

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER RYAN P.
BONAMINIO

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, Ryan P. Bonaminio, a Riverside Police Officer and Army veteran. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible man who died in the line of duty while serving and protecting his community.

On Sunday, November 7, 2010, Ryan was shot after pursuing a driver of a stolen vehicle, and who was also suspected of a hit-and-run in downtown Riverside. Bonaminio became the first City of Riverside police officer to die in the line of duty in ten years. He was two weeks shy of his 28th birthday.

Officer Ryan Bonaminio was born in Riverside, California on November 25, 1982. He is survived by his parents, Joseph and Geraldine Bonaminio, along with his brother Christopher and sister Nicole. After graduating from Ramona High School in 2000 he joined the U.S. Army. He served with the 314th Military Police and served in Kuwait City, Baghdad, Mosul and Umm Qasr in southern Iraq. He also served in the 282nd Base Support Battalion in Hohenfels, Germany. After his honorable discharge from the Army, Ryan returned to Riverside and joined the Riverside Police Department on July 7, 2006, and graduated from the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Academy on December 21, 2006.

Bonaminio served both in the military and in the police force with honor and distinction, and was praised by his peers and supervisors on many occasions. For his outstanding service he had been awarded several medals, including the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Reserve Mobilization Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Army Reserve Overseas Training Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, and earned his Expert Qualification Badge-9mm pistol.

Friends and family of Officer Bonaminio describe his constant smile and generous heart. His actions on November 7th demonstrate that he was a brave young man who was unwavering in his dedication to protect the community. It is a sad irony to think that Ryan survived overseas fighting for our country on foreign soil, only to come home and be fatally wounded protecting his home community.

The day the Bonaminio family learned of their son and brother's death was probably the hardest day they have ever faced and our thoughts, prayers go out to them. They have our deepest gratitude for their sacrifice and Ryan's service to our nation. There are no words that can relieve their pain and what words we can offer only just begin to convey our deep respect and highest appreciation.

The dangers our police officers face every day often go unnoticed and without remark. Officer Bonaminio's death is a stark reminder of the very real threats that police officers face on a daily basis protecting us and our communities. We will never know what Officer Bonaminio's future would have been but our world is certainly less bright without him in it. We all share in the loss of such a promising,

courageous and truly remarkable young man. The goodness Officer Bonaminio brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made, will never be forgotten.

RITZVILLE'S NORTHERN PACIFIC
RAILROAD DEPOT CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Philip Ritz—founder of Ritzville, Washington—and to congratulate Ritzville's Northern Pacific Railroad Depot on its centennial anniversary.

More than 100 years ago, Philip Ritz proposed establishing a great national highway between Lake Superior and the Puget Sound. Philip testified before Congress that the route would be beneficial for transportation of troops, munitions of war, mail and freight. As a result, the Northern Pacific Railroad and Ritzville's Northern Pacific Depot became instrumental in transporting crops, promoting settlers, and creating a community in Ritzville.

Even before the construction of the railroad, in the late 18th century, the Walla Walla valley was known for harvesting over one million bushels of grain, and some of the finest quality peaches, apples, pears, plums, cherries, grapes, and sweet potatoes. These crops, after the railroad was completed, were then transported into national and international markets. With these new markets, Ritzville rapidly became the largest and heaviest grain shipping railroad station in the world.

During this industrial and agricultural revolution, many families took advantage of the thousands of acres lying unclaimed. Densely populated cities dissipated as families moved towards the great Northern Pacific expanse. Combined with timber and lumber now being more accessible by railroad, these settlers were able to build new homes at inexpensive prices.

With the settlers came more vibrant communities. Within the Ritzville community, Ritzville's Northern Pacific Railroad Depot served as the town center. The depot agent was in charge of issuing marriage licenses and serving as the notary. Often times, important events were held in the waiting room such as polling during elections, social activities, and church services. The Depot quickly became the most important building in the town.

Today, Ritzville's Northern Pacific Railroad Depot serves as an important reminder of the role the railroad once played in farming, school, business, and town development in Ritzville, WA. Thanks to Philip Ritz, the depot was the focal point for all rail-related trade for more than 60 years. My fellow colleagues, please join me honoring Philip Ritz and congratulating Ritzville's Northern Pacific Railroad Depot on 100 years of excellent service.

