HONORING DOLPHAS TROTTER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Dolphas Trotter upon being awarded the “Community Health Champions Award” at the 2009 West Fresno Health Care Coalition’s 5th annual “This Is Your Life of Service” luncheon and awards ceremony. This year the ceremony will be held at the Radisson Hotel Conference Center in Fresno on Thursday, November 5th.

Mr. Trotter was born in 1940 in Idaho, Oklahoma. In 1945 the Trotter family moved cross-country and settled in Southwest Fresno, California. Mr. Trotter attended Washington Union High School where he played football. During his senior year, he participated in the annual Fresno City-County All-Star game, which earned him a football scholarship to College of the Pacific, known today as University of the Pacific. Mr. Trotter graduated in 1962 with a Bachelor’s degree and returned to Fresno and began working for Fresno County Department of Social Services.

Shortly after his return to Fresno, Mr. Trotter was drafted into the United States Army and was honorably discharged in 1969. This experience affirmed his belief in the value of education and community. When he returned to Fresno from his military service, he began a career in education. The first of many positions Mr. Trotter held in education was at Franklin Elementary School as a fifth grade teacher. He moved on to teach at Edison High School, where he later became the Vice Principal and the first African American principal of the school. Mr. Trotter had a successful career in the Fresno school system, including serving as Principal at Tioga Middle School and Cooper Middle School. For a brief time he served as the first African American interim superintendent of the Fresno Unified School District and then served as the Superintendent at New Millennium Charter Schools.

Mr. Trotter was also a firm believer in community service. He sat on many boards and worked with many organizations, including the African American Historical and Cultural Museum and the Association of California School Administrators, Cedar Vista Hospital Advisory Board, Chapter 24 Portrait of Success Board member, National Alliance of Black School Educators, State Center Community College Foundation and Washington Union School Board. For his service to these organizations Mr. Trotter has received many accolades.

Mr. Trotter and his wife met while working at the Fresno County Department of Social Services. They were married in 1972 and raised two daughters.

Mr. Trotter passed away on March 18, 2009. He was a strong advocate and will be remembered as an inspirational role model for the people of Fresno and the residents of Southwest Fresno.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dolphas Trotter and recognize him upon being awarded the “Community Health Champions Award.” I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.