Assembly (the general against, ironically, a 26 year Republican incumbent).

It was Howard Elinson’s ideas that were instrumental in electing Congressman Henry Waxman, Congressmen Howard Berman, Congressman Mel Levine, Congressmen Julian Dixon, State Senator Herb Wesson, Rosenthal, State Assemblyman Burt Margolin, State Assemblyman Terry Friedman and countless others.

And it was Howard Elinson who inspired the strategy and direct mail efforts that led to the election of Mayor Tom Bradley in 1973. But Howard Elinson’s life was much more than about politics. As a devout and Orthodox Jew his faith came first. And imagine this dark suited, yarmulke wearing, fast-talking man writing the “early 60’s seminal study” of voting behavior for his Ph.D. thesis. He conducted lengthy and open-ended interviews, drawing out in their homes 50 white working class voters in Bell, California—the then-place-of-entry of the vast immigration from Oklahoma, the mid-west and the South to Southern California.

These Christian and working class people had perhaps never before met a Jew—and certainly not a readily recognizable Orthodox Jew. Yet they opened their hearts to this amazing man. They trusted him—no matter how “New York” he spoke, no matter how foreign he might have looked. That was the uniqueness, the special nature of Howard Elinson.

Perhaps inspired by his faith, or by his innate decency, Howard Elinson affected the lives of everyone who knew him. Many dozens of internships, staff and budding politicians that came through Waxman’s office sought Howard Elinson’s advice and counsel—both personal and career. Hundreds of young people confused by the conflicts between a traditional religious life and modernity sought Howard Elinson’s advice on how to cope—who better to ask? Children flocked to him—no child was unworthy of his attention, his sense of playfulness, his devotion to the child’s value as a human being. No one in need (whether for a religious cause or in personal need) was turned down for a contribution. Howard Elinson’s generosity was open ended and well known.

The untimely death of Howard Elinson was not just a loss to his family and friends, but to the people who have had in him a champion of a tolerant, liberal, and more humane America.

IN HONOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA’S DELegATION TO THE 2005 YMCA YOUTH CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS

HON. JOE WILSON
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the South Carolina delegation to the 2005 YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs. The Youth Conference on National Affairs brings together some of the best and brightest students from across the country. YMCA Youth and Government seeks to teach teenagers the process of learning about government through hands-on experiences and in-depth learning at state conferences throughout the country.

The YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs will be held the first week of July in Black Mountain, NC, and I am proud of each and every one of the delegates that will be representing the Palmetto State.

In addition to the conference, the YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs will receive a special welcome from the Governor of South Carolina, the Honorable Jim Hunt.

In conclusion, I wish the delegates all the best for a great conference, and continue to thank them for their keen interest in improving our government and public service.

HONORING LENORE CROUDY
HON. DAVE E. KILDEE
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 24, 2005

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