HONORING FORMER WEST VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
MEMBER BEATRICE "JACKIE"
WITHROW

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, Jackie Withrow was an angel for the ages. She was Florence Nightingale, Susan B. Anthony and Eleanor Roosevelt all rolled into one.

If the Almighty had to pick a day to open Heaven's Gates for Jackie, none could be mean more meaningful than Veteran's Day for no one cared more or worked harder for our veterans. One estimate credited Jackie with 27,500 hours of service to our veterans.

I am sure that number would pale in comparison to all she really did over her lifetime of dedication to our veterans, taking them to church services on Sundays and planning new ways to serve them at all hours.

Many people blaze trails, and Jackie accomplished that but made sure others were able to follow her.

Jackie was always known for breaking new ceilings for women. She cared about that, of course. But I think she and the women who supported her and followed in her footsteps were proudest of the issues on which they could command attention in their day, like health care. Health care was on Jackie's radar screen from the beginning—for our miners, our children, and those needing mental health services.

Senator Bill Wootton led the charge to make sure we would forever be reminded of her trailblazing leadership by appropriately naming a hospital for her.

Bill spoke of "Mercy" and "Justice" to describe Jackie's contributions to us. To those we must surely add, "Commitment" and "Dedication."

Her public service never wavered. Although she served in our state's legislature for a generation, her longest public service was as a good citizen and dependable neighbor.

Long out of office, Jackie continued opening doors of opportunity and opening the eyes of the rest of us. Always with a warm heart and determined will, Jackie Withrow changed our world for the better.

Jackie's lasting legacy to each of us was her fierce loyalty to what she believed in the most—the "least" of us, as Christ taught. And, we recall the loyalty of Ruth in the Old Testament as we celebrate Jackie's loyalty to those who needed her hand and hope the most:

"Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
Where you lodge, I will lodge;
Your people shall be my people and your God
my God.

Where you die, I will die
There I will be buried.
May the Lord do thus and so to me
And more as well
If even death parts me from you!"

Next to my family, Jackie was my earliest and strongest supporter. I will celebrate Jackie's life the rest of my days. I know countless others will never be far from her firm hand of friendship, her warm smile of compassion, and that ever present twinkle in her eye of figuring out how she was going to help.

My family and I offer Jackie's family and her many friends our thoughts and prayers, as we all celebrate this extraordinary woman's life.

HONORING W.W. "BILL" ASTON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise to recognize the passing of W.W. "Bill" Aston, a model citizen—veteran, community advocate, civic leader, volunteer, and devoted health care expert from Dallas, Texas, who passed away on July 8, 2010, at age 82.

Mr. Aston lived in multiple locations in Texas from the Rio Grande to the Red River, throughout central Texas and in Arkansas and Oklahoma before coming to Dallas. He served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific in 1945–46. After he was discharged from the Navy in 1946, Bill went to work for Dallas Power & Light Company, where he worked for 40 years before retiring in 1986. He worked in overhead construction, human resources, advertising, sales, customer relations, and public relations at DP&L before becoming president, a position he held until retirement.

Mr. Aston was active in many volunteer activities, locally and nationally, with a focus on health care. He served as board chairman of the American Heart Association's Dallas Chapter and Texas Affiliate before becoming board chair of the national organization. During his many years of service to the American Heart Association, he was proud of the progress made in reducing mortality rates from cardiovascular diseases through educating the public about the risk factors—smoking, elevated blood pressure, lack of exercise, cholesterol, salt, stress, and obesity.

He has served the Baylor Health Care System for over 20 years at various times as board chair of Baylor University Medical Center, board chair of Baylor Heart and Vascular Hospital, and a board member of the Baylor Health Care System. At Baylor, he authored a resolution calling for continuous improvement of the delivery system for high quality, safe patient care which was adopted by all Baylor Health Care System facilities.

Since the 1940s, he has also served other organizations such as: Chairman of City of Dallas Civil Service Commission, DART board member, officer or board member of Dallas Zoological Society, Dallas Ballet, Dallas Summer Musicals, The Science Place, Camp Fire Girls, Dallas Advertising League, Dallas County Community College System, Public Relations Society of America, Dallas Assembly, State Fair of Texas, United Way and Texas Health Care Trustees.

