

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
NORBERT "WHITEY" PRIEBE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of my dear friend, Mr. Norbert 'Whitey' Priebe—beloved husband, father, stepfather, grandfather, brother, and friend to many. His passing marks a great loss for his family and friends, and also for the people of Slavic Village and Newburgh Heights.

Throughout his entire life, Mr. Priebe's caring heart and concern for others reflected along Fleet Avenue. He was born in Cleveland, grew up in Newburgh Heights, and graduated from St. Stanislaus High School. Although he was of Polish heritage, Mr. Priebe became an honorary son of Cleveland's Czech community. His forty year involvement with the heart and soul of Fleet Avenue, Ceska Sin Karlin Hall, served to uplift every aspect of this significant cultural organization—an organization that bridges modern life and antiquity, and connects the people of America to their traditions and customs of their Eastern European origins.

Mr. Priebe maintained an unwavering focus on family, community and country. During the Korean War, he served with honor and courage as an infantryman in the United States Army. Following his discharge, he remained an active member of the VFW. From the military to his professional career, Mr. Priebe reflected an unwavering level of integrity and diligence. He worked as an auditor with the state's auditor's office, until he retired 10 years ago. Throughout his retirement, he remained an active and vital part of our community. At Karlin Hall, Mr. Priebe took on any task that needed tackling, including bartender, floor sweeper, and President.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. Norbert 'Whitey' Priebe. His caring nature, quick wit, and concern for others, framed his life and served to light the lives of countless individuals and families along Fleet Avenue and beyond. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, children, grandchildren, and to his many friends. The legacy of his life, lived with joy and energy, will live forever within the hearts of all who knew and loved him well.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
CORKY GONZALES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, one of Colorado's most influential civil rights leaders who passed away on April 12, 2005. While I did not have the pleasure of getting to know this remarkable man in person, it is impossible not to know of his extraordinary political career in Denver, Colorado.

Raised during the Great Depression, Corky Gonzales rose from poverty to become one of the founding leaders of the Chicano Civil

Rights Movement in the 1960s and in doing so he gave voice to the aspirations of millions of people, particularly in the Latino communities of the southwestern United States.

Corky Gonzales first rose to prominence as champion boxer during the late 1940's and early 1950's. His fearlessness in the ring served him well when he decided to use his voice and not his fists to champion the cause of equality.

Growing up poor in Denver shaped his sense of justice—and instilled a very deep commitment to improve the lives of so many in the so-called "Mexican-American" community of the times, and he was one of the first of his generation to call public attention to the civil rights struggle of Latino people after decades of indifference, benign neglect and outright discrimination.

Gonzales also was an accomplished poet and lover of art and literature often extolling the virtues of education and urging his followers to use their minds as a means of fighting injustice. Anita, his oldest daughter, has said that the standard bill of fare in the Gonzales household was not the latest fad or fashion, but discussions on art, literature, politics and philosophy. In this regard, Corky was a true "Renaissance man"—although I suspect he would flinch at that description.

In 1965 he founded the "Crusade for Justice" which became a Mecca for likeminded individuals committed to the cause of justice and equality for those on the margins of society. While the nation's television news covered the marches in Selma and the civil rights struggle of African-Americans throughout the South, young Corky was raising a similar voice for equality in the West.

In 1967 he wrote a celebrated epic poem "I am Joaquin" which many describe as the greatest poem to come out of the Chicano Civil Rights Movement. The poem, an odyssey of self discovery and affirmation of ethnic pride quickly became a blueprint for social action and a clarion call to an entire generation of Americans young and old alike.

He was not without his detractors, but anyone who attempts to achieve anything of lasting importance seldom is, and for people of my generation, he was a much needed voice for change. To his followers and to those who loved and respected him he was "the hurricane that rose from the barrios of Denver to lift his people into the 21st century."

This fearless warrior left an indelible imprint on our society and future generations of leaders. But for his early journey, paving the way for others, Colorado might never have witnessed Federico Pena as Mayor of Denver or Ken Salazar as a United States Senator. Corky launched the idea of Chicano Pride long before it became fashionable to celebrate Hispanic identity.

Had he been born a few decades later perhaps, the young boxer might have exchanged his gloves for a seat in this House, but his contributions to our country and to the communities of color that are so deeply a part of the mosaic of the Southwestern United States remain a testament to his memory.

In the Chicano and Mexican-American communities in my part of the country there is a deep sense of pride in being called to service. Corky Gonzales was like all great heroes, a human being who contributed to the great tradition of being involved in something greater than his own self-interest. In that great tradi-

tion it is my pleasure to declare . . . Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, Presente!

IN SUPPORT OF A BILL FOR THE
FURTHER STUDY OF DYSTONIA

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill I introduced expressing the need for further study of the neurological disorder dystonia. Dystonia is characterized by powerful and painful muscle spasms that cause the body to pull into distorted postures. It is the third most common movement disorder after Parkinson's disease and Tremor. Dystonia affects more people than better known and more thoroughly researched diseases such as Huntington's disease, muscular dystrophy and Lou Gehrig's disease. Three hundred thousand Americans suffer from dystonia, and it affects all ages, genders and ethnic backgrounds.

Currently there is no cure for dystonia, which means only the symptoms can be treated. Led by the National Institutes of Health which recently announced a program entitled "Studies into the Causes and Mechanisms of Dystonia", I ask that Congress act to support increased funding and research for this debilitating disease.

To personalize the importance of research pertaining to dystonia, let me tell a short story about Art Kessler, a man from the 7th District of Illinois, who was diagnosed at age 12 with early-onset dystonia. He and his wife, Wendy, decided to remain childless to prevent another life from being burdened with dystonia. However, due to recent technological advances and a ground breaking procedure called preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD), Mr. Kessler and his wife are the proud parents of a dystonia-free child. Benjamin is the first child ever to be born using PGD.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to bring increased public awareness about dystonia and to encourage future research into the causes and possible cures. The efforts put forth by agencies such as the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders have been very valuable, but more needs to be done. Let us strive to make success stories like that of Mr. Kessler everyday occurrences. This is the path we hope to take by supporting and eventually passing this resolution.

HONORING THE TOWN OF
SUMMERDALE, ALABAMA, ON
THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the community of Summerdale, Alabama, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of its founding.

The Town of Summerdale was founded by Eli Summer on October 4, 1904, was incorporated in 1929, and was initially intended to