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CONGRATULATING MS. TAMMARA DEANE' CRAWFORD ON HER SELECTION AS A 1999 DEBUTANTE OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 3, 1999

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a constituent of mine, Ms. Tammara Deane' Crawford on her selection as a 1999 Debutante of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Ms. Crawford is to be commended for her accomplishment and is, in my opinion, very deserving of this honor.

Ms. Crawford is sixteen years old and is a senior at Woodlawn High School in Baton Rouge. She sets the example for many of her classmates by being involved in both the Student Government Association and the Woodlawn High School track team.

Not only has Ms. Crawford been a positive example to her peers at Woodlawn High School as a scholar, a student leader, and an athlete, she is also a shining example to her community. Ms. Crawford, in her spare time, is an active member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, the Louisiana National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the African American Christian Youth Organization, and the Baton Rouge Area Girl Scouts of America. In addition to her involvement with these community organizations, Ms. Crawford also volunteers her time with the Volunteens as well as teaching the proper handling of horses at a local camp, Camp Marydale.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Crawford represents everything that is right with our youth in America. At a time when the news regarding our young people is so disturbing, and quite frankly depressing, it is refreshing to take the time to look at young women like Ms. Crawford who not only recognize the need to excel in their studies, but also recognize the need to become involved in society at large. I am proud to know that she is a constituent in Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District and I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize her achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you and all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join in congratulating Ms. Tammara Deane' Crawford upon her selection as a 1999 Debutante of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. I know that she has made her parents, Eddie and Myra, and her sister and brother, Taylor and Timothy very proud.

WILLIE MORRIS, FAMED MISSISSIPPI WRITER PASSES AWAY

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 3, 1999

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, this morning I stand before you, my colleagues and the American people with sad news. One of our nation's greatest artists has passed away. Yesterday, Willie Morris died. Willie lived in my

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district down in Jackson. Willie will always live, Mr. Speaker, in the hearts of thousands around our planet who have read his words discovering a world of penetrating wit, warm memories, and prose that can bring the angels to earth and soothe our longings to connect with our broader world.

Willie Morris grew up in Yazoo City. We know about small town America in the 1950's because Willie told us about it. He told us about childhood friends like Bubba and Henjie. And he let us remember the loving wags and pants of childhood pets like his beloved dog Skip. We remember an America that only children can recall; an America of simple dreams poised to enter the turbulent period we call the sixties. Willie's memories were our memories—Christmas with Uncle Percy in Jackson, the smell of turkey and talk of baseball, high school football on cool autumn nights, and those first dates with sweaty palms and nervous laughs. How can we thank Willie Morris enough for putting our memories on paper?

Willie gave us the sixties as a student at the University of Texas and a Rhodes Scholar in England. We came of age with Willie as he recalled campus ramblings and long road trips. Willie Morris told us about the reality of America and being a young person finding his place in the greater American family. We see ourselves seeking to understand and find our places in the words of Willie.

When Willie Morris became editor of Harper's Magazine, he was the youngest to do so in their history. He led Harper's through the late 1960's and early 1970's with courage and honesty. He addressed the tough issues of the day and refused to cave in to conventionality for the sake of getting along. We met Truman Capote, Bill Styron, and so many others through Willie's essays. In broadening his world, ours was enlarged as well.

Following his years in New York, Willie became Writer-in-Residence at Ole Miss and finished his years in Jackson. His commitment in encouraging and bringing out the best of Mississippi's collective nature was impactful and profound. He mentored and gave us new Southern writers like Donna Tartt. Willie made us laugh at ourselves. He brought us together as one.

I think Willie Morris let us embrace our Southernness in the context of being a member of the entire American family. In his prose, Willie was honest about himself and his culture. Yet while embracing the truth, Willie made us proud of our accomplishments, our potential and ourselves. He was a visionary who could make the past alive and relevant while caring for the people and events of the present.

We will always remember and have Willie Morris at our side. We will read the pages of North Toward Home, The Courtship of Marcus Dupree, My Dog Skip, and his many other books and essays with a reverence and realization of our place in the world. Willie Morris was our bridge between past and present, and our voice for the better angels in us all. He always will be.

August 3, 1999

HONORING ALAN KARCHER, ARCHITECT OF NEW JERSEY'S LEGISLATURE

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 3, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to direct the attention of my colleagues to the accomplishments of Central New Jersey's Alan Karcher, who died on Monday, July 26 at the age of 56.

Mr. Karcher, a dedicated member of the Democratic Party, represented the city of New Brunswick and the rest of the 19th Legislative District in the New Jersey Assembly for seventeen years.

His years of service had a lasting impact on the politics of my state. As Lou Rainone, a friend, aide, and law partner to Mr. Karcher, has said, Mr. Karcher was "the architect of the modern legislature in New Jersey. He made the Legislature an equal branch of government with the Governor's administration."

Governor Christine Todd Whitman agrees. On Tuesday, she ordered state government flags flown at half-staff for the remainder of the week, and remarked that Mr. Karcher "was a worthy and capable adversary who truly embodied the spirit of the loyal opposition."

Mr. Karcher began his remarkable political career early in life. In 1966, while still a student at Rutgers University Law School, Mr. Karcher served as Secretary to the President of the New Jersey Senate. After several more years of staff service to the legislature, Mr. Karcher was elected to office himself in 1973. Mr. Karcher went on to become Majority Leader in 1980 and Speaker of the Assembly in 1981.

A political upset in 1985 brought the Republicans a majority in the assembly and removed Mr. Karcher from the Speaker's chair. Yet Mr. Karcher continued to serve in New Jersey politics, campaigning unsuccessfully for the Democratic Governor's nomination in 1989 and serving in the Democratic National Convention in 1984 and 1988. Mr. Karcher retired from the New Jersey Assembly in 1990.

Mr. Karcher's service to his state and country did not end there. In 1990, Mr. Karcher accepted an appointment as a fellow in residence at the Institute of Politics at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He wrote two books on political issues and helped found the successful Sayreville law practice of Karcher & Rainone. In 1987, he served as an appellate counsel for Mary Beth Whitehead-Gould in the historic "Baby M" surrogate-mother case which was successfully argued before the New Jersey Supreme Court.

After retiring to Princeton, New Jersey several years ago, Mr. Karcher's last great accomplishment was to rebuild the Democratic party of Mercer County, where in 1998 he helped to bring about my own upset victory against a favored incumbent.

Mr. Speaker, Alan Karcher's life was a model of public service, commitment, and political integrity. He stands as an example to us all, regardless of party and persuasion. I hope