Bill graduated with honors from SMU's Cox School of Business with a BBA degree and was a member of Beta Gamma Sigma. He served as president of SMU's Alumni Association and as a member of the Executive Board of SMU's Lyle School of Engineering. He was a long-time active member of Rotary, and served as president of the Dallas Rotary Club and district governor of Rotary International. Bill also served for 18 years as a volunteer driver on the McKinney Avenue Trolley.

He received many awards and recognitions: The American Heart Association's Dwight D.

Eisenhower Award as Volunteer of the Year for Texas, Brotherhood Citation Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Distinguished Alumni Award from SMU, Founders Award from the Texas Health Care Trustees, Trustee of the Year Award from the Dallas County Medical Society and Distinguished Health Service Award from the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council.

Most recently, the Board of Trustees of Baylor Health Care System established the "Bill Aston Annual Award for Quality" which will be awarded by the Texas Hospital Association for the first time in 2011.

Madam Speaker, there simply isn't space in this tribute to fully capture Mr. Aston's contributions to our community. He was uniquely American—a dreamer, a doer, a giver, a lover of life. In short, he was a community treasure.

I join so many North Texans in mourning W.W. Aston's passing, and in extending condolences to his wife of 62 years, Evelyn, and family and friends. You are all in our prayers.

RECOGNIZING THE 18TH ANNUAL
MULTICULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 18th Annual National Multicultural Diversity Day celebration that was held in my hometown of Flint Michigan. A multicultural dinner and program were held on October 11th to kick off events celebrating diversity in our country.

Cleora Scuggs presented the idea of creating a National Multicultural Diversity Day to the National Education Association 1993 Representative Assembly. Cleora developed this proposal to teach students about the contributions of persons from a wide variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Her proposal was adopted and educators across our nation use the third Monday of October to kickoff diversity programs. Now retired, Cleora was honored by the National Education Association in 2000 with the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Award for her ongoing efforts to advance the teaching of multiculturalism in our schools. She continues to make presentations and visit schools, spreading the idea that diversity is strength, not weakness.

Madam Speaker, the celebration held last month was themed, "Valuing Multicultural Diversity," and was highlighted by ethnic displays, performances, foods and speakers. I commend Cleora Scuggs and the National Multicultural Diversity Institute for their work promoting understanding, appreciation and acceptance of persons of different ethnic backgrounds. Through their efforts students, parents and educators will have increased insight into our world and a deeper understanding its people.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL
PHILANTHROPY DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Philanthropy Day, a day dedicated to the millions of Americans who donate their time, money and talents to improving the lives of others. They ask for no reward for their efforts, but each year on November 15 we thank them and honor them for their work.

The Greater Cleveland chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals has selected three individuals and two organizations to recognize for their contributions. This year, awards go to youth leader Shannon Visconti, philanthropist Deborah Ratner, fundraising volunteer William D. Ginn, the Community West Foundation and the Third Federal Savings and Loan. Each has made an outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of our community.

Having chosen to dedicate their time and/or money to help meet a greater need, they lead by example, inspiring those within their reach to do the same. Such generosity, dedication and humility nurtures the individual and the collective.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of these admirable community leaders, as well as countless others like them who work unrecognized in cities and towns throughout the country.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL I.
JORDAN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Michael I. Jordan, who this year was inducted as a Fellow into both the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Sciences, a dual honor that has not been achieved in the past 150 years. In the sheer rarity of earning two invitations into separate Academies in the same year, Dr. Jordan distinguishes himself in the international science community, as well as in our Bay Area constituency, for his immense contributions to academia and the greater good.

After receiving a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, in Psychology from Louisiana State University in 1978, Dr. Jordan went on to complete a master's degree in Mathematics (Statistics) at Arizona State University and a PhD in Cognitive Science from the University of California, San Diego. Prior to being recruited to the University of California, Berkeley in 1998, Dr. Jordan served for 10 years as a faculty member of the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Jordan currently serves as the Pehong Chen Distinguished Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and the Department of Statistics at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Jordan's scholarly work focuses on statistical machine learning, Bayesian nonparametric statistics, graphical models, as well as human