

A native of Newton, Georgia, Shirley received a degree in Sociology from Albany State University and later took graduate business studies at Valdosta State University. In 1989, she received a Master of Arts in Community Development from Antioch University.

As the Congressman who represents Southwest Georgia, I hold in highest regard individuals like Shirley—those tireless advocates with the courage and conviction to reach out, touch, and impact the farthest boundaries of our community. May the Second Congressional District, Georgia, and indeed the country continue to benefit from her service.

A TRIBUTE TO TINA THOMAS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Tina Thomas' years of service to the Sacramento area as a prominent attorney, philanthropist and community leader. Tina is transitioning from partner to "of counsel" at her law firm, Remy, Thomas, Moose and Manley. In doing so, Tina will now serve in an advisory capacity to the firm and have more time to assist local nonprofits. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring one of Sacramento's finest citizens.

Tina earned a bachelor's degree from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri in 1975 and her juris doctor degree from the University of San Diego in 1979. Later that year, she came to Sacramento. Before choosing to practice law full time, Tina served on the faculties of California State University, Sacramento and the Consortium of California State Universities and Colleges where she was an associate professor teaching graduate and undergraduate courses on the law, environment and planning related subjects.

In the late 1970s, Tina began her legal career as an intern for the Environmental Unit of the California Attorney General's office, and then in 1979 she was hired by a local environmental attorney Michael Remy. Together Tina and Michael formed a law firm that is now known as Remy, Thomas, Moose and Manley, where Tina and Michael worked together as partners until he passed away in 2003. Since its founding, Tina has served as the firm's managing partner, with clients that include governmental agencies, local businesses and environmental organizations. Along with her partners, Tina co-authored the Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act in 2006, a book now utilized by attorneys state wide.

In her spare time, Tina has served on numerous nonprofit boards in the Sacramento area. This includes the La Raza Galeria Posada, the Conservancy International and the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. In addition, on a pro bono basis, Tina has represented many organizations including; WEAVE, Loaves and Fishes, Francis House and the WIND Center for Homeless Teens. Due to the support of generous individuals like her, programs such as these are able to continue to thrive, which in turn makes Sacramento a better place to live, work, and raise a family. For her dedication to the Sacramento community, Tina was named Sacramento County's "Distinguished Attorney" in 2005 by the Sacramento County Bar Association.

Personally, Tina has been a pleasure to work with and a true friend. Her compassion and spirit is a wonderful addition to the Sacramento community. She is a caring, smart and thoughtful individual, who always looks out for those in need and makes sure that their concerns are known by all who can help.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my friend Tina Thomas. Tina is not only a dedicated community leader and attorney, but also is a loving mother to her children Libby, Mary Claire and Sam and wonderful wife to her husband, Bill Abbott. We all are thankful for her efforts. As Tina's colleagues, family and friends gather to honor her service, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing her continued good fortune in this new capacity.

TRIBUTE TO VERNON, CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate 200 years of Vernon, Connecticut's rich history. Beginning in 2008, the Vernon community will commence a yearlong second centennial celebration, the "Countdown to 200", that will reflect on the past and welcome the future.

In the early 18th century, settlement began with families from East Windsor cultivating the land and laying groundwork for future development and eventual incorporation of Vernon in 1808. Throughout the 19th century and diminishing with the end of the World War II, textile factories would serve as the main economic lifeblood for the region, especially in Rockville, a town that would later be incorporated in Vernon. During the Civil War, these mills would produce textiles that would clothe Union soldiers.

While textiles formed the most notable industry in the region, agriculture had strong roots since settlement in the early 18th century. In 1965, agricultural and industrial communities were linked with the consolidation of the city of Rockville and Vernon.

Vernon has produced a number of notable figures, including Gene Pitney, "The Rockville Rocket" as well as four-time Super Bowl football champion, Bill Romanowski. Charles Ethan Porter, a renowned still life painter and former Virginia Governor, Mark Warner, also call Vernon their hometown.

The relics of earlier settlement and production, including the keystone arch tunnel on Tunnel Road, the Tower on Fox Hill, and the old textile mills, serve as a reminder of the versatility of our quaint New England town. Vernon and its residents have faced a number of problems that have notoriously afflicted small industrial towns. The Vernon community has weathered this adversity, and has and will continue to adapt and endure. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in celebrating two centuries of Vernon's history, and welcome many more to come.

ARTICLE BY SAEED MALIK

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD this article by Saeed Malik entitled, "U.S. Can't Support Both Musharraf and Ideal of Liberty."

Today, Pakistan is gripped by an existential crisis. This crisis comes just when Pakistanis were beginning to feel optimistic. An independent judiciary was taking root and the fourth estate of the press was in ascendancy. Accountability, long overdue, had finally arrived, or so the people of Pakistan thought.

The optimism was cut short this month when the U.S. ally-in-chief, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, fearing invalidation of his recent election by the Supreme Court, dissolved the court, closed the media and jailed dissidents by the thousands.

The measured and somewhat muted reaction of the Bush administration to this barbarity is not only morally bankrupt, it is downright dangerous. The fundamentalists on one side of this war on terror cannot defeat the fundamentalists on the other. Fundamentalism in any society will only be defeated and sidelined by moderates from within. By supporting Musharraf, albeit tacitly, the United States is sidelining the very moderates who must win this war. Musharraf's occasional delivery of a wanted terrorist cannot justify suppression of the fundamental freedoms of Pakistani civil society. A society thrives when its constituents take a stake in its well-being and its decision-making process.

It has been said that terrorists hate us because of our liberty and one must be either on the side of terrorists or the side of liberty. If today we do not support the Pakistanis who seek liberty, what will they think of us? Will our government deliver on this slogan when liberty is at stake in a Muslim country? Our goals are advanced by demanding restoration of the Supreme Court. We must also demand the immediate release of all judicial activists jailed after the so-called emergency. Pakistanis must realize that America stands for the rule of law and the liberty of all people. A golden opportunity to win the hearts and minds of the Pakistani masses beckons us. Sticking to support for an increasingly unpopular dictator in Pakistan will only solidify President Bush's 9 percent favorable opinion rating in Pakistan.

Although it has been generations since the CIA deposed Iranian Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq and installed the Shah, and decades since our government tried to forestall the Iranian revolution, Iranians have not forgotten these travesties. International relations must be based, first, on democratic principles. Propping up Musharraf negates these principles, fueling antagonism among Pakistanis.

I have a personal stake in this sad saga. My 57-year-old brother, Muneer Malik, a Santa Clara University law school graduate, has been "detained" under "preventive measures" in Pakistan's version of Guantánamo Bay. He is reportedly critically sick and without outside contact. Muneer's crime is that as president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, he was in the forefront of the movement to assert the independence of the Pakistani judiciary. Thousands of heroic lawyers have met a similar fate. Rejecting the recent purge of the Supreme Court, 13 of the 17 judges refused to