

are grown nowhere else commercially in the nation, are shipped throughout the United States as well as foreign markets. Good farmers, favorable weather conditions and water supplies are major factors contributing to California's bountiful crops, but the role of the Fresno County Farm Bureau in Fresno County's agricultural success cannot be understated.

Fresno County Farm Bureau will celebrate their 90th anniversary during their annual banquet held on May 3, 2007. It is appropriate at this time to highlight its many achievements and to underscore the crucial role that Farm Bureau has had in supporting and advocating on behalf of agriculture in Fresno County.

The Farm Bureau is the largest organization of farmers, ranchers, business people and citizens in the United States and it continues to grow in size and stature. In California, the Farm Bureau was formed in 1919. Today, there are nearly 92,000 members in 56 counties and nationwide with over 6.2 million enjoying membership.

Two years prior to the formal establishment of the Farm Bureau in California, a group of Fresno area farmers met with the first Extension Service farm advisor assigned to Fresno County to lay the groundwork for a county Farm Bureau organization. The vision was to provide a bona fide farm organization which could disseminate information and promote better farming practices.

Ninety years later, the Fresno County Farm Bureau is the largest farm bureau in the state of California, participating in nearly every facet of farming life. The Fresno Farm Bureau, through its voluntary, elected leaders and professional staff, is dedicated to promoting and protecting the family farm and to maintaining the treasured natural resources that are so important to California and this nation's vitality and lifestyle. The Fresno Farm Bureau has committed to the protection of public health, safety and welfare. Both are accomplished by local determination and active participation in the legislative process. In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Fresno County Farm Bureau is helping local agricultural producers maintain a viable system of production and delivery of abundant, safe supplies of wholesome food and fiber to our local, national and export consumers.

I commend Fresno County Farm Bureau for the presence, dedication, knowledge, professionalism and hard work on behalf of our farmers in California. Our nation's residents as well as citizens of other nations are the beneficiaries of this amazing supply of agricultural products. Farmers, Fresno County, California and our nation can be proud of Fresno County Farm Bureau's 90 years of service.

IN MEMORY OF NICOLE REGINA
WHITE

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Nicole Regina White, who was tragically killed in the recent attack at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University on April 16, 2007.

Nicole was known to many as a person who possessed the heart of a servant. She found

ways to invest in those around her, whether it was through conversation, friendship, lending a helping hand, or through volunteer work. As a trained emergency medical technician, she is believed to have even been helping people in the final moments of her life. Those who were close to her know how passionately Nicole gave back to her community, classmates, teachers, and family. She was a committed member of her church's outreach program, a Sunday school teacher, an EMT for the Smithfield Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad, and a lifeguard at her local YMCA.

Many say that one of Nicole's greatest loves in life was taking care of animals. During high school, Nicole volunteered at local stables and barns to take care of horses. In this hobby, it is clear to see that Nicole's heart and mission in life was to serve and care for others. Nicole was a double-major in International Relations and German at Virginia Tech.

Nicole was a person who loved life, loved serving people, loved her family, and, most importantly, loved the Lord. Although her life was tragically cut short, many are blessed to have known and loved her.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST MAJORITY WOMEN CITY COUNCIL IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI HISTORY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize history in the making. Today, for the first time in Kansas City, Missouri's history, a majority women's City Council will be sworn in at City Hall. While I wish I could have joined them in person in the Council Chambers I used to serve in as Mayor of Kansas City, I want to honor today's incoming Mayor, Mark Funkhouser, and the talented twelve City Council members who represent our State's largest city. Among them, seven women who are making history; by proving that our society can deliver change when the people call for it. These extraordinary women have demonstrated that the social norms by which women have traditionally been confined can be eradicated and the prospect for real change is not only plausible, but possible.

The women that stand before the City Clerk today and take the oath of office as members of the first majority women City Council are: Deb Hermann—serving the 1st District-at-Large, Melba Curls—serving the 3rd District-at-Large, Sharon Sanders Brooks—serving the 3rd District, Beth Gottstein—serving the 4th District-at-Large, Jan Marcason—serving the 4th District, Cindy Baker Circo—serving the 5th District-at-Large, and Cathy Jolly—serving the 6th District-at-Large.

Deb Hermann was first elected to the City Council in March 2003 and was immediately appointed Chairwoman of the Neighborhood and Housing Committee and member of the Operations Committee. She brought with her experience and leadership ability through active participation and involvement in nearly thirty civic and community organizations since 1979. She was a member of the Gracemor Randolph Community Council for 24 years

and served as its President from 1994 until her election to the City Council. Councilwoman Hermann served as the Chairwoman for the Property Maintenance Advisory Committee in 2001, and in 1999 was appointed as a Kansas City Plan Commission Board Member. Councilwoman Hermann has proudly served the citizens of the 1st District-at-Large for the past four years and continues to place a high priority on her commitment to neighborhoods.

Melba J. Curls has served the 41st District in the Missouri House of Representatives since 1999, ending her service in 2006 to run for City Council. While in office, she championed many causes, the most notable being legislation that extended renewal of the KC Area Transportation Authority's taxing ability to ensure that the critical needs for public transportation services remained funded in our community. This helped the less fortunate with their need for public access to jobs and health care. Curls has a long history of public service. Prior to her State election, she was employed in the Mayor's Office with the City of Kansas City, and before that, she served as a staff assistant in the Kansas City office of U.S. Senator Tom Eagleton. Curls is a life-long resident of Kansas City, and attended the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Sanders Brooks has served the 37th District in the Missouri House of Representatives since 2000, ending her service in 2006 to run for City Council. While in the State Legislature, she championed many causes, the most notable being a bill that outlined mandatory set-asides for Minority and Women-owned businesses. She has long been committed to protecting our community's history and brings that passion to fight for the causes of her constituents with her to City Hall. Prior to her State election, Brooks was successful civil rights investigator. A long-time friend and parishioner of mine, Brooks is a graduate of American University in Washington, DC where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism.

Beth Gottstein formerly served as the Resource Development Manager at the Hispanic Economic Development Corporation before stepping down to run for City Council. Gottstein has also been known to spearhead several local candidate campaigns and has long been active in our region's political organizations, including assisting with my first election to Congress. Gottstein has prior City Hall experience and has also been intimately involved with the Greater Kansas City Women's Political Caucus, a local organization that promotes women's involvement in politics. Gottstein earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Missouri and a Master's of Public Administration from University of Missouri-Kansas City.

For the past sixteen years, Jan Marcason has served as the Executive Director of the Mid-America Assistance Coalition, where she managed an annual budget of more than a million dollars and helped direct millions of dollars to local social service organizations. She was also the former President of the Women's Political Caucus. Previously, Jan's public service extended to Washington, DC, where she worked for former Vice President Walter Mondale. Marcason was born and raised in Kansas City. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of Kansas, and a Master's in Business Administration from University of Missouri-Kansas City.