

women, minorities, children, and the poor. Initially relegated to the Agriculture Committee, which had almost no relevance to her urban New York district, she would fight to get relevant committee assignments for both her and her Black Congressional colleagues. On the Education and Labor Committee she would support improved employment and education programs, expansion of day care, income support, and other programs to improve America's inner cities.

In 1972 she would challenge the status quo again, when she launched a bid to become the Democratic nominee for President. Though the party initially marginalized her, she persevered to the end, constantly reiterating her message of government's accountability to all Americans.

Her underdog effort inspired both Blacks and Whites around the country, and earned her the respect of her early critics. Shirley would go on to outlast better-known and better-funded primary contenders. At the 1972 Democratic National Convention in Miami, she would receive 151 delegate votes—far more than anyone could have imagined.

Though a fighter, even her opponents were astounded by her innate compassion and empathy. During her presidential bid, Chisholm went to the hospital to visit George Wallace, a political rival and ardent racial segregationist, after he had been shot in a failed assassination attempt.

Wallace was shocked by the Chisholm's gesture—one that was politically risky at best. It is said that Chisholm told Wallace, "I know what they're going to say. But I wouldn't want what happened to you to happen to anyone". Her words moved him to tears. Two years later when she needed support on legislation to extend the minimum wage to domestic workers, George Wallace would gather the Southern support it required.

In addition to Shirley Chisholm, the recent passing of James Forman represents a great loss to our country. Forman joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1961, and was elected its executive secretary one week later. He would soon play a central role in developing SNCC from a loose coalition of student protest groups, to one of the most prominent and effective organizations of the Civil Rights Movement.

Utilizing the discipline and organizational skills he acquired as an Air Force and Korean War veteran, James Forman managed and directed the legions of brave SNCC volunteers, who in the 1960's, descended upon the southern United States to combat the racial injustice that had long festered there.

Today, thousands get academic degrees in public administration and management. I wonder how they might have benefited from talking to James. As a manager and organizer he may have been the best that the civil rights movement ever had. While the movement had many great orators and diplomats, James was a master of the nuts and bolts that make organizations run.

He was also known as something of a field general, willing to endure the same that he asked of his subordinates. James was often harassed, beaten and jailed during his many trips to register voters and organize protests in areas where violence and intimidation ruled. He would see many of his brethren pay the ultimate sacrifice for liberty and justice. This only strengthened his resolve to press on.

Though he left the SNCC in 1966, he would remain a prominent figure throughout the Civil Rights Movement. In subsequent years he would be an outspoken advocate for the socio-economic empowerment of African Americans in the post civil rights era, founding the Unemployment and Poverty Action Committee.

He would also be one of the first African Americans to explicitly call for reparations for the oppressive treatment inflicted on African Americans during their history in this country. Many institutions responded by setting up programs aimed at improving Black communities.

Indeed America has lost much by the passing of Shirley Chisholm and James Forman. But we have gained much by the fact that they lived. They now enter the Pantheon of American patriots whose fearless and unrelenting quest for justice and liberty irrevocably changed this nation for the better.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "What lies behind us, and what lies before us, are tiny matters compared to what lies within us". Shirley Chisholm and James Forman showed the world what lay within them, and now their memories will lie within us forever.

HONORING THE 25TH
ANNIVERSARY OF CHISPA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Community Housing Improvement Systems and Planning Association, Inc., affectionately called CHISPA, on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. CHISPA is a nonprofit 501 (c)3 Community-based Housing Development Organization, whose California housing projects have served Monterey County's lowest-income population for 25 years, and is the largest private nonprofit housing developer in the area.

CHISPA's Self-Help program allows participants to become homeowners through building their houses themselves. Since 1990, CHISPA's Self-Help program has built 483 homes for approximately 2,560 people in Monterey County alone. This laudable program allows large low-income families to build their own homes with three to four bedrooms, double car garages, vaulted ceilings, landscaped front and back yards, sprinkler systems, and oak cabinets. Working 40 hours per week under the guidance of a construction supervisor, families are able to realize their dream home.

Another worthy CHISPA program is the Moderate Income Housing program in which first-time home buyers receive financial assistance. Beneficiaries of this program include city employees, entry-level professionals, and teachers.

CHISPA Housing and Management, Inc., CHMI, Housing and Maintenance Specialists ensure that houses are of the highest quality by overseeing all construction activities. Program participants learn both construction and maintenance techniques, in addition to valuable management skills. CHISPA contributes to social well-being not only by enabling families to construct beautiful homes, but also by providing participants with a deeper sense of community.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud CHISPA's many accomplishments, and commend them for the tremendous effort they dedicate to enabling families to own their own home. I join the entire community in honoring this truly remarkable organization for its achievements in making the American Dream a reality for so many of our citizens.

HONORING THE 57TH ANNUAL
YMCA TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT
CONFERENCE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hundreds of students and advisors that will be gathering in Austin from February 3-7 for the 57th annual YMCA Texas Youth and Government Conference. Each year, delegations of high school students from around the Lone Star State travel to Austin to learn about their government through hands-on activities at the State Capitol. I am very proud of the school delegations that travel from the 32nd Congressional District of Texas to attend and learn from this wonderful conference.

My best wishes to Youth Governor Nathan Gonzales of Benbrook, Youth Lt. Governor Grant Reid of Garland, and all of the other youth officers and delegates that will be making a difference in Austin this week. My special thanks to YMCA Texas Youth and Government State Director Suzanne Mabie for all of the tireless hours of service that she commits to make this conference the great success that it is each and every year.

I've had the privilege of being involved with this conference for the last several years and have always been impressed with the talents of the young individuals who are involved with the program. All my best wishes for a successful 57th annual conference in Austin.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. LUCILLE
HALLMAN HOLMAN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Lucille Hallman Holman, a South Carolinian native whose dedication to service to God and country shines as an example to all of us. On February 13, 2005, she will celebrate her 100th birthday, and I believe it is important to commemorate her centennial birthday with a few highlights of the many contributions she has made to her church and community.

Mrs. Holman was born in Leesville, South Carolina and began her education in the local public schools. In order to finish high school she was forced to leave home at an early age and matriculated at nearby Betties Academy in Aiken County. She continued her education at Benedict College, a Baptist supported college in Columbia, where she met and married Lewis W. Holman, who was attending Allen University, a nearby African Methodist Episcopal Church supported school.