

RECOGNITION OF MRS. ANN M.  
WILLIAMS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 10, 2014*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Ann M. Williams, Founder and Artistic Director of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Mrs. Williams will retire this May after 38 years of dedication to the performing arts community in Dallas.

Mrs. Williams has a highly decorated career in the arts. She holds a Master of Arts degree and Related Arts from Texas Woman's University and was inducted into the Texas Women's hall of fame in 2002. Among her various accolades, she was honored at The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC as a part of the Masters of African-American Choreography series in 2005.

Mrs. Williams had the vision to create a diverse and community-oriented dance institution with a strong emphasis toward the African-American community. Over several decades, Mrs. Williams built the Dallas Black Dance Theatre from the ground up, growing it to become one of the most well-known Dallas-based nonprofits. It has garnered recognition from the City of Dallas, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre is the oldest continuously operating professional dance company in Dallas and is host to a multi-ethnic troupe of dancers who specialize in contemporary modern dance. Since its founding in 1976, the Dallas Black Dance Theatre has brought cultural and artistic value to millions of people throughout 30 states and 14 different countries such as Great Britain, Japan, and Canada.

Mr. Speaker, under Mrs. Williams' direction, the Dallas Black Dance Theatre has become an invaluable addition to the Dallas arts community. The Dallas Black Dance Theatre has contributed greatly to the revitalization of downtown Dallas by bringing added educational and artistic capital to the area. I would like to recognize Mrs. Williams for her contributions and I join my constituents in wishing her a fruitful and fulfilling retirement.

HONORING ERNEST BEDROSIAN

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 10, 2014*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Ernest Bedrosian, who passed away on January 1, 2014 at the age of 80. Ernest was a leading raisin grower and packer in California's San Joaquin Valley and played an instrumental role in the development of the raisin industry in the United States and abroad.

Ernest was born in Parlier, California and attended California State University, Fresno, where he graduated with high honors receiving a bachelor's degree in Agriculture. Upon graduation in 1955, Ernest joined the United States Army and was a food specialist sta-

tioned in New York. In 1958 Ernest moved back to the San Joaquin Valley and started working on his family's raisin and wine vineyard. Shortly after, he began serving on various raisin boards and committees. Ernest established the Raisin Bargaining Association (RBA) in 1966 and served as the first acting President. The efforts of the RBA organized raisin growers, stabilized the national raisin market, and expanded domestic and international demand for raisins.

Ernest and his brothers opened the National Raisin Company in 1969 and developed the "Champion" brand for raisins and other dried fruits. Today the Champion brand is the largest independent raisin, prune, and dried fruit operation in the world and the National Raisin Company provides hundreds of jobs to Central Valley residents.

Ernest served as an elder at his Church, the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, and was also a member of the church's various building committees. Ernest will be remembered as not only a great businessman, but also as a devoted family man with a strong faith and an eagerness to help his community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the life and service of Mr. Ernest Bedrosian.

HONORING TOUGALOO COLLEGE

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 10, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable school, Tougaloo College. Tougaloo College is one of the United States' premier historically black college and universities. The American Missionary Association (AMA) founded Tougaloo in 1869. Early in that year the AMA had commissioned Allen P. Huggins, a former Union officer, to look for land for a normal-agricultural school. He found the former plantation of John Boddie about seven miles north of Jackson, Mississippi and negotiated to buy it from its owner, George McKee, for \$10,500. The money for the plantation was provided by the Freedman's Bureau.

In 1871 the Mississippi State Legislature granted the school a charter with the name "Tougaloo University." In 1892 the state discontinued funding but the Normal Department was recognized as a teacher training school. College credit first became available in 1897, but qualifying for accreditation by the Southern Association took a number of years to achieve. Improvements in the library, academic degrees for teachers, and endowments led to state accreditation in the 1930s. With this, graduates who had taken 18 semester hours of education courses were granted a lifelong professional teaching license. Tougaloo had again undergone a name change in 1916 to Tougaloo College.

