

the unprecedented achievement of nominating women to the two highest statewide constitutional offices.

Grace Garcia was a visionary leader and had tremendous passion for advancing equality and opportunity for women in the field of public service.

Women like Grace Garcia are diamonds. They are sharp, shine brightly, are unbreakable, and perfectly suited for their mission.

Grace Garcia loved to defy the odds; where others were deterred by obstacles, she saw and seized opportunity.

As a founder of the National Latina Political Action Committee and leading member of the National Latino Finance Council for Hillary Clinton's presidential bid, Grace Garcia proved to be an influential leader for the Latino community.

Grace Garcia's modesty belied her remarkable ability to influence events and improve people's lives.

Her departure came all too soon, but the trail she blazed leaves us a path to follow.

Grace Garcia opened doors of opportunity for women, and to honor her memory, we must continue that effort.

Mr. Speaker, today we remember the gift with which we were abundantly blessed with, and that is the life of Grace Garcia.

I hope it is a comfort to her family that so many of us mourn with them at this sad time.

But through our sadness, we draw strength from the legacy she left behind.

Grace Garcia will never be forgotten. She lives on in lives and deeds of progressive women political leaders in this generation and those to come.

So long my friend. We will miss you dearly, and forever hold you in our hearts.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of the remarkable Grace Garcia.

MARKING THE RETIREMENT OF
CHAIRMAN BUFORD ROLIN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished career of a great tribal leader, Chairman Buford Rolin. For more than three decades, Chairman Rolin has worked tirelessly to build stronger, healthier and more prosperous communities—for his fellow Poarch Band of Creek Indians and for native peoples across the country. He retires with a towering legacy of leadership and accomplishment, built through the vision, determination and energy that has long defined his many years of service.

Rolin was born in Atmore, Alabama in 1940. He spent eight years in the Army, occasionally hitchhiking home from Fort Benning, Georgia to enjoy his weekend passes back in Poarch. His first job after the army was as a haberdasher in Pensacola, Florida. Eventually Rolin found a job with Dixie Asphalt and Paving.

Over the years, his insight and expertise has fueled work in positions involving diverse groups including the National Committee on Indian Work, the Episcopal Church, the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Creek Indian Arts Council, Creek Indian Herit-

age Memorial Association, and the State of Alabama Public Health Board.

His hands-on experience with Indian health issues led to his appointment as Tribal Co-Chair National Steering Committee (NSC) for Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA) in 1998. After his service as Tribal Co-Chair for the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee, President Bill Clinton appointed him to the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy. The National Congress of American Indians recognized his leadership by appointing him to the NCAI Tribal Leaders Health Information Technology Task Force in 2001. Diabetes prevention has long been a focus of Rolin's leadership, and just last year, he received the IHS Director's Special Recognition Award for his many years devoted to tackling this challenge.

Chairman of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians since 2006, Rolin has been a tenacious and devoted advocate for tribal sovereignty, the duty of the trust responsibility, and the health and prosperity of his people. Today, the state-of-the-art Buford L. Rolin Health Center—named in recognition of a lifetime improving health across Indian Country—carries forward his great work, caring for his home community with a host of primary care, nutrition, diabetes, diagnostic, and rehabilitative services.

As he enters the next chapter of his life, I join with many others in thanking him for the many years of service and leadership he has given Indian Country and our Nation. For while Chairman Rolin is ending his career, we know that his achievements will make a difference in the lives of his community for generations to come. Congratulations on a well-earned retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
JANET GRAY HAYES

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Congresswoman ANNA G. ESHOO and Congressman MIKE HONDA, to honor the life of our friend Janet Gray Hayes, the first woman elected as Mayor of San Jose, California.

We often use words like pioneer and trailblazer in tribute to inspiring and remarkable individuals, and that certainly is true for Janet Gray Hayes. She made a profound impact on our community in San Jose, and in a larger sense, was one of the pioneers who helped open the doors for women to serve their communities in public service.

Born Janet Gray Frazee in Rushville, Indiana, on July 12, 1926, she was the second of two daughters of John P. Frazee, Jr., and Lucile Charman Gray Frazee. Like other members of the famed "Greatest Generation," she grew up in the hard scramble years of the Great Depression. These humble beginnings, and the personal challenges she overcame, taught Janet Gray about character, empathy for others, and standing strong when it came to matters of principle.

Janet Gray would go on to pursue a higher education, graduating as a Phi Beta Kappa at

the University of Indiana. She met her future husband Kenneth while she was a student at the University of Chicago. They married in 1950, after Janet Gray earned a master's degree in social work, and she supported his medical studies. Their marriage would last for over five decades until Kenneth passed away in 2013.

In 1956, when Janet Gray's husband Kenneth took a job as a physician at Agnews State Hospital, they moved to San Jose. Having been raised in an active Republican family, Janet Gray was introduced to politics at a young age when her family home became an official campaign base for Wendell Willkie, the Republican presidential nominee in 1940. But her real impetus for launching into the world of civics and politics came when she was eight months pregnant and made an appeal to the City Council for a school crossing guard in her neighborhood.

That battle for a simple community issue would ultimately take sixteen years, but it unleashed Janet Gray's involvement in San Jose politics. By 1960 she became the president of both the San Jose and Bay Area Leagues of Women Voters. Six years later she was appointed to the San Jose Redevelopment Board and rose to become chair.

In 1971, Janet Gray won election to the San Jose City Council, and four years later, sought to succeed Mayor Norman Mineta after he was elected to Congress. Against tremendous odds, and against a deeply entrenched establishment that fought her candidacy, she won.

Her election threw the doors open for other women to follow, sparking a movement for women to get actively involved and seek public office. Over the next two elections, women were elected to eight of the eleven City Council seats and three out of the five Santa Clara County supervisor seats—including a future Member of Congress named ZOE LOFGREN.

San Jose was declared the "feminist capital of the world." And as Janet Gray welcomed delegates at the 1977 National Women's Political Caucus, hosted in the city, she proudly remarked that "In sunny Santa Clara Valley, you are in the heartland of women in power." However, Janet Gray's accomplishments were not limited to her milestone election.

Her successful stewardship running a major city shattered long held myths that women could not be successful executives. Janet Gray made a commitment to improving access to the mayor's office and presided over San Jose's growth during the high-tech development years by laying out a vision to make the city "better before we make it bigger." That vision for San Jose is present today in a city that has focused on smart growth and urban planning to avoid urban sprawl and achieve a better quality of life for its citizens.

When asked by her son to name her biggest source of pride, Janet Gray replied "I was proudest of the fact that I could open doors. I had a lot to do with these women getting where they are today." Her generous assistance, guidance, leadership and friendship helped emerging women leaders after her success.

Mr. Speaker, more than fifty years ago, Adlai Stevenson praised another pioneering woman when he said of Eleanor Roosevelt that she would 'rather light a candle than curse the darkness.' Those words are also fitting for Janet Gray Hayes. Because of her, and other pioneering women like her, future