

Runyon Jr., her college sweetheart, and moved to Sacramento in 1947. They would have two wonderful children, Stephen Runyon and Elizabeth Mulligan. Jean's first attempt at public relations came when Sacramento newspaper executive Eleanor McClatchy asked her to help the Music Circus Theater get publicity. Jean was acting in the Music Circus performances at the time and blended her knowledge of acting and natural skill at publicity with great success.

She was a woman who knew many firsts. After starting her own PR firm in 1960 she was named Man of the Year by the Sacramento Public Relations Round Table in 1962. In 1978 she was the first woman appointed to the Sutter Community Hospitals board of trustees. Jean also became Sacramento's first female Rotarian. In 1988 she was named Sacramentan of the Year by the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce.

Jean raised millions of dollars over the years for many worthy causes such as the American Heart Association, Make-a-Wish, the Cerebral Palsy Association, the American Lung Association, the Special Olympics and the arts community that she so dearly loved. She was one of the kindest people Sacramento ever knew, but at the same time was driven in her pursuit whether for donations to charity or a client's success. While she had a personality that won business clients over, she also never lost her whimsical side. She was famous for her zany rooftop performances as a witch on Halloween—she rained candy on kids from above—Jean Runyon was affectionately called the "Good Witch of River City".

Her first husband, Mercer Runyon, died in 1970. That same year, her father passed away and she also underwent major surgery for breast cancer. She persevered through her tragedies with the can-do spirit that we all loved. In 1980 she married Philip Tow, a prominent air-pollution control engineer who unfortunately died in 1986. Jean later married again to Eugene Graham, who passed away in 1991. Her last husband, Jack Murphy, a retired insurance executive passed away in 2003. For all the challenges that Jean was presented with, it was clear that personal tragedies could not keep her down. She moved forward, never wavered and persevered with a positive outlook on life.

The successful Sacramento PR firm that Jean began in 1960 was joined by Estelle Saltzman and Jane Einhorn and was called Runyon, Saltzman and Einhorn. Their presence in Sacramento was enormous. Some of their major clients included The Sacramento Bee, California Department of Health Services, California Department of Consumer Affairs/Bureau of Automotive Repair, Sacramento Cable and the Sacramento Kings. One of Jean's favorite PR campaigns was for the Sacramento County Measles inoculation campaign when the vaccine first became available. She felt some of her best work was for campaigns on teen pregnancy, AIDS, anti-smoking and prenatal care.

Jean is survived by her two children, son Stephen Runyon of Courtland and daughter Elizabeth Mulligan of Hood, four grandchildren and one great granddaughter. We will all miss Jean Runyon terribly and in so many ways, but we do have countless memories of her to cherish.

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CITY OF FLOWER MOUND AND THE FLOWER MOUND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the partnership between the City of Flower Mound and the Flower Mound Chamber of Commerce, and to honor the businesses that reside there.

I am proud and grateful to be given the opportunity to represent the strong communities and businesses of north Texas. This pride, however, comes from the energy, creativity and commitment by the individuals within these neighborhoods and institutions that contribute to the growth and opportunity we are blessed to receive in calling this area home.

It's because of cities like Flower Mound and businesses like the ones present tonight that north Texas is able to claim the rare title of being one of the few areas that has retained its economic health in this rough economic climate. The forward-thinking partnership between the city of Flower Mound and the Chamber of Commerce has produced an ideal environment for business prosperity that has remained strong, that sustains the community. That is certainly something to be proud of.

Flower Mound has created, in essence, a haven for new businesses and an environment where small and large businesses alike can take root, grow, and thrive. You are a bright spot in north Texas, and a true example of excellence for the rest of the nation.

I am with great pride that I stand here tonight to join in celebrating the prosperity of Flower Mound. I wish you—the local leadership, the businesses, and the residents—all the best, and let me say that it is my very distinct honor to represent you in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING ELLIE RILLA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ellie Rilla, a woman who has helped lead the way to a new model of sustainable agriculture in Marin County.

Ellie is now taking a much needed sabbatical after 21 years as a University of California Extension Farm Advisor. In those 2 decades, Ellie was one of a handful that brought together the old-time farmers of the region with a new generation and created a unique fabric that has held the farm community together during difficult times for agriculture, and has in fact, helped many not just survive, but grow.

I am proud to say that the quality agricultural products of Marin County are today unmatched for nutritional value, taste, and sustainable production—and much of this is due to the passionate commitment, hard-headed economic realism and collaborative spirit of Ellie Rilla.