In 1954 Tougaloo College merged with the Southern Christian Institute (SCI) in Edwards, Mississippi, because the two schools had similar missions and goals. The new school was called the Tougaloo Southern Christian College, but in 1962 was once again renamed Tougaloo College. Tougaloo was very active

in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and maintains a reputation for strong social commitment.

Today Tougaloo, with approximately 1,000 students, is a private, coeducational, four-year, liberal arts school. It has a selective admission rate, but is committed to providing those from challenging circumstances with a good education. The student population is primarily African American, but all are welcome to apply. Nearly 40 percent of the practicing African American physicians and dentists in the state of Mississippi are Tougaloo graduates, and 35 percent of all current Mississippi educators are. More than 66 percent of Tougaloo graduates enroll in graduate or Ph.D. programs immediately after graduating. Tougaloo has won national respect for its high academic standards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tougaloo College for their dedication to serving.

MRS. ANNIE LAURA WORD DAY

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 10, 2014*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, Ninety years ago a virtuous woman of God was born in Collierville, Tennessee on December 30, 1923; and

Whereas, Mrs. Annie Laura Word was born Annie Laura Walker to Mr. Albert and Mrs. Blanche Walker, she was educated in the local school system as a child, when she became a young lady, she married Mr. Henry C. Word on May 16, 1942 and through their union was blessed with three children, eighteen grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren; and

Whereas, this Phenomenal Proverbs 31 woman has shared her time and talents as a Wife, Mother and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to advance the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mrs. Word has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Word along with her family and friends are celebrating this day a remarkable milestone, her 90th Birthday, we pause to acknowledge a woman who is a cornerstone in our community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Word on her birthday and to wish her well and recognize her for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim December 30, 2013 as Mrs. Annie Laura Word Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 30th day of December, 2013.

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE  
OF MICHAEL WILLIAM PEARSON

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 10, 2014*

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and pay tribute to Michael William Pearson, a Navy veteran and small business owner from Southern California.

Mike was a true gentleman, and he will be missed by everyone who had the good fortune to know him. He will be remembered for his generosity, patriotism, and love of life.

Mike was born on August 6, 1939 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. God called him home on December 26, 2013.

Mike proudly served in the United States Navy as a medical corpsman. He served in the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and was honorably discharged in 1960 with the rank of Petty Officer, 3rd Class.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Mike began his career as a driller in 1960. He traveled the United States to drill in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Washington, DC, and other locations.

Mike was proud to have participated in the construction of the Rayburn House Office Building in the early 1960s.

Mike returned to California in 1970 to start his own drilling company, Pearson Drilling. Mike was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, friend, and neighbor.

I first met Mike when he was my neighbor in Diamond Bar, California.

We were both in the residential construction field, so we crossed paths many times over the years outside of our neighborhood.

Mike became the stepfather of my Senior Policy Director, Lesli McCollum Gooch, in 2006.

I can tell you first hand what a blessing Mike was for Lesli's mother, Loretta Stevenson, and for their family.

Mike will be sorely missed, but I know his legacy will live on in his family, which includes two children, three stepchildren, and eight grandchildren.

Mike was caring and active in his community, and he shared his passion for the United States, founded in the ideals of liberty and free enterprise, with his family and friends.

Our community was strengthened by his life of service, and our country has been immensely bettered by his patriotism, optimism, and goodness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all of our colleagues in the House to join me in remembering Michael William Pearson, and to honor him for his service to our country and community. We are grateful for the legacy he has left for our nation.

REDUCING EXCESSIVE DEADLINE  
OBLIGATIONS ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 10, 2014*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2279) to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act relating to review of regulations under such Act and to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 relating to financial responsibility for classes of facilities:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2279, which would needlessly complicate efforts to clean up our most dangerous Superfund sites by letting polluters off the hook for cleanup costs and creating conflict and confusion between state and federal law.

One in four Americans lives within three miles of a hazardous waste site, frequently in vulnerable communities. These sites endanger human health, increasing risk for cancer, birth defects, acute poisoning, and injury from fire or explosion. They are also blights in communities—vacant lots and underutilized land that impede economic development.

