

founder of a local charter school, Joe spent much of his free time helping provide a quality education for area students. Joe also founded a local non-profit which helps to locate, renovate and restore veteran gravesites going back to the Revolutionary War, ensuring that all veterans are remembered for their sacrifice.

This sense of service and level of commitment has made Joe a highly-respected figure in our community. While the Auditor's office and the taxpayers of Franklin County will certainly miss his principled leadership, I know he will continue to assist many in Central Ohio through his service as a private citizen.

For his years of service to Franklin County and consistent hard work toward the betterment of Central Ohio, I commend Joe Testa upon his retirement.

NAACP CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the NAACP on their 100th anniversary. As the nation's oldest and largest grassroots civil rights organization, I commend the NAACP for their landmark accomplishments as well as their ongoing efforts to remove all barriers of racial discrimination in our nation.

Founded on February 12, 1909, the NAACP was established by a diverse and determined small group of brave men and women whose stated goal was to secure for all people the rights guaranteed by the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Over the span of 100 years, the NAACP's trailblazing work with federal and state legislators as well as in courthouses across the country transformed the organization into an instrumental force in the movement for political, educational and economic equality. As we begin the 21st century, the NAACP continues to pursue these important goals while remaining focused on promoting voter empowerment initiatives as well as closing the economic and educational disparities that continue to plague minority communities.

In my hometown of El Paso, Texas, the local NAACP branch has a distinguished and rich history of civic participation, as this branch is the oldest in the State of Texas. Established in 1915, the El Paso Branch was led by one of its pioneer charter members, Dr. Lawrence Aaron Nixon. Dr. Nixon worked tirelessly for nearly 20 years to remove the legal barriers that prevented African Americans from participating in Democratic primary elections in Texas. Dr. Nixon was the lead plaintiff in two lawsuits in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in his favor by declaring Texas' discriminatory laws to be unconstitutional. In recent times, the El Paso branch continues to serve our community through economic development programs and initiatives to assist our troops and veterans. I am proud of this history as well as the ongoing efforts that the local branch continues to spearhead in El Paso.

While much progress has been made in our nation over the past 100 years, there is unquestionably a lot of work that remains to be done. It is my belief that the NAACP will remain in the forefront in creating positive

change and that through the combined efforts of all people, the promise of America can be reality for all.

IN MEMORY OF LOMPOC MAYOR DICK DEWEES

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of Lompoc, California, Mayor Dick DeWees, who passed away last night from complications related to a prior medical condition.

Dick DeWees was more than a legislative colleague. He was an ally and personal friend. The relationship we built over the years greatly benefited our mutual constituencies.

I will miss his leadership and friendship.

Dick and his wife of more than 30 years, Jane, moved to Santa Barbara in 1974 and to Lompoc in 1987, where Dick quickly became involved in the community. In addition to serving as mayor, Dick served on the Santa Barbara County Local Agency Formation Commission and is its past chairman, and was the City of Lompoc's representative on the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments. Dick also served on numerous local non-profit organization boards.

As owner of a local advertising agency, DeWees & Company Media Services, which specializes in electronic media, Dick was the recipient of the Sam Walton Business Leader Award. In addition, he taught a public speaking course at the Lompoc Valley Center of Alan Hancock College.

Jane and Dick met while they were performing Summer Stock Theater together in Michigan. Their two married children, Nathan and Anna, also live in Lompoc, as does their first grandchild, Emma Chastain.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in sending our condolences to Jane, their children, their grandchild, and all their family and friends.

Godspeed, Dick.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL BALLOU HOFER, JR.

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Ontario, California were exceptional. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember an incredible man and American patriot, Paul Ballou Hofer, Jr. Paul was a dear friend of mine and I was deeply saddened by his passing on July 8, 2009.

Paul was born to Paul Ballou Hofer and Frances Morgan Hofer on January 23, 1921 at the family ranch in Ontario, California. He attended Mountain View Elementary School, Chaffey High School and the University of Southern California. A natural athlete, at Chaffey he played varsity basketball for four

years and was a halfback on the football team, receiving dual scholarships to USC for both sports.

During World War II Paul served in the U.S. Navy, commissioned as a Naval Aviator, with several thousand hours of flight time. In 1944 Paul married his high school sweetheart, Laura Jean Belcher, who preceded him in death. They had three sons, Paul III, John and Brett who grew up in the same house in which their father was born. Along with his brothers Morgan, also deceased, and Phillip, Paul was a fourth generation vineyard farmer at Hofer Ranch which was founded by his family in 1882. Paul always believed that the lessons learned from lifetimes of farming, hard work and determination, coupled with the deeply held and abiding belief that land is what endures, have been the anchor that has guided the family through seven generations on the ranch.

In addition to ranching, Paul was a man of many interests. He had a great love of the outdoors, with a passion for fly fishing and wing shooting. Paul was a member of the Masons, and also of the Republican Party. He collected antique farm and winery equipment, proudly adding to the collection at Hofer Ranch. In addition to his three sons, Paul is survived by his brother, Phillip, and his family; his grandchildren, Jason Hofer (Christina), Jacklyn Hofer Winton (Jeremy), Morgan Hofer and Laura Hofer; his great-granddaughter, Elizabeth; and other family members.

Paul's passion for his ranch, his family, and his community has contributed immensely to the betterment of the Ontario, California. I was proud to call Paul a fellow community member, American and good friend. I hope his family knows that their father, brother, and grandfather, and the goodness he brought to this world, will always be remembered.

COMMEMORATING THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, as we enter into the month of August, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the anniversary of The Voting Rights Act of 1965. On August 6, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law. The date marks a pivotal moment in our country's progress in extending equal membership in the political processes to every American. The right to vote is a fundamental principle of all democracies. Yet, in our great nation whose founding fathers and documents boasted of its creation to promote equality, there was a substantial period of history during which minority men and women were barred from that very right. The Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution guarantees the right to vote for every citizen, but the discriminatory practices of Jim Crow in the antebellum south used taxes, literacy tests, gerrymandering, and language discrimination to prevent Blacks from voting and taking part in the government. Without the right to vote, many African-Americans were subject to intolerable injustices and appalling prejudice.

The Voting Rights Act represents a culmination of the great efforts of civil rights organizations and activists to inform the nation of the