, to introduce this bill in the House, and I greatly appreciate their support. In addition, Senator TOM HARKIN and Senator RICHARD LUGAR, recognizing the vital importance of protecting the Karst Region, have introduced companion legislation in Senate. Their support is essential to the eventual success of this bill, and I appreciate their leadership on this issue.

Protecting the Karst Region of Puerto Rico is a large and important task. However, this legislation that I have introduced today will enable resources to be brought to the protection and conservation of the lands and water of the Karst Region. As many regions in the United States are now suffering due to a lack of water resources, affording this protection to the Karst Region will help ensure water quality and availability into the future. The cooperative nature of this conservation effort will, in my mind, enable it to succeed, and through this unique partnership, the magnificent and unique Karst Region will be preserved for this, and future generations of Puerto Rico.

COMMENDING MEDGAR WILEY  
EVERS AND MYRLIE EVERS-WIL-  
LIAMS FOR THEIR LIVES AND  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 16, 2003*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Medgar Wiley Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams. These two great Americans fought tirelessly for equality and justice. It is because of efforts such as theirs that I can stand before you today as the first African-American woman to serve in Congress from the State of Ohio.

They knew the importance of voting and worked to mobilize African-Americans so that they would have the opportunity to exercise this right that so many had fought for. They organized civil rights rallies and boycotts of local businesses and schools to advocate for the underserved and under represented in this country.

Though murdered in 1963, Medgar Evers' legacy lives on through his children and his widow, Myrlie Evers-Williams, who went on to establish the Women's Political Caucus and become the first woman chair of the NAACP Board of Directors.

It is because of these reasons that I am so honored to stand here today in support of this resolution commending Medger Wiley Evers & Myrlie Evers-Williams. It is on their shoulders that I stand.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2003*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed rollcall vote Nos. 276, 277 and 278 on the evening of June 16, 2003. I was traveling in between my District (TX-08) and Washington. My flight was delayed almost 2 hours, causing me to miss the aforementioned votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all three bills: H.R. 2254, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Colorado Street in Boulder City, Nevada, as the "Bruce Woodbury Post Office Building", H. Con. Res. 220, commending Medgar Wiley Evers and his widow, Myrlie Evers-Williams, for their lives and accomplishments, and S. 703, to designate the regional headquarters building for the National Park Service under construction in Omaha, Nebraska, as the "Carl T. Curtis National Park Service Midwest Regional Headquarters Building".

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2003*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I regret that a family matter yesterday forced me to miss rollcall votes 276, 277, and 278. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 276-278.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2003*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen weather conditions, my flight back to Washington, DC, was unavoidably delayed and I was therefore not able to make it in time for rollcall votes. Had I been present I would have voted: No. 276—"yes"; No. 277—"yes"; and No. 278—"yes."

#### A TRIBUTE TO JEANETTE "JAY" BLACKSHAW

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2003*

Mr. SCHIFF. I rise today to honor a truly outstanding member of the 29th Congressional District, Mrs. Jeanette "Jay" Blackshaw. For 22 years, Mrs. Blackshaw has dedicated herself to serving the people of the City of Pasadena.

Originally from Chicago, IL, Jay moved to Pasadena, CA in 1968. She and her husband, Bill Blackshaw, have seven children, Julie, Mary Grace, John, Gina, Annie, Peter, Amy, and nine grandchildren.

In 1981, Jay began her service to the City of Pasadena as the District 4 Field Representative for Pasadena Mayor Jess Houston. After Mayor Houston's term ended, she continued as field representative for his successor, Mayor Bill Paparian. Jay currently works for City Councilmember Steve Haderlein. During Jay's tenure with the City of Pasadena, she has assisted in the construction of bike paths throughout Pasadena, the renovation of the Pasadena Senior Center, and the construction of Pasadena's U.S. Marine Reserve Center.

Jay's passion for community volunteerism, especially on behalf of children and education, is evident in the many organizations she has been involved in over the years. As a young mother, she was active in Pasadena's public schools, participating in several Parent Teacher Associations, including serving as PTA Council President. Currently, Jay is a board member of the Pasadena Educational Foundation and Pasadena City College's Community Board.

Some of the other organizations Mrs. Blackshaw participates in are the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee, the Sierra Madre Villa Neighborhood Association, the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), and the Huntington Hospital Community Board. Mrs. Blackshaw is also active in her church, All Saints Episcopal Church, as well as in various political organizations. In 1995, she was honored as a YWCA Woman of Excellence for her steadfast commitment to eradicating racism and improving the lives of the women and children of Pasadena.

Jay will be retiring from her position as Field Representative to Councilmember Haderlein in June of 2003. Although she will be greatly missed by her colleagues at the City of Pasadena, she will continue to be active in the community.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring a remarkable woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Jeanette "Jay" Blackshaw. The entire community joins me in thanking Jay Blackshaw for her continued efforts to make the 29th Congressional District a better place in which to live.

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#### A TRIBUTE TO AL DAVIS

SPEECH OF

### HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2003*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, this body lost someone very important when we lost Al

Davis. We lost a man who helped fix the course of the House Ways and Means Democrats. We lost a man of ideas and a man of data, a combination that is too uncommon. Al was a man of endless information, which the Committee Democrats used to tack and jibe through the political storms that erupt so often in the Ways and Means Committee.

Al Davis passed away after 56 years of life. I didn't know him well outside of his briefings, his memos, and his witty analysis but I don't think that anyone had to be particularly close to Al to know how much he cared for those who have the least among us. I now know that he loved to go sailing.

Members of Congress are often generalists. Our knowledge is usually a mile wide but only an inch deep. I frequently could not fathom the amount of memory and facts that Al retained. When it came to taxes and our economy, Al Davis increased the depth of my understanding about the issues and how changing public policies would affect working class Americans.

Things move fast in the House and in the Committee on Ways and Means. Members often find themselves confronted with complex and multifarious issues, which can be quite challenging. Al was just the type of person that our committee needed. He liked to linger down in his "engine room" to make certain that the ship and its crew had all it required. Al was a harbor in a tempest. I could go to Al, and he could, within a few sentences, quickly and easily break down a complex issue for me.

Some say that statistics lie and liars use statistics. Al would say that it doesn't have to be that way. Whether it came from the Bush Administration, or elsewhere, Al was not a fan of distorting data for political gain.

Recently during President Bush's campaign to sell another tax cut, the President said that his plan would on average cut everyone's yearly taxes by \$1,083. As soon as President Bush said that, Al quickly rattled off a memo to me correcting the misleading data that was being used by the President. In the memo, Al said that when Bush refers to the "average" tax cut in his proposal, it "is like saying that every farmer in the nineteenth century got the average of a mule, if a few farmers were given a team of draft horses and most farmers got a small dog, instead."

I will miss Al Davis. I will miss his talent, his wisdom, and his humor. But I think that most of all, I will miss the trust that Al invested in Ways and Means Democrats. Al trusted that we would use our best effort to honestly employ the information he gave us to improve the well-being of the average American. We'll sail on without Al. But I feel that, at least for a while, our ship is heading into the wind, and against the tide, because we are without our navigator.

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#### HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF JORDAN FERRELL

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, as the battle for freedom rages across the globe, the United States has stepped forward to defend the