

obstacles for those living with the illness. Robin Bohannan was an early warrior in the battle against HIV/AIDS and all these years later, her efforts serve as a model for how one person can make a lasting contribution to the greater community.

For her years of service, her devotion to others, her role in building a community of support, and her ability to harbor equal parts courage and compassion, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Robin Bohannan upon her resignation as executive director of the Boulder County AIDS Project. I am sure that her future endeavors will continue her legacy of service to Colorado.

SALUTING C. THOMAS KEEGEL

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. C. Thomas Keegel. Mr. Keegel joined the Teamsters in 1959 as a member of Local 544 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was a driver for the Sterling Cartage Company.

From driver to recording secretary of Local 544, Mr. Keegel has held elected office for 25 out of the 47 years he has been a member of the Teamsters Union.

Since being elected to general secretary-treasurer in March of 1999, Mr. Keegel has not only balanced the union's budget for the first time in nearly a decade, but has helped set an example of clarity and ethics for local union chapters.

In addition, Mr. Keegel has taken a leading role in continuing the Teamster's comprehensive anti-corruption policy, instituting sweeping reforms and safeguards in every area of the union's finances, as well as initiating legal actions to recover money stolen from the union in past years.

It is for these reasons that I stand in recognition of the work and dedication Mr. C. Thomas Keegel has demonstrated to labor workers across this country and especially the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
HATTIE McDANIEL

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Hattie McDaniel, a woman of firsts, whose career as an acclaimed singer and actress on film, television, and radio inspired and illuminated the lives of many. Her dynamic career afforded her the opportunity to break barriers in the entertainment industry, which allowed her to inevitably create a path for other gifted and aspiring African-Americans in the arts to travel.

Ms. McDaniel was born on June 10, 1895 in Wichita, KS, to Henry McDaniel, a Baptist minister and freed slave and Susan Holbert, a spiritual singer. She was raised in Denver, CO, and was the 13th child of the family. Realizing her talents at an early age, her father

put her in the family performance troupe he organized and managed.

Her experience aided her in winning a medal in dramatic art at age 15. However, in 1910, she dropped out of school and gained employment as a band vocalist with Professor George Morrison's Negro Orchestra. She toured the country and in 1915 became the first African-American to sing on network radio in the United States.

Ms. McDaniel worked in minstrel vaudeville shows until the Depression. During this time, she moved to Milwaukee and worked as a domestic. In 1930, while working as a bathroom attendant, her vocal abilities were discovered by the club manager. Subsequently, she landed a job in the club singing for a year and never looked back.

In 1931, Ms. McDaniel moved to Hollywood in pursuit of a film career, a time in which many African-Americans were solely portrayed as domestics and servants. These roles were often deemed to be stereotypical and insulting in the African-American community. However, Ms. McDaniel did not share this belief, and instead of turning her back on the roles, she worked against the stereotype from within the system.

As a result, she was able to build a remarkable three-decade career comprised of over 300 movies, and was able to accomplish what many others would still consider unattainable. She was praised for many of her roles including the role of Queenie in *Show Boat* in 1936; however, her most memorable role and greatest achievement was through her portrayal of Mammy in *Gone with the Wind* in 1939.

Similar to the characters she played in other movies, she portrayed Mammy as a humble, submissive, and trusted servant that also possessed an assertive and chastising attitude. Her subservient yet stern demeanor gained her immense respect both on and off the camera. In fact, her clever and brilliant performance in *Gone with the Wind* led her to becoming the first African-American Best Supporting Actress nominee and winner at the 1940 Academy Awards. She became the first African-American guest to be invited to the ceremony and was also the first and last recipient of the prestigious honor for 25 years.

Unfortunately, Ms. McDaniel's accomplishments were not revered by everyone. Although heavily criticized by African-Americans, some whites were equally condemnatory. Many blacks protested at the movie premiere describing Mammy as a symbolic reminder of slavery. In fact, Ms. McDaniel had to make the painful decision not to attend the *Gone with the Wind* premiere in Atlanta because of the highly charged racist climate in the South at that time.

In response to critics of her career, she simply stated, "it's better to get \$7,000 a week for playing a servant than \$7 a week for being one." In fact, as her career progressed, Ms. McDaniel was able to broaden her career and shift into playing more dramatic, less stereotypical roles which encapsulated the depth of her talents.

Ms. McDaniel was also an advocate for racial equity and integration. When Whites tried to block her from moving into her Los Angeles home, she rallied her Black neighbors and they took the case to the Supreme Court and won. Additionally, she served as the chair of the African-American sector of the Hollywood Victory Committee, which provided entertain-

ment for segregated black soldiers. She also organized fundraisers for African-American youth education.

In 1947, she was cast as a regular in *The Beulah Show* radio show. In 1951, *The Beulah Show* expanded to the small screen. Unfortunately, Ms. McDaniel appeared in only three episodes before she lost her battle with breast cancer and died in 1952.

Her dying wish was to be buried in the Hollywood Cemetery on Santa Monica Boulevard but because of her race, the owner at the time refused. However, in 1999, the new owner overturned the decision and asked that her remains be transferred to the cemetery. The family did not want to disturb her remains and respectfully declined. Nevertheless, the cemetery was dedicated to honoring her wish and as a result erected a cenotaph memorial on the lawn overlooking the lake in her memory.

Ms. McDaniel was a resilient, gifted, and witty figure in American history and her accomplishments are merely the testimonies of her diligence. She has two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame—one for her contributions to radio and one for her motion pictures contributions.

One of Hattie McDaniel's favorite and most famous sayings was, "Humble is the way." Although she had an admirable career, she had to travel an arduous path to attain it. However, through her humility and determination, she was able to carve her rightful place in American history. That is why I introduced legislation in the 108th Congress seeking to have her image memorialized on a postage stamp. As a result, on January 26, 2006, the Postal Service did indeed select to honor this great woman by making her the 29th image to appear on the Black Heritage commemorative stamp series. I also congratulate fellow Marylander, Ms. Ethel Kessler of Bethesda, for designing the stunning image on the stamp.

Mr. Speaker, though her spirit is gone with the wind, her legacy will always resonate through her artistic works and thus will continue to live on forever.

TRIBUTE TO THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF ATASCOSA COUNTY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sesquicentennial of Atascosa County, which is a county in the 28th district of Texas and was founded in 1856. This year marks the 150th anniversary of Atascosa's beginnings and we will kick off a year long celebration at the annual Tux and Boots Ball on Saturday, January 28, in Pleasanton, TX.

Mr. Speaker, Atascosa County is south of San Antonio on the Rio Grande Plain region of south central Texas. The first census taken in Atascosa County was in 1860 and counted 1,578 people. Today, Atascosa County's population is at more than 43,000 residents.

The earliest schools in Atascosa County were organized around the time of the Civil War. By 1914, there were 37 schools in the county. By the 1940s the school districts had begun to consolidate. The total number of persons over the age of 25 who had completed 4 years of high school rose from 1,300 in