Ellie grew up in Mill Valley where it was a short jaunt to the forests and rangelands of

West Marin. She began her career as an environmental educator at Circuit Riders, a Sonoma County non-profit that was a leader in environmental restoration, and whose ranks have produced several of the North Bay's most prominent restoration specialists. Ellie still lives in Sonoma County in Sebastopol, a city well-known for its progressive politics and its fine food and wine.

In 1988 she became the UC Cooperative Extension Director in Marin and was immediately welcomed by two of West Marin's farm elders, Boyd Stewart and George Grossi. Coming in the midst of the organic revolution and the creation of California cuisine, Ellie saw the promise of local farmers on the edge of the metropolitan Bay Area producing high quality agricultural products. She became, according to Albert Strauss, the owner of Strauss Creamery, ". . . an awesome advocate of sustainable agriculture and organic and local dairy farms." While big and bland agribusiness and real estate development continued to gobble up small farms elsewhere, Ellie saw that survival lay in producing quality products, and developing in consumer's minds a pride in local, sustainable agriculture.

As organic agriculture entered the mainstream, first with California certification, then with USDA certification, Ellie advised farmers on how to meet the new standards, write business plans and market their products. She also helped farmers and ranchers tackle tough new water quality, through the development of best practices and conservation projects, which continue to evolve today.

It was apparent to Ellie that West Marin's small farms and ranches needed to diversify to survive. While dairies were preeminent, though faltering, 2 decades ago, West Marin agriculture now produces an array of products including olives and olive oil, strawberries, row crops, grapes, free range poultry and grass fed beef. Besides high quality milk, local dairies also produce a variety of cheeses, and even organic ice cream.

Ellie realized that the bucolic beauty of West Marin and farmer's adjacency to the Point Reyes National Seashore were important assets. She became an advocate for "agritourism," an industry in which farms and ranches are opened to visiting guests. "These stays give their guests a flavor of what it is like to live on a farm, to see how food is produced and gain an appreciation for natural ecosystem," wrote Rilla. "At the same time it provides farmers and ranchers with additional operating income to save their farms from development." A tireless promoter of agritourism, Rilla both wrote a book about it and helped develop a UC Cooperative Extension Agritourism Project and website.

On June 30 she will begin a very busy sabbatical with three writing projects. She will be writing an analysis of a state-wide survey into agriculture diversification and agritourism, completing a second edition of her book, Agriculture and Nature Tourism, and updating her decade-old case study of three woman-led farm families. Ellie is then expected to return to the University of California Cooperative Extension program in a year to develop state-wide resources for marketing and leadership development.

It's been my pleasure to work with Ellie and to observe the seeds that she has planted in West Marin to sprout, grow and spread, ensuring a bounty for future generations. Thank

you, Ellie for all you have done and all that is still to be accomplished.

AMERICAN SAMOA TSUNAMI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, one month ago, the U.S. Territory of American Samoa was struck by the world's most powerful earthquake of 2009, which set off a tsunami that left untold damage and loss. Once more, I want to thank the Obama Administration, the U.S. Congress, and our friends in the House and Senate, including the Hawaii Delegation and the Territorial Delegates who have stood by us every step of the way.

I especially thank Senator DANIEL K. INOUE, HI, Senator DANIEL K. AKAKA, HI, Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE, HI, Congresswoman MAZIE HIRONO, HI, Congresswoman MADELINE BORDALLO, GU, Congressman GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN, MP, Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN, VI, and Congressman PEDRO PIERLUISI, PR for their unwavering support.

I also thank the many foreign nations and non-government organizations who have been so generous in helping us rebuild.

I also want to recognize Cathy Barnhardt of the Combined Airline Ticket Office, CATO, and those at the United Airlines government desk including Debbie Smith and Darlene Sacha, and also Debbie Trance-Mordecai of United Global Services at the JFK airport in New York for the outstanding service they provide at all times.

Above all, I pay tribute to the people of American Samoa for the strength, courage and faith they have shown in the face of adversity. My heart also continues to go out to the families of those who have lost loved ones, and I ask for your continued support and prayers on their behalf.

Again, I express my sincere gratitude for everyone, named and unnamed, for lending us a hand when we need it most. I appreciate your kindness and assure you that the people of American Samoa are grateful for your service.

HONORING DANIEL L. WALTER,
M.D.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Daniel L. Walter as he retires after 45 years as a Family Practice physician in Davison Michigan. Dr. Walter will be honored at a celebration on November 4.

