

annual dinner, and I would like to join in recognizing the profound impact that my very dear and long-time friend, Nettie Mayersohn, has had on our community.

Nettie Mayersohn's steadfast dedication to Queens County began long before she was elected to the Assembly. For over 20 years, she served as a community activist, making a name for herself as an unrelenting advocate for children and families in Queens. She was a member of Community Board 8 for ten years, at one time serving as the Chairperson of its Youth Committee; she served as the Chairperson of the Pomonok Community Center; and she continues to serve as a Democratic District Leader, a role she has filled for some three decades. Nettie also served as the Executive Secretary of the New York State Crime Victims Board. In 1977, Nettie was New York State's delegate to the International Women's Conference and the recipient of the Builders of Brotherhood Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews. She received a B.A. from Queens College in 1978, and was elected four years later to represent the 27th District in the New York State Assembly.

As an Assemblywoman, Nettie led the charge to improve healthcare for New Yorkers and defend the rights of victims of violent crime. Nettie's proudest and best-known achievement was the 1996 passage of her Baby AIDS bill, which requires doctors in New York State to tell a mother if her newborn child is HIV-positive. While the fight to enact this bill was, at times, a lonely battle, Nettie's tenacity and fortitude resulted in a landmark law that has saved an untold number of lives and led to an increase in the number of pregnant women who receive prenatal care. Among Nettie's numerous other legislative accomplishments are her HIV Rape Law, which requires a court to comply with a rape victim's request to test the accused for HIV; her Partner Notification Law, which requires the names of those testing positive for HIV to be reported to the Department of Health for the purpose of contact tracing and partner notification; her Victim Impact Law, which allows the victims of a crime to describe, in court, the effect the crime has had on their lives; and her Food Service Law, which implemented crucial health safety measures for food service workers.

Nettie Mayersohn's unwavering commitment to AIDS policy inspired the Beyond AIDS Foundation to create the Nettie Award—an annual honor that recognizes outstanding efforts to promote HIV prevention and control in the United States and across the world. Nettie herself was given a special Nettie Award from Beyond AIDS in 2002, in recognition of her leadership on HIV/AIDS issues. That year, she also received the Public Service Award from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

After 28 years of tireless service, Nettie retired from the Assembly at the beginning of April 2011 so she can spend time more with her wonderful family. While I lament Nettie's retirement from an impressive career as a public servant, she will remain my lifelong friend. We are all beyond grateful for everything she has done to help New Yorkers. I wish her all the best in her retirement—she will be sorely missed in public life.

Mr. Speaker, Nettie Mayersohn is a one-of-a-kind leader and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing her accomplishments and

thanking Nettie for a lifetime of dedication to her community.

HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST ALDINE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tenth anniversary of the East Aldine Management District for their commitment to improving the safety and development in East Aldine.

The District was created in June of 2001 with the purpose to improve the physical, social, and economic well-being of the community. Their goal is to attract public and private investments and promote the area as a leading place to not only invest but also to work and live. Since then the District has gained the power to finance public safety and transportation projects as well as assist with environmental and economic development.

District funding has improved the community's street conditions by adding pedestrian crosswalks, signage to the streets and landscaping, making the area more attractive to families and businesses. In the year 2010 alone, the District funded over \$240,000 in community projects.

The District's economic development program provides across the board marketing and public relations activities for the District to support business retention and encourage new business within the District as well as expansion of small businesses. The development program is successful due to the advanced media outreach which includes traditional methods such as print and mailings but also utilizes the District's alliance with community partners.

Over the past ten years this community has witnessed significant advancements but the next ten years will bring even more economic growth to the area. The District is located just four miles away from Houston Intercontinental Airport and the Port of Houston is a mere twelve miles away, making the District a great expansion location for manufacturing, warehousing, and distribution companies.

I congratulate the President and CEO David Hawes, Board Chairman Gerald Overturf, the entire East Aldine District staff, and the many other volunteers that have dedicated their time to improving their community.

HONORING RALPH STANFORD GRIFFIN

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and pay tribute to the tremendous contributions made to our community by my friend and constituent, Ralph Stanford Griffin, who passed away on December 1, 2011.

Ralph Griffin, a native of San Antonio, Texas, worked and raised his family in the

San Francisco Bay Area, retiring as an educator and administrator from the Oakland Unified School District. Ralph was a lifelong champion of equal education for all, services for the developmentally disabled, and support for African American families in our community.

His passion and determined advocacy was in no small part the catalyst for establishing the Black Families Association of Contra Costa County (BFA) in 1973. As Founding Members, Mr. Griffin and his wife of 50 years, Norma, together with a small group of their peers saw the need for African Americans in their community to have an outlet to discuss current events and provide support to one another. In an era where racism and biases still prevented equal access to housing and education, the BFA was a place where neighbors could come together to guide and help one another through these challenges. It was and remains an organization that promotes cultural heritage, pride, and dignity within the community, and provides scholarships for deserving high school students.

Ralph Griffin further extended his commitment to students' access to higher education as a dedicated member of the Kennedy-King Memorial Scholarship Fund. He was instrumental in helping the Fund provide annual \$8,000 college scholarships to students from minority groups often under-represented at California's four-year colleges and universities. It is due to Ralph's commitment that so many of our brightest graduating high school students have been able to continue on to higher education.

To Norma, their sons Stanford and Steven, and the entire Griffin family, I extend my heartfelt condolences. Your loss is shared not only by those who knew Ralph personally, but also by all of those touched by his work. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Mr. Ralph Griffin, a courageous and compassionate man who shared his time and talent freely for the betterment of our entire community.

CONGRATULATING SAN JACINTO COLLEGE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate San Jacinto College on its fiftieth anniversary. For fifty years, San Jacinto College has provided high quality education to the citizens and communities of East Harris County, Texas. Congratulations to San Jacinto College for a wonderful half-century of empowering students to achieve their goals.

San Jacinto College first opened its doors on Sept. 18, 1961, in a downtown Pasadena storefront, with an initial enrollment of 700 students. Thanks to their passion for helping students succeed, the college has grown to serve more than 30,000 students in 140 disciplines, and it continues to expand.

A leader in comprehensive learning, San Jacinto College recently earned recognition for being a veteran friendly college and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College. This establishment plays a critical role in improving the educational experience of the hard working citizens in our communities.