

Benito Tourism Council, the United Way of Hollister and the San Juan Bautista Historic Planning Committee.

I first met Terry in April of 2002 when she accepted my request to assist with the planning of California's 17th Congressional District's 2002 Naturalization Ceremony. Without her tireless help, we would not have been able to convene so many community leaders in such a short amount of time. That ceremony was a very special day for the participating new citizens, and it is one that many members of San Benito County will remember for a long time to come. It wouldn't have been possible, had it not been for Terry's ambitious fundraising and vision for that day.

Terry will be moving to the Sonora area in the Sierra foothills, and I would like to say that she will be missed by the community of San Juan Bautista, and San Benito County.

Because of her enormous sense of dedicated community service and love for the City of San Juan Bautista, Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Terry Marburger and her valuable contributions to our community.

HONORING FRANK JOHNSON

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Frank Johnson, who has delighted the community of Modesto as a ticket taker for the Modesto A's Baseball Club, Inc. for 31 years. As one of the most well known and popular members of the Modesto A's staff, Mr. Johnson has become an endeared friend to all of the team's fans.

Mr. Johnson began working in Modesto baseball in 1958 when he worked in the concession stand for the Modesto Reds at Del Webb Field. Since that time he witnessed five different minor league professional baseball teams call Modesto home. From the New York Yankees to the Oakland Athletics, Mr. Johnson is a testament not only to baseball, but to the many changes the City of Modesto has experienced.

As a constant face to all of the attendees at the Modesto A's games, Mr. Johnson has become a part of local history. He is a reminder of all of the good things about baseball and youth. It is my honor and privilege to recognize Mr. Johnson's 50 years of commitment to our community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GENE OWENS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE MOBILE REGISTER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize and salute my friend, Gene Owens, on the occasion of his retirement from "active duty" with the Mobile Register, Alabama's oldest newspaper.

For 9 years, Gene has provided consistent, quality reporting to readers along the Gulf

Coast and throughout Alabama, first as the paper's political editor and in recent years, as the Register's popular metro columnist.

Prior to moving to Alabama, Gene worked at newspapers in other areas of the country, devoting much of that time to reporting jobs in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Upon moving to the Gulf Coast in 1994, Gene became a familiar face to those of us in public service during his stint as the Register's political editor. In so doing, he shared with the people of south Alabama the talents and personal integrity upon which he built his reputation as a journalist.

Elected officials, community representatives and concerned citizens alike could always rely on Gene to provide the best possible coverage of issues facing us in Alabama as well as topics of national interest. From covering local political debates to national party conventions, Gene could always be counted on to give you the complete story on the major issues of the day. While his readers—and those he reported on—did not always agree with him, we could always be assured there would be equal and fair treatment in his columns and stories, a statement which can not always be said about all journalists.

In recent years, Gene moved to cover more local issues, and his columns on more human interest stories won him an entirely new following. His humorous and often folksy manner of sharing local tales, from topics as diverse as an annual Texas State Fire Ant Festival to a discussion on the finer points of the southern "take" on the English language, could always be counted upon to inform, entertain and bring a smile to the faces of all his readers.

His readers, colleagues and fans never hesitated to share their opinions on and about Gene and his pontifications. Of all the comments the paper received during the past 9 years, the one that perhaps best sums up Gene's career and the public's feeling toward him was left on the Register's open comment line, "Sound Off," and was recently reprinted in a tribute column about Gene. Someone called in to say, "I hope God continues to watch over Gene Owens. The world is so in need of the humor and wisdom that he so richly shares with us all."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Gene Owens for his tremendous contributions to both the world of journalism and to his friends and neighbors along Alabama's Gulf Coast. Gene is indeed a genuine Alabama treasure who has freely shared both his wisdom and humor with all of us, and for nearly a decade I have been proud to call him my friend.

Along with his many friends and followers throughout South Alabama, "Pal Joey" wishes to extend to Gene Owens and his lovely wife, "Miss Peggy," all the best in the months and years ahead.

RECOGNIZING REV. JAMES MORRIS LAWSON JR.

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize one of the most inspiring and remarkable leaders in the United States,

Rev. James Morris Lawson Jr. Rev. Lawson Jr. is a minister and a civil rights leader who has worked hard to further the advancement of people of color.

Rev. Lawson was born in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, in 1928. Since early on in his life, he has strongly advocated for nonviolent resistance to achieve political change, a philosophy he developed by studying Ghandian ethics and Methodist theology. A leader in the fight against racism, Rev. Lawson was instrumental in desegregating many of our Nation's societies, especially those in the southern States during the late 1950's and 1960's.

In 1957, Rev. Lawson worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and helped shape the Southern Christian Leadership Council, a national organization that dismantled barriers for black citizens in the segregated south. Rev. Lawson helped organize students in southern universities to perform nonviolent demonstrations to desegregate restaurants and drug stores in Nashville, Tennessee. His actions influenced others in Historically Black Colleges and Universities to protest, eventually helping to end segregation throughout the South.

Admirably, Rev. Lawson's leadership not only helped black citizens achieve political change, but he also aided labor unions, women, gays and lesbians, and recently incarcerated individuals. With all these monumental accomplishments, Rev. Lawson continues to fight for social justice even in his mid-70's.

His accomplishments as a dignitary of civil rights have inspired other civil leaders, like me, to achieve political change. Therefore, I am privileged to recognize him as the perfect example of today's exceptional leader.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER TIMME

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to a most remarkable individual from my district. Walter Timme of Pueblo, Colorado honorably served in the Army during World War II, leaving his motorcycle sales business to answer his country's call to duty. Walter's service to our country in its time of need is indicative of his commitment to our nation, which I would like to recognize here today.

Putting his passion for motorcycles on hold, Walt kissed his wife goodbye and shipped off to New Caledonia and Biak in the South Pacific. It was not long after they learned of his mechanical abilities that the Army put Walt to work as an aircraft engine repair technician. Walt's knowledge of engines, acquired from his fondness of motorcycles, provided him with an unparalleled skill for fixing planes. Our country owes Walt a debt of gratitude for his service during WWII.

Walt returned safely from the war and revisited his passion for motorcycles. Aside from his time spent serving the country during WWII, Walt has been selling motorcycles since 1938. Walt's entrepreneurial spirit and business savvy have provided his community with jobs and services for over six decades.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to stand before this body of Congress today and recognize the loyal service of Walt Timme to our nation.