

Hospital, University of Miami Medical School, and retired from the Miami-Dade County Health Department as supervisor of nursing in 1997.

While she was a devoted member of numerous community organizations, Mrs. McKinney DeVeaux had a special love and dedication to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Throughout her 57 years of membership, some of the leadership roles she assumed were: multi-term chairperson of the Gamma Zeta Omega Chapter's annual Ebony Fashion Fair event, advisor to the undergraduate Iota Nu Chapter at University of Miami, chairperson of the health committee and founding member of the AKA WISH Foundation. In recognition of her 50 years of committed membership, she was crowned a "Golden Soror" in 2004.

In homage to her profession and the community where she was raised (Overtown), she proudly served for 14 years as the recording secretary of the Board of Directors, Jefferson Reaves Sr. Health Center, Inc. Also, always the consummate "Rattler", she was a life member of the Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University Alumni Association.

Mrs. McKinney DeVeaux remained devoted to her family, and will be missed by all who knew her. I offer my heartfelt condolences to her family—her children, Jennifer DeVeaux Robinson (Rodney) and Pierre Rutledge; sister, Barbara McKinney; brother, Robert L. McKinney, Esq.; special brother, Reverend Canon J. Kenneth Major; four grandchildren, as well as her nieces, nephews, Godchildren, and vast array of friends and colleagues.

Madam Speaker, in the words of her Sorority's mission to provide "service to all mankind", Mrs. McKinney DeVeaux has embodied and wholeheartedly embraced this throughout her life. While she will indeed be missed, her legacy will live on and the outstanding contributions and service she made to the betterment of Miami-Dade County and South Florida will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING VERA BRYANT OF
BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vera Bryant of Hernando County, Florida. Vera will do something later this year that all of us strive to do, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate her 100th birthday.

Vera Bryant was born May 7, 1909, in Twin Lakes, Florida. A native Floridian, she married her sweetheart Robert Bryant and together they had two beautiful children, both girls. After finishing school, Vera worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant for 33 years while raising her two children.

A dedicated church member that gives her much happiness in life, Vera attends the Bethlehem Progressive Baptist Church where she is the oldest member. Today she spends much of her time visiting with her family and her church. At one time, Vera enjoyed delivering the Tampa Tribune, where she had her own paper route. Vera said she did a lot of volunteer work and was a Lilly White Convention Member and sang in the Church Choir.

Vera's proudest moments now are having time to spend with all of her grand, great- and great-great-grandchildren. She also has many wonderful memories of riding her father's horses. Vera's advice to young people today is to be sure to get a good education and make something of their lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Vera Bryant for reaching her 100th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as her.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION AND INTERNMENT OF LATIN AMERICANS OF JAPANESE DESCENT ACT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act. This bill would create a commission to review and determine facts surrounding the relocation, internment, and deportation of Japanese Latin Americans during World War II.

Almost 30 years ago, Congress established the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to study the circumstances which led to the detention of 110,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. After twenty days of hearings, testimony from 750 witnesses, and review of thousands of government and military documents, the Commission concluded that internment of Japanese Americans was the result of racism and wartime hysteria. In its report to Congress titled *Personal Justice Denied*, the Commission stated "not a single documented act of espionage, sabotage or fifth column activity was committed by an American citizen of Japanese ancestry or by Japanese alien . . ." The Commission's findings vindicated these loyal Americans and President Ronald Reagan's signature of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 brought closure to thousands who suffered unspeakable indignities and tremendous losses. However, there remains a group who has not yet experienced the closure they deserve or obtained the justice to which they are entitled.

Between December 1941 and February 1948, approximately 2,300 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry were abducted from 13 Latin American countries and deported to internment camps in the United States. The U.S. government orchestrated and financed this operation with the intention of using these individuals as hostages in exchange for Americans held by Japan. Over 800 people, many who were second or third generation Latin Americans and had no familial or linguistic ties to Japan, were used in two prisoner of war exchanges. The remaining detainees were held in U.S. internment camps until after the end of the war. In the appendix of *Personal Justice Denied*, the Commission cited the Federal government's role in kidnapping and detaining Japanese Latin Americans, but acknowledged it had not researched documents that exist in distant archives or received official testimony from government officials or survivors.

It is for these reasons that I introduce this very important legislation. The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act would create a commission to investigate and review the facts with regard to the abduction and detainment Japanese Latin Americans during World War II by the U.S. government. Composed of nine members appointed by the President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and President pro tempore of the Senate, the commission would be charged with holding public hearings and submitting a report of its findings and recommending appropriate remedies to Congress.

I am proud to be working with Senator DANIEL K. INOUE of Hawaii, a decorated World War II veteran and a tremendous public servant, who is also introducing an identical Senate companion measure today. Additionally, I am honored to have the indispensable support of the wonderful men and women of the Campaign for Justice and the Japanese American Citizens League. Without them this effort would lack the heart and soul essential to cross the finish line.

Madam Speaker, now is the time to reconcile our past and complete the official narrative on a troubling period in our Nation's history. As we commit ourselves to building a better America for our daughters and sons, I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act.

TRIBUTE TO MURRELL MITCHELL,
SR.

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Murrell Mitchell, Sr., a pillar of the community in Corbin, Kentucky, who sadly passed away on November 18, 2008 at the age of 91.

Murrell's life was a testament to his love for his community, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, his country, and the Lord. A hard worker and small business owner, Murrell was a fixture of southeastern Kentucky. In addition to his entrepreneurial efforts, Murrell also served as a member of the Knox County Kentucky School Board, as well as three terms as a Knox County Magistrate.

Murrell was also devoted to serving the Lord and working in his church, the Grace Baptist Church in Corbin Kentucky, where he was a deacon for many years. As a faithful member of the congregation for most of his life, Murrell also served as Sunday school director as well as church treasurer.

Through all of his successes, Murrell had a deep abiding love for his family. He was married to his wife, Opal, for over 70 years. Together they have been the loving parents of 7 children, 15 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren. Murrell's presence as father, grandfather, deacon, and rock of the community will be sorely missed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the memory of Murrell Mitchell. Although he has departed from us in body, his memory will live on in each of us