

critical role within American society, and an anticipation of the great advances still achievable within the field. I urge my colleagues in both Chambers to support this measure both in honor of Dr. Dorothy I. Height and the late Whitney M. Young, Jr. and in resolute defense of the ideals and the people to whom Dr. Height and Mr. Young have dedicated their lives.

IN HONOR OF REDA BENDA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Reda Benda, devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend, whose spirit, positive attitude and service to others has left an indelible imprint upon our Cleveland community.

Mrs. Benda married Elmer Benda at Holy Name church in 1941, where she remained an active parishioner her entire adult life. Together they raised five children: James, Elmer, Kathleen, William and Rosemary. Mrs. Benda was the center of her family—always surrounded by the support and strength of her children, sixteen grandchildren and twenty great grandchildren.

Her devotion to her family extended into the community, throughout the North Broadway neighborhood where her leadership and concern for others lifted the lives of countless neighbors. Mrs. Benda was a founding member of the Jones Road Town Club, a member of the Orchard Civic Club and she logged nearly 7,000 hours as a volunteer at St. Alexis Hospital. She was active in several neighborhood senior organizations, including Holy Name, St. Stan's and St. Therese Senior Citizen Groups. Additionally, Mrs. Benda was a passionate participant in the democratic process. She was an active member of the Ward 12 Democratic Club and the Cleveland Women's Democratic Club. Moreover, Mrs. Benda was a Democratic Precinct Committeewoman for nearly twenty years.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, join me in honor and remembrance of Reda Benda, whose joyous life is one to celebrate and emulate. I offer my heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Benda's children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, extended family and many friends. Although she will be greatly missed, her unwavering devotion to faith, family, friends and to the people of the North Broadway neighborhood has touched the lives of everyone who knew her, and she will never be forgotten.

SAN JOSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
IN DUNEDIN, FLORIDA CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, the students, parents, faculty and staff of San Jose Elementary School celebrate 50 years of educational excellence this week in Dunedin, Florida, which I have the honor to represent.

Monika Wolcott, San Jose's principal, and her staff take great pride in providing a close-knit family that works with parents and local businesses to challenge their students to achieve the highest standards. Their motto is Commitment to Character and SOS (self, others, school).

San Jose Elementary welcomed its first students on September 2, 1958 to a growing part of North Pinellas County and now has as its students the children of many of its alumni.

The school has been called one of Pinellas County's best kept secrets and sits on a very unique piece of property. It is immediately adjacent to the 75 acre Hammock Park, the Dunedin Nature Center, the Gulf of Mexico and the Pinellas Trail, a county-long recreational pathway.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues will join me in saying thank you to San Jose Elementary for providing a half-century of caring service to the thousands of students who have passed through its doors. As the times and technologies have changed over the years, one thing has remained constant. That is a commitment to a warm and caring learning environment which has led to a quality education for Pinellas County elementary students. My congratulations go out to the San Jose Hawks, their parents and teachers for a job well done.

IN HONOR OF MARLENE ELLIOTT
BROWN

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Marlene Elliott Brown. In a state with many "firsts" in its history, we are proud of the fact that Marlene was the first female State Director for USDA Rural Development, and after eight years she has left big shoes to fill for those that will follow her. This amazing woman's nearly twenty-six years of tireless federal service have been nothing but extraordinary.

A native of Laurel, Delaware, Marlene's career in public service began in 1982, when she joined the staff of the late U.S. Senator William V. Roth. She became the Senator's State Director and served him faithfully for eighteen years. On March 14, 2001, she was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as the Delaware/Maryland Director for USDA Rural Development. Marlene's eight years in this position are marked with many noteworthy accomplishments including: 1065 Delaware families or individuals becoming new homeowners; 2855 jobs created or saved; 44,188 homes and businesses that benefited from improved central water and wastewater systems; and 235 homes of individuals with disabilities that were repaired to remove health and safety hazards.

But Marlene's impact on those around her is certainly not limited to her professional career. She is a role model for others and is involved in many community organizations, having served as President for the Georgetown-Millsboro Rotary Club, Vice Chairman of the Republican State Committee, Honorary Commander at the Dover Air Force Base, Board Member of the Delmarva Christian High

School, member of the Delaware Tech Educational Foundation Council, and through her faith as a member of Trinity UMC and the Delmar Christian Center.

Marlene once described the late Senator William Roth in the following words, "all were better for the time spent with him. He gave everyone opportunity, he led by example, and he showed the path for public service." I find Marlene Elliott Brown to be all of those things and more. She is a thoughtful leader, an insightful and honest woman, a tireless volunteer in her community and church, a dedicated public servant, and above all, a loyal and generous friend.

I congratulate Marlene for her years of extraordinary service to the state of Delaware and the countless citizens who have been touched in some way by her dedication. On behalf of all Delawareans, I would like to thank her parents—Marshall and Blanche Elliott; her husband—Jim; and her friends for sharing her with us over these many years. Marlene is an exemplary citizen and like other outstanding individuals before her, "we are better for the time spent with her."

IN HONOR OF JUDGE LARRY A.
JONES, SR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Judge Larry A. Jones, Sr., who was recently sworn-in to serve as Judge with the Court of Appeals of Ohio, Eighth Appellate District, where he will hear cases on appeal in Cuyahoga County.

Judge Jones, a lifelong resident of the Cleveland area, has a multifaceted and rich history of public service, which began at Glenville High School, where he was elected President of the Student Council. Following High School, Judge Jones realized the importance of a solid educational foundation. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wooster College, then went on to earn a Juris Doctorate degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

Judge Jones served as the Assistant County Prosecutor for Cuyahoga County from 1978 to 1981, when he was elected to the Cleveland City Council, where he represented the residents of Ward 10 for five years. In 1987, Judge Jones was elected Judge of the Cleveland Municipal Court, and was re-elected every six years thereafter. Throughout his tenure, Judge Jones created an atmosphere of teamwork among the judges, uniting to develop programs to pave the way for offenders to renew their lives, thereby reducing recidivism. In 1998, Judge Jones was selected by judicial leaders to preside as the Judge for the Greater Cleveland Drug Court, a multi-tiered program involving city and county agencies that focuses on drug offenders in two main ways: Accountability and treatment resources. This vital program continues to turn lives around and provides hope for individuals and families caught in the devastating web of drug abuse, providing them with the tools to break free and reclaim their lives.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the work of Judge Larry A.