After graduating from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1959, Dr. Walter completed an internship in Family Practice at Madigan Army Medical School and Madigan General Hospital. He was then commissioned as a Captain in the U.S. Army and served from 1960 to 1963 as a Battle Group Surgeon attached to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort

Bragg. During this time he was the recipient of the Army Commendation Medal, Senior Parachutist Badge and a U.S. Navy Commendation.

Dr. Walter established a Family Practice in Davison in 1963 once his military service was concluded. Over the years Dr. Walter has participated in numerous community and medical associations. Acknowledged and appreciated by his peers, he served in leadership positions with several organizations. Dr. Walter also committed extensive time to educating the area coaches and high school staffs about recognizing and treating sports injuries. He was the first Diplomat of the American Board of Family Practice in the Flint area. Dr. Walter and his wife, Peggy, have six children.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join his family, friends and colleagues in congratulating Dr. Daniel L. Walter on an excellent medical career. I wish him the best for many, many years ahead.

RED RIBBON WEEK

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I support Red Ribbon Week and our unified efforts against illegal drug use.

Red Ribbon Week represents the largest united effort of the American people to promote drug prevention. We must all continue to support this effort.

This dreadful problem plagues communities throughout our Nation and especially my home district in South Florida. Miami is one of the leading areas in cocaine related deaths. And an estimated 20,000 people a year die from illegal drug use throughout the United States each year.

Thankfully, over 80 million people participate in Red Ribbon week by pledging to lead a drug free life. With our encouragement we can have many more youths take this pledge.

As a former educator I know that Red Ribbon Week offers the perfect opportunity to raise awareness and help educate students at a young age on the dangers of drug use. The terrifying fact is that over 60 percent of teens reported that drugs were sold, used, or present at their schools. We must teach students about the dangers of drugs and discourage them of ever becoming involved with drugs in the first place. Only by actively engaging our children can we impress on them the importance of being drug-free.

It has been proven that when teenagers' parents talk to them regularly about the dangers of drug use, they are 42 percent less likely to use drugs. Families, adults, and children joining together for this cause have a profound impact on not only those participating, but also the communities as a whole.

We must continue to strive to increase awareness and participation in Red Ribbon Week to help stop this devastating problem of drug abuse and drug-related violence.

In this effort we must also remember those who seek to safeguard our children in the fight against drugs. Just this Monday, three Drug Enforcement Administration agents died tragically while conducting overseas operations. The agents were returning from a counter-nar-

cotics operation when the military helicopter they were riding in crashed. Seven U.S. military servicemembers were also killed in the crash.

Of these heroes, Special Agent Chad Michael was from my Congressional district and I would like to take this moment to honor his memory and sacrifice. Before being reassigned in August to a DEA operation in Afghanistan, Special Agent Michael was a member of South Florida's DEA team for six years. The DEA agents were assigned to the agency's operation against Afghanistan's opium trade, which frequently funds insurgent activity. Efforts in Afghanistan began in 2005 and in the past year have been reinforced to fully attack international drug trade and the activities it funds. Since illegal drugs have a large dependence on international sources, it is critical that we support those who help to fight this part of the drug war.

My prayers go out to Special Agent Michael's family, and to the families of all the heroes who risk their lives each day to make our country and this world safer and drug-free.

As a mother and grandmother, and for the sake of all our children, I urge all Americans to take the Red Ribbon Week pledge this and every October.

CONGRATULATING JOYCE ANN BROWN ON CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF FREEDOM AND FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam speaker, I rise to express my best wishes to celebrate the life and achievements of Joyce Ann Brown. I had the pleasure of having Ms. Brown serve on a reentry panel during the 39th Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference. Ms. Brown was unjustly convicted of a crime she did not commit and served nine years, five months and 24 days in prison before this injustice was realized and the guilty verdict was reversed. Upon release, Joyce started the not for profit organization, Mothers (Fathers) for the Advancement of Social Systems Inc. (MASS Inc.) in Dallas, TX. This organization focuses on assisting released ex-offenders reintegrating into society.

The reentry of ex-offenders is an issue of very high priority and importance to me and I am personally invested in the success of organizations like MASS, Inc. With the passage of the Second Chance Act in 2008, organizations such as MASS will benefit from additional federal grant funding to strengthen programs that aid ex-offenders in becoming productive contributing members of society.

Throughout my career, I have fought for the underserved and underrepresented and on my journey have come to admire Joyce Ann Brown for all her work and achievements in the area of social justice. Ms. Brown spent three years writing letters to appeal the atrocious injustice she faced and continued to fight upon release. Therefore, I am delighted to be included in commending Joyce Ann Brown and would like to thank her for her assistance with our work here on the hill. The organization she has created has helped many