

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JEAN PICKER  
FIRSTENBERG, AMERICAN FILM  
INSTITUTE

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 1, 2007*

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a great American pioneer, Jean Picker Firstenberg, the outgoing President and CEO of the American Film Institute. Her 27-year tenure has marked AFI as one of America's greatest national cultural and educational resources. Under Jean Picker Firstenberg's visionary leadership, AFI has fulfilled its mission of excellence in screen education and the recognition and celebration of excellence in the art of film, television and digital media.

From the moment she joined AFI in 1980, Firstenberg was effective from the start, acquiring an 8-acre campus in Los Angeles, and accrediting the AFI Conservatory through the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

In the 1980s, Firstenberg incorporated television and video into AFI's work, and established the AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival, AFI FEST, which has become a world-renowned annual event.

In the 1990s, she embraced the digital revolution, starting with the AFI-Apple Computer Center for Film and Videomakers, and adding the AFI Media and Technology division, the AFI Digital Content Lab, and Virtual AFI Web sites (AFI.com, AFIFEST.com, and SILVERDOCS.com).

Firstenberg has brought the art and science of storytelling to children through the AFI K-12 Screen Education Center that utilizes the advantages of digital and Internet technology to teach core subjects in America's schools, and to the general public through the AFI Showcase at the Disney-MGM Studios Theme Park in Orlando, Florida that depicts AFI programs and projects to millions of guests each year.

Firstenberg has celebrated the diverse talents and creativity of American filmmakers in the innovative AFI's 100 Years . . . 100 Movies series she began in 1998. Millions of Americans have revisited old favorites and discovered new classics with the AFI series, which includes 100 Years . . . 100 Stars (1999), 100 Years . . . 100 Laughs (2000), 100 Years . . . 100 Thrills (2001), 100 Years . . . 100 Passions (2002), Years . . . 100 Heroes & Villains (2003), 100 Years . . . 100 Songs, (2004), 100 Years . . . 100 Quotes (2005), and 100 Years . . . 100 Cheers (2006).

Another milestone, reached in 2003, was the opening of the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, MD, a state-of-the-art center for the moving image arts. It hosts SILVERDOCS, a film festival for aspiring documentary filmmakers, and anchors a revitalized community.

Firstenberg has continually embraced new media and blazed a trail for others to follow.

She is rightfully proud of 27 years of funding the Directors Workshop for Women. Most of the women directors working in the film industry today come from this program.

As she prepares to take leave of her day-to-day responsibilities at AFI, she will continue her service in her capacity as a lifetime trustee and through her legacy as a mentor, entrepreneur and role model. She will do so with the love and support of her family, particularly her daughter, Debra and her husband Michael Kusma, and their children Rachel, Sarah, and Christopher; her son Doug, his wife Suzanne, and their children Samantha, Drew, and Lindy; and her brother David Picker, and his wife, Sandy. Firstenberg's commitment to excellence and ethics in filmmaking is best captured by her AFI Conservatory graduates who describe her this way: "She has made AFI a place committed to the notion that television and film are more than commerce or technology—they are our investment in the future; in fact, our legacy. That we are to be held responsible for the images we perpetuate in the culture. And that one institute would take on the task of encapsulating the hard truths and dreams of a nation by preparing the storytellers of its future."

Madam Speaker, I ask the Congress of the United States to recognize the vision, talent and contributions that Jean Picker Firstenberg has made to enrich our cultural heritage and to encourage future generations to capture the imagination and innovation of the American people.

IN HONOR OF THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN LAKES, NEW JERSEY

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 1, 2007*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, tomorrow, the people of Franklin Lakes, New Jersey and their neighboring communities throughout Bergen County will celebrate the 85th anniversary of the Borough. A full day of rides, demonstrations, music, and great carnival food will mark the birthday celebration, which culminates in a fireworks display.

From as far back as the 17th Century, people have been drawn to this picturesque area. The Lenape Indians first traveled here to fish and make winter camp. Later as Dutch settlers pushed west, they, too, made what we now know as Franklin Lakes their home.

In 1876, the Walker Atlas shows that the community had grown from its first business—Daniel Youman's Grist Mill on Franklin Lake—to a thriving community of shops, schools, mills, hotels, and about 100 residences. In years to follow, rail and road expansion would bring even more people to the Franklin Lakes area. And, in 1922, Franklin Lakes officially incorporated, detaching itself from Franklin

Township and electing its first Mayor, William V. Pulis.

Between 1876 and 1980, Franklin Lakes grew to a whopping 8,500 people. And, today, nearly 10,500 people live there. Though it has grown in size and stature, it has always maintained its sense of neighborly quiet. The sense of friendship and community is evident in every nook and cranny of Franklin Lakes. It is my hope that the people of Franklin Lakes will maintain this vision for another 85 years into the future and then some, and I congratulate them all on this milestone occasion.

TRIBUTE TO TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE SENFRONIA THOMPSON

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 1, 2007*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend of mine, a maverick, a community visionary, a leader, and a true Texan who has achieved an extraordinary milestone this year.

Senfronia Thompson set history this year by becoming the first woman and the first African-American legislator in the state of Texas to serve for 34 years. This milestone is an accomplishment for all Texas women and all Texas African-Americans.

In 1973, Senfronia Thompson was elected to the Texas State House of Representatives from Houston. She has continued to serve her constituents in honor ever since. She now ranks as the longest-serving woman and the longest-serving African-American in Texas State legislature history.

I had the pleasure of serving beside Senfronia Thompson, a native Houstonian and a champion of civic participation, when we were both freshman legislators together in 1973. It was an honor to serve with her then and it is an honor for me to be able to celebrate her accomplishment today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 1, 2007*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, September 27, 2007, I missed three rollcall recorded votes due to unforeseen circumstances.

On rollcall vote No. 914, on a Motion to Adjourn, I would have voted "No." On rollcall vote No. 922, on a Motion to Recommit with

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