

which honors a group of courageous women pilots—all of whom earned their wings in Texas. During World War II, Women Airforce Service Pilots, or WASP, were stationed at 2 air bases located in Waco, Texas: Waco Army Air Field and Blackland Army Air Base.

One of the 38 members of WASP who died while flying for their country was killed in Waco while flight-testing a BT-13 to make sure that it had been properly repaired. Bettie Mae Scott was killed on July 8, 1944, her body sent home in a cheap pine box, with not so much as an American flag draping her coffin.

Madam Speaker, my district not only played an important part in the history of the WASP, my district is also the home of WASP Deanie Parrish, a Martin Marauder D-26 pilot, who towed a sleeved target behind her aircraft while a B-24 would pass by and gunnery trainees in the turrets would practice for combat by firing live ammunition, using color coated bullets, at the target.

Wings Across America, founded by Deanie's daughter, Nancy Parrish, located at Baylor University, has played a key role in the creation and implementation of the bill we have before us today. Along with interviewing over 100 WASP, creating the website, "WASP on the Web," founding the National WASP WWII Museum in Sweetwater, Texas in 2003 and creating all the exhibits for the opening of the museum in 2005, successfully nominating the WASP for the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame, and designing and creating the "Fly Girls of WWII" WASP exhibit, which is now on display at the Women's Memorial at Arlington, these 2 volunteers have worked tirelessly to educate and inspire America with the history of the WASP.

This bill honors the WASP and place the WASP history in the national spotlight, where I believe it rightly belongs.

HONORING LONG-TIME COMMUNITY ACTIVIST & ADULT EDUCATION ADVOCATE MR. HOWARD RANSOM

**HON. JUDY CHU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2009*

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great loss to our community, Mr. Howard Ransom Jr., who passed on the morning of July 26, 2009, at the young age of 55. My heart goes out to his wife, Linda; father; brother, Phillip Ransom; sister, Sheila Ransom; a niece; three stepchildren; his grandson, and the rest of his family.

Ransom was an extraordinary citizen, an activist for at-risk youth and disadvantaged adults in the South Los Angeles community for more than 30 years. His volunteerism spans several organizations including the Brotherhood Crusade, Young Foundation and the United Way.

Born on April 4, 1954, in Chicago to Howard Ransom Sr. and Ollie B. (Cooper) Ransom, Howard Jr. was reared in Oakland. He graduated from Oakland High School and went on to receive bachelor degrees in Theatre Art and African American studies at California State University, Hayward.

As an instructor with the Los Angeles Unified School District for over two decades, Ran-

som was a tenured "master teacher" at the Maxine Waters Employment Preparation Center in Watts, where he succeeded in preparing at-risk youth and educating adults in human development and skill enhancement curriculums. He was noted nationwide for his success in preparing students for GED testing.

In 1992, Ransom co-designed a civil service training program that focused on postal employment for the residents of Watts. More than 800 men and women (many on welfare) enrolled in the program during its first year, with 68 percent completing the class and passing the exam with scores in the top percentile.

Ransom received numerous recognitions for his accomplishments, such as "Educator of the Year" Award from the Young Center for Academic and Cultural Enrichment, and was chosen as a "Living History Maker" by Turning Point Magazine.

I urge all my House colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Howard Ransom for his remarkable service and contribution to our community. He has made a true impact on the lives of many youth and adults, and will be truly missed.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF FORMER PUBLIC CITIZEN PRESIDENT JOAN CLAYBROOK

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2009*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise to recognize and show my appreciation for Joan Claybrook, the former president of Public Citizen, who recently stepped down after a long career of fighting for consumer safety and social change.

Joan has been an inspiration to me and to countless others on the Hill and around Washington. As a private citizen, as head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Association, and as president of Public Citizen for 27 years, she has been a fearless advocate for American consumers. Every life saved by a shoulder belt or air bag in this country is indebted to Joan's decades of commitment to the issue of auto safety.

Indeed, Joan has been fighting this fight since the beginning. Even before a full career dedicated to protecting American consumers, Joan had worked as a research analyst, congressional fellow, and legislative aide to Sen. Walter Mondale. Then, in 1966, she and Ralph Nader successfully pushed for passage of the nation's first motor safety laws—the Highway Safety Act and the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Four years later, she began work for Public Citizen, running the organization's Congress Watch division by 1972. After serving as head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Association during the Carter administration, Claybrook returned to Public Citizen. She became president of the organization in 1982, and commenced an impressive 27-year tenure in the post that would be the envy of any advocate or administrator.

Thanks to Joan's efforts, airbags are now standard equipment in all cars sold in the United States, and our government now issues vehicle safety standards that save

thousands of lives a year. But safer cars are just the beginning of Joan's contributions to our civic life. Over the years, she has dedicated herself to countless issues of consumer advocacy, public health, and social justice. Day after day, week after week, in good times and bad, Joan has kept unrelenting pressure on companies and elected officials to live up to their public responsibilities. She has strived to make our government more responsive to the needs and aspirations of its citizens. In short, this nation is a safer, fairer, better place because of her efforts.

Although Joan has left Public Citizen, her work and her inspiration goes on. Generations of leaders and activists have looked to her perseverance, her toughness, her smarts, and her compassion as a model for how to get things changed here in Washington. From Ralph Nader to Robert Redford and Jimmy Carter to JOHN MCCAIN, Joan has taught us all so much about what it takes to effect real change.

She has taught us to keep an unyielding idealism about the way things can and should be, and to combine it with an unblinking, no-nonsense understanding of the foibles of Washington and a tough-as-nails approach to pragmatic, consumer-oriented policy-making. And she has always reminded the powerful that the people come first.

Joan has been a model of courage, conviction, independence and ingenuity, one to which we all aspire. I am so proud of all she has accomplished, which is why I rise to thank her.

THE LOSS OF JEANNE MALCHON

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2009*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the death of former Florida State Senator Jeanne Malchon. The state of Florida suffered a great loss on August 23, 2009, when she passed away.

In 1982, she successfully ran for the Florida Senate. My mother, Betty Castor, was serving also in the Senate at that time and remarked on the dedication and fervor she had for bettering the lives of Floridians. Senator Malchon pledged to strengthen social services for the elderly and poor and promoted concern for environmental causes. She sponsored the 1985 Florida Clean Indoor Air Act, which prevented smoking in shared public areas. Senator Malchon also successfully raised the penalties for driving under the influence, increased funding for teen runaway shelters, and raised standards which required employers to report toxic chemicals that were used in the work place.

Senator Malchon's was known amongst her peers in the Florida Senate as a smart and candid legislator who got things done. She was said to be so effective because she didn't play political games or allow partisan politics to get in her way. She has been called "a steady hand in a perilous time." Those that knew her can agree that she was an extremely knowledgeable and determined woman.

Jeanne Malchon was a very dedicated individual who helped others even before she became involved with politics. Born in Newark,