

A TRIBUTE TO JIMMY DEE CLARK

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize Jimmy Dee Clark for his dedication to the 19th Congressional District of Texas. Jimmy retires this month after 23 years of continuous service to the district.

Born to Leeman and Frances Clark on December 12, 1945, Jimmy was raised on a farm in Acuff, Texas. He graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1964 and just two years later, he married his childhood sweetheart, Rita Dunagan. After 20 years of running his family farm, Jimmy began an additional career in public service.

In 1986, my predecessor in Congress, Larry Combest, hired Jimmy as a district representative. As Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee in the 106th and 107th Congresses, Mr. Combest greatly shaped farm policy in this country, and Jimmy brought indispensable insight as a liaison between the farmers and ranchers of the 19th District and their representative. Jimmy was instrumental in helping Chairman Combest shepherd the 2002 Farm Bill through Congress.

Following Chairman Combest's retirement in 2003, Jimmy came to work for me as my District Director and Deputy Chief of Staff. Jimmy's experience and counsel have made him an invaluable asset to my staff. Most notable, however, is Jimmy's ability to relate to his fellow farmers in West Texas and to help ensure I understand their business, their concerns and their role in District 19's economy. Again, Jimmy's guidance and his role as the voice of the farmers of my district were essential in helping me during the 2008 Farm Bill.

Jimmy is also a strong Christian and family man. He and Rita have two daughters, Jill and Randee, and five grandchildren: Caden, Kacie, Josh, Steffanie, and Gabbie, that I know he will now get to spend more time with. A 32nd degree Mason, Jimmy's public service has reached more than just the farmers in West Texas. He has served as a past member and Commander of the Lubbock County Sheriff's Reserve. A licensed pilot, Jimmy's hobbies include flying and home remodeling.

I am enormously appreciative to Jimmy for his hard work and for his contributions to improving the course of agriculture policy in the United States and in West Texas. More important, I am proud to count him as a friend. Those in District 19, including myself, thank him for a job well-done and extend to him our best wishes for his retirement/retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NORMAN BRINKER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of restaurateur Norman Brinker.

Brinker, the chairman emeritus and former chief executive of Brinker International, died June 9th at the age of 78.

Brinker, the founder of Steak and Ale restaurant in 1966, built Brinker International into a restaurant giant. He is most well known for turning Chili's Grill and Bar restaurant from a string of local restaurants into a national chain owned by Brinker International. Brinker's illustrious restaurant career began in my Dallas area district in 1965, opening Brink's Coffee Shop, and I am deeply saddened by the loss of someone so influential to the history of the city.

In his time in the restaurant industry, Mr. Brinker has changed American casual dining, while touching the lives of many in the restaurant industry. At one time or another, essentially every major restaurant chain in the country had as its leader a former employee of Brinker.

Aside from his commitment to the restaurant industry, Mr. Brinker also served as a board member and important counsel for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation.

Mr. Brinker's legacy stands as a testament to interaction with the local community, and a foresight for changes in the restaurant community that would remain for years to come. I ask my fellow members of Congress to join me in honoring Norman Brinker and his impact both in the Dallas area and nationwide.

RECOGNIZING MASSACHUSETTS FOR RESOLUTION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, as the House is soon to consider comprehensive climate change legislation, I would like to illustrate how individual states stand ready to lead the effort to combat global warming and are willing to take extremely ambitious and necessary stands. On March 12th, my home state of Massachusetts passed a resolution committing to re-power America with 100 percent clean electricity in the next ten years. The resolution was successful in large part because of the tireless efforts of Massachusetts Power Shift, a grassroots organization of climate advocates. Global warming is no longer an academic question for scientists to ponder. It's a very real crisis that requires American leadership. This is not a political issue; this is a critical generational responsibility that will take a commitment from every American. The renewable technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move towards energy independence exist; the societal will and desire to go green have been demonstrated; and the political climate to finally create sound public policy to do so is now present. Re-powering America with clean energy will create jobs, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions—the clearest solution to preserving our natural treasures for future generations. I am proud to represent the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and congratulate its legislature for such a resolution.

CONDEMNING THE MURDER OF STEPHEN TYRONE JOHNS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to share in the nation's shock, outrage, and sorrow at the tragic shooting today at the U.S. Holocaust Museum here in Washington. My heart and prayers go out to the family of the young security guard, Stephen Tyrone Johns, who was killed in this senseless crime.

Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG, who serves on the board for the museum, noted the irony that this hateful act took place in this beautiful, peaceful place; a sort of thoughtful sanctuary dedicated to ensuring that the evil of the holocaust never again gains a foothold on this earth. How right he is. How many times must this museum serve to teach the world about the horrible power of hate?

Earlier this week, this body considered two resolutions, one condemning the killing of Dr. George Tiller and one condemning the killing of Army Private William Long and the wounding of Army Private Quinton Ezeagwula. Like today's killing, these acts were simply reprehensible. The taking of innocent life cannot be justified.

Our society has traveled down a road that should never have been trodden. Human life has been devalued. Violence has been glorified. The gift of living has lost its meaning. In accepting his Nobel Prize, Dr. Martin Luther King said, "Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love." As a people, we must promote life, we must celebrate this miracle. And, as a Congress, we must lead the way with laws that protect all, particularly the most vulnerable amongst us, and that encourage loving, life-affirming ways.

46TH ANNIVERSARY OF EQUAL PAY ACT

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the anniversary of an important milestone in our American history.

Today marks the 46th anniversary of the passage of the Equal Pay Act.

In 1963, Congress passed the Equal Pay Act to prohibit employers from wage discrimination on the basis of someone's sex.

This groundbreaking shift was a game-changer for women who were before, and in many places still are, treated as unequals in the workplace.

It was important to level the playing field.

It was important to provide equal pay for equal work.

And it's important for us today to remember that we need more game-changers—that there are more wrongs to right, and that there are inequalities and injustices to remedy.

That those things over which we have no control—our race, our gender, our sexual orientation, our disabilities—should not divide us