

will experience a seizure in their lifetime, and each year, more than 181,000 develop seizures and epilepsy for the first time. Epilepsy affects people of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds. The condition can develop at any age, but epilepsy most often occurs in early childhood and old age.

It is also important to note that ten percent of all injuries to U.S. soldiers in Iraq are head injuries. Severe head injuries like those incurred during battle and roadside bombings carry a high risk of seizures and epilepsy that, in many cases, can develop months after the initial trauma.

Although advances in medical treatment have allowed some individuals with epilepsy to control their illness, more than 40 percent still have persistent seizures, despite all available treatments today. Epilepsy remains a formidable barrier to normal life, affecting educational opportunities, employment, and personal fulfillment.

Furthermore, epilepsy continues to be poorly understood by many Americans. Individuals with epilepsy are often misdiagnosed, cannot access the specialists they need, or are the subject of discrimination and prejudice. This cannot continue.

National Epilepsy Awareness Month aims to dispel common myths about individuals with epilepsy, increase public awareness and understanding about this serious condition, improve education to ensure faster diagnosis and treatment, and inform people about the services and informational resources available nationwide.

Many years ago, my life was turned upside down. Something was wrong with me but my doctor could not identify the cause. Finally, I was diagnosed with epilepsy. This diagnosis brought many challenges, but in my current position as a legislator, it has also brought opportunity. I hope I can be of some influence in directing attention and research to a disorder that has been ignored and misunderstood for too long.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of Congress to join all Americans with epilepsy, their families, friends, and supporters to do all we can to improve the lives of individuals with epilepsy.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. SHELVIN J. HALL

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, to work until one is 90 years old is unusual; and to work effectively is almost unbelievable. However, to do both for Rev. Shelvin Jerome Hall is nothing more than expectation. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to this extraordinary man. When a young Shelvin Jerome Hall came to Chicago from Texas, he brought with him intellect, wisdom, wit, good up-bringing, determination, a strong belief in God and a recognition that he was destined to follow in the footsteps of Moses and lead his people towards a promised land.

When Rev. Hall took over the pastorate of the Friendship Baptist Church in 1955, it is reported that the church had only 87 cents in its treasury. However, without a great deal of fan-

fare, he developed an institution whose membership were solid citizens who themselves were growing as the church did, and he and Friendship became anchors of the North Lawndale Community.

Always conscious of the social, political and economic plight of African Americans and other minorities, when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. came to Chicago in the 1960's, Rev. Hall opened the doors of Friendship to him and was not intimidated by City Hall and other factions opposed to the King movement.

During and after the riots in the '60's, Rev. Hall had a presence and played a significant role in fostering better police/community as well as Black-White relations in Chicago. Along the way Rev. Hall was married to an intelligent, professional, gracious and graceful woman, Mrs. Lucy Hall, who retired as one of Chicago's best public school teachers. They produced three children, Priscilla Hall who sits on the New York Supreme Court, Shelvin Louise Hall, an Appellate Court Justice in Cook County, Illinois and a son, Lewis J. Hall, Supervisor of Higher Education for the State of New York.

Rev. Hall has held every office on the Baptist Church's organizational chart. Pastor, Moderator, Dean at the Baptist Institute, President of the State Association and has provided leadership to many interfaith and interdenominational groups as well. Outside the religious arena, Rev. Hall has been chairman of many not-for-profit organizations and businesses . . . e.g. the Lawndale People's Planning and Action Conference, the Community Bank of Lawndale and a Blue Ribbon Commission to plan the re-opening of the Jackson Square Nursing Home across the street and in front of Friendship. Perhaps Rev. Hall's most pleasing achievement was the building of the new Friendship, commonly and fondly called the African Hut at 5200 W. Jackson Boulevard with wood imported from Mozambique. The church still sits in the heart of the Austin Community of Chicago which is more than 90% Black. It is a testament to the connection of African Roots to a large urban inner city community. It was also Rev. Hall, who along with some of his fellow clergy persons declared to Mayor Richard J. Daley and other Democratic Party leaders that it was time to elect a person of color to represent what is now the 7th Congressional District thereby, paving the way for Congressman George W. Collins to be elected, followed by his wife Congresswoman Cardiss Collins and finally, myself in 1996.

Rev. Hall, it is indeed a pleasure to salute you as you retire after having been pastor of Friendship Baptist Church for fifty one years. You've been effective and you've made a difference. We thank God for the Rev. Dr. Shelvin Jerome Hall.

TRIBUTE TO YVONNE SCARLETT-GOLDEN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 5th, 2006, the people of Daytona Beach, Florida and the United States suffered a great loss with the passing of Yvonne Scarlett-Golden. Yvonne Scarlett-Golden was a strong

leader, a passionate educator, and a devoted public servant. As the first African-American Mayor of Daytona Beach, she was never afraid of controversy; she was a true advocate for peace, racial justice, and social equality.

Born and raised in Daytona Beach, Yvonne grew up amid institutional segregation and discrimination. Despite growing up in a city of divisions, Yvonne would later be known as someone who brought the people of Daytona Beach together.

After High School, Yvonne decided to pursue a career in education. She received her Master's degree in education from Boston University, and began her teaching career in Florida public schools. She later taught in the San Francisco Unified School District, and served as the principal of Alamo Park High School for 20 years. After her long career to education, Yvonne returned to Daytona Beach to begin a career in politics, first as a city commissioner and later as the city's first African-American Mayor.

As Mayor, Yvonne helped unite the racially divided communities of Daytona Beach through determination and perseverance. She brought together the beachside and the mainland, black and white together through a city campaign pushing for respect and equality.

I remember very well attending peace conferences with Yvonne, the late Alameda County Supervisor John George, former Berkeley Mayor Gus Newport, former Berkeley City Councilmember Maudelle Shirek, and the late Carlton Goodlett, publisher of the Sun Reporter Newspaper, all of whose lives were totally committed to peace and justice.

Yvonne was a friend to me and an inspiration to many. Yvonne left us a legacy of fighting oppression and hatred with compassion and mutual respect. Her fight for justice and equality should not, can not, and will not be forgotten.

On behalf of the many friends of our beloved Yvonne from Northern California including her close friend, 95 year old former Vice Mayor of Berkeley Maudelle Shirek, we salute Yvonne Golden's life. We will keep her in our memories and we will honor her life by continuing her work for a better world. Her spirit will live on in the lives of those she touched in so many magnificent ways.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of a great woman, a brilliant human being who will be deeply missed, Yvonne Scarlett-Golden.

CONGRATULATING MAYOR TIM RUSSELL FOR 12 YEARS OF SERVICE AS MAYOR OF FOLEY, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and personal pleasure that I rise today to honor Mayor Tim Russell for his many years of leadership and service to the City of Foley, not to mention all he has done to promote and advance the entire First Congressional District of Alabama.

Mayor Russell has been a vital member of the Foley community his entire life. He was born and reared in Foley and is a graduate of