

times. Last season despite his health crisis, Coach Gerald led his team to a 21–0 regular season and another division title. The only loss of the season came in the state playoffs, and his team lost by only one basket.

Coach Gerald draws strength from his family and his faith. He is married to the former Linda Diane Bethea, and they have two children and two grandchildren. He is also a deacon at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, where he has been a lifelong member.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in applauding the outstanding dedication, leadership and determination demonstrated by Mark Gerald. He is an extraordinary example for all of us to follow. I wish him Godspeed, and continued success and happiness.

HONORING REVEREND DOCTOR
HARVEY J. JOHNSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I mourn the passing of a dear friend of mine, the Reverend Doctor Harvey J. Johnson.

Madam Speaker, born and raised in the Gulf Coast region of Texas, Rev. Dr. Harvey J. Johnson was a fixture of Texas. For the last 24 years he served as pastor of the Cathedral of Faith Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, where I had the pleasure of counting him as my friend.

Madam Speaker, Rev. Dr. Johnson was a member of many important Dallas area community groups including the Together Dallas Task Force, the Dallas Independent School District's Advisory Board, the City of Dallas Board of Adjustment of which he was chairman, and he was a member of the Texas Attorney General's Child Support Board.

Madam Speaker, Rev. Dr. Johnson is survived by his wife of 35 years, Elnora Johnson; a son, Reverend Nathan (Michelle) Johnson; four daughters, Candy S. Wade, Sharon D. Brown, Felicia D. (Craig) Holloway, and Helena J. (Michael) Hill, 15 grandchildren; 2 great grandchildren; one brother, Melvin Byrdlon; one sister, Vinnell (James) Briscoe; and a host of nieces, nephews, other family members, church members, and friends.

Madam Speaker, Rev. Dr. Johnson cared deeply about his community and dedicated his life to serving it. For this our community was always better and he will be missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF NICK YOVINO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues from California, Mr. RADANOVICH and Mr. NUNES to pay tribute and congratulate the distinguished public service of Mr. Nick Yovino. After 37 years, Nick is leaving his position as Director of the Planning Department with the city of Fresno. Mr. Yovino will be honored at a reception held by the city of Fresno on Thursday, September 25, 2008.

Nick started as an intern in October 1971 and upon graduating from Fresno State he took a temporary position in the Planning and Inspection Department at Fresno City Hall. In 1972, Nick became a permanent employee as a Planning Technician with the city of Fresno. In 2000, he became Director of the Planning and Development Department and since that time Nick has been instrumental on numerous development projects helping the city of Fresno become a better place for the entire community. One major focus has been downtown revitalization resulting in the growth of government and commercial enterprises and leading the way toward a vibrant downtown we can all be proud of.

Mr. Yovino played an active role in the General Plans of 1975, 1984 and 2025, as well as plans for the Mixed Use Ordinance, Community Design Guidelines and the Full Entering of the Planning and Building Safety Services Division. In addition Nick was instrumental on the Tower District and Fulton-Lowell Specific Plans, the Bullard Community Plan, the Pinedale and Highway City Woodward Park Community Plan and the Southeast Growth Area Expansions.

Nick has a natural gift and ability of bringing people of diverse thinking together that has always resulted in making the city and county of Fresno a better community for residents and visitors alike. Over the years Nick has been an extraordinary leader and a friend.

Madam Speaker, it goes without saying that Mr. Yovino's dedication and accomplishments in planning and development with the city of Fresno gained him the respect and appreciation from all who had the pleasure to work with him and know him. He worked hard, he sacrificed time away from his family, and he expected little in return. With retirement now a reality, as Nick prepares to spend more time with his children and grandchildren, we thank him and honor him for his many years of service.

HONORING WILLIAM H. GATES, SR.

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a committed philanthropist, an exemplary public servant and an honorable veteran, William H. Gates, Sr. Through a lifetime of work and leadership, Mr. Gates has accomplished extraordinary good; changing millions of lives for the better. Although he cares little about personal accolades and awards—of which he has received many—I believe he is the living embodiment of the spirit of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. It is an award he richly deserves.

An Eagle Scout from Bremerton, Washington, Mr. Gates served 3 years in the U.S. Army during World War II before earning his bachelors and law degrees from the University of Washington in 1949 and 1950, respectively. His law career led to the establishment of one of the largest and most successful law firms in Seattle.

No matter his professional aspirations, Mr. Gates never wavered in his philanthropic spirit. As president of both the Seattle/King County and the Washington State Bar associations,

he focused his efforts on equal justice for the poor and disadvantaged, ultimately prompting the Washington Supreme Court to create an Access to Justice Board, now a national model.

Additionally, he and his late wife, Mary Maxwell Gates, served admirably with the United Way of King County, Washington, beginning in the 1960s and spanning several decades. Mrs. Gates became board chair of the United Way in 1973, a position Mr. Gates presently occupies. In all, Mr. Gates has served as a trustee, officer and volunteer for more than two dozen organizations in northwest Washington.

Perhaps his most lasting and indelible legacy will be his work as the co-chair and CEO of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a philanthropy with an endowment of more than \$24 billion, the largest in history. With the help of his son, Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft Corporation, the Gates Foundation has provided an outlet for Mr. Gates to continue his lifelong quest for equality in every aspect of life—especially education.

Most are aware of the inspirational work the foundation has done around the world to combat crises in health and education in some of the most impoverished nations in the world. What is less known is the “smaller” help the foundation provides to local school districts and townships to help spur a promising educational program or fill a gap in technology funds. Countless examples exist nationwide of significant progress made in all areas of education because of a gift from the Gates Foundation.

The incredible vision of Mr. Gates, his son Bill and wife Melinda, is truly a blessing to the entire world and it is a vision Mr. Gates cultivated and perfected over many decades.

The tireless work of Mr. Gates on behalf of the less fortunate in the United States and around the world is well documented. The impact of his lifelong ambitions is legendary. Recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom have, among other things, “been leaders in their chosen fields, have led lives of vision and character, and have made especially meritorious contributions to our nation and the world.” I can think of no one who fulfills that description better than William H. Gates, Sr.

FILIPINO VETERANS BENEFIT
VOTE

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I am truly disappointed that the United States Congress today would even consider giving benefits to Filipino veterans and ignore American veterans who were victims of the Bataan Death March in the Philippines.

In crafting H.R. 6897, which gives all Filipino veterans benefits, did you know that the Veterans' Affairs Committee dumped a provision to the bill that would have authorized \$4 a day for the American survivors of the Bataan Death March?

Did you know that of the 4,500 veterans that survived the march, there are only 1,700 American veterans or spouses alive today? Why would Congress ignore these American veterans and their spouses?