Our nations' Superfund law, passed in 1980, gives the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to compel polluters to pay to repair the damage they caused, either by cleaning up themselves or by reimbursing the federal government for its cleanup efforts. The cleanup process requires assessing and ranking sites to prioritize the most hazardous areas, and working with states and private parties to remediate the land.

Today's bill would undermine the requirement that high-polluting industries obtain insurance or post bonds to ensure that areas would be cleaned up if they become Superfund sites, reducing the incentive to limit contamination and sticking taxpayers with the bill if cleanup is necessary. It would prohibit the EPA from enforcing financial responsibility requirements in any state that sets its own rules, even if those rules are inadequate to protect taxpayers. It also confuses federal and state responsibilities on cleanup sites, subjecting federal employees to fines or imprisonment if they fail to comply with state orders even when they conflict with federal law. This confusion will only lead to increased litigation, delay, and wasted resources.

Superfund sites are dangerous threats to public health and economic progress in our most vulnerable communities, and we should be working to make the cleanup process as seamless and efficient as possible. This legislation would hinder that effort, and I urge a no vote.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNEST  
ARMEN BEDROSIAN

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 10, 2014*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay to tribute to the life of Ernest Armen Bedrosian who passed away on January 1, 2014 at the age of 80. Ernie had a significant role in the raisin industry, and his advocacy on behalf of farmers throughout California will undoubtedly be missed.

Ernie grew up in Parlier, California with his two brothers; Krikor and Kenneth, and his sister, Clara. His parents, Murad and Elizabeth, were first generation immigrants who survived the Armenian Genocide. Growing up in an immigrant family with strong parents, Ernie quickly developed great values and principles.

In 1955, Ernie graduated from Fresno State College with a Bachelor's Degree in agriculture. Upon graduation, he joined the United States Army and became a food specialist. A year into his service, Ernie married the love of his life, Carlotta Ketchian. They raised two children; Bryan and Tammy.

In 1958, Ernie completed his time with the Army and went back to work on his family farm. Ernie and his brothers began a grape harvesting business, and in his spare time, Ernie served on various raisin boards and met stakeholders who farmed throughout the Valley. In 1966, he formed the Raisin Bargaining Association (RBA). Ernie served as the first president of the RBA and guided the association through its early years. Today, the RBA is the most successful and largest raisin bargaining association in the country.

While Ernie was establishing the RBA, he and his brothers were also expanding their farming operation. In 1967, they decided to go into the raisin packing business and opened National Raisin Company (NRC). The Bedrosian brothers and their partner Harry Rustigian developed the "Champion" brand. Ernie served as the president and was responsible for sales and daily operations. The NRC had a strong beginning and decades later, it still continues to prosper. It is the largest independent raisin, prune, and dried fruit operation in the world.

It is obvious that Ernie was an extremely successful businessman, but he never took full responsibility for his accomplishments. He attributed his success to Carlotta and his sister in-laws; Katherine and Jane, who served as a support system to the Bedrosian brothers while they were forming their business. Ernie loved the raisin industry, but family always came first. He was a loving and devoted husband and a supportive father. He also enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren; Corney, Tyler, Armen, and Lillian.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Ernest Armen Bedrosian. His presence will be greatly missed, but his legacy will surely live on in the Central Valley.

HONORING CITY OF HOPE 100TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 10, 2014*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, U.S. Representatives, JUDY CHU and ADAM SCHIFF, to congratulate the City of Hope on the 100th anniversary of their first patient served and to thank Dr. Michael Friedman for his 10 years as Chief Executive Officer.

City of Hope started from humble beginnings in the San Gabriel Valley. Founded by a group of volunteers to treat tuberculosis patients in two large army tents on a 10-acre lot in Duarte, California in 1913, City of Hope has since grown to become a world-class health care facility that includes more than 100 buildings and is still growing.

Today, City of Hope is a leader in medical discovery. As one of 41 comprehensive cancer research centers in the United States, City