

DAVID WAYNE GILCREASE WAS  
TRULY A HERO

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask that we all pause for a moment to remember a man who will live forever in the hearts of all that knew him and many that didn't. David Wayne Gilcrease was a man who stood out to those around him. Friends remember him as a man who enjoyed fishing, rodeos, and dancing. But, most of all, he enjoyed his family and friends. His two sons, Spincer and Tyler, and his daughter, Kliftina, brought him endless joys. He was known as a good, upright man.

He was also known as a person who had a tendency to stand up for what he felt was right, or against what he felt was wrong. On Friday night, September 3, that tendency cost him his life. David was in a grocery store when he heard gun shots outside. He could have stayed inside and ignored them, or gone on about his own business, but he didn't. With no thought for his own personal safety, he rushed forward to see if anyone needed his help. In doing this, he met a man holding a gun head on. Mr. Gilcrease weighed only 90 pounds, but he tackled this man and was shot in cold blood. He gave his life for someone he never met before.

David Wayne Gilcrease is someone who will be missed by many. His friends and family will miss the man that they all enjoyed spending time with. The rest of us will miss the man who exemplified the selflessness that so few truly possess. But, when we lose a man such as Mr. Gilcrease, being missed is certainly no precursor to being forgotten. And, everyone who ever knew him, or knew of him, will walk through life a bit differently for it.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER ISOLINA  
FERRÉ

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 1999*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sister Isolina Ferré, an outstanding individual who has devoted her life to serving the poor. Sister Isolina, a Missionary Servant of the Most Blessed Trinity, received the nation's highest civilian honor during a White House ceremony on Wednesday, August 11, 1999. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Sister Isolina, known as the "Angel of Ponce Beach," was born on September 5, 1914 to one of the most affluent families in Puerto Rico. Raised in a wealthy family, she decided early in life that she wanted to dedicate her life to the less fortunate. She joined the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity at age 21 in Philadelphia. After she completed her training, she was assigned to the Appalachian coal mining region of West Virginia and then worked among Portuguese immigrants on Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

In 1957 Sister Isolina went to work at the Doctor White Community Center in Brooklyn, where she offered to be a mediator between African-American and Puerto Rican gangs. For her efforts she received the key to the city of New York from Mayor John Lindsay and the John D. Rockefeller Award for Public Service and Community Revitalization.

Mr. Speaker, Sister Isolina Ferré founded community service centers, clinics and programs to empower the poor in Puerto Rico, New York and Appalachia. She does this through the Centros Sor Isolina Ferré, a group of five community-service centers she has run for 30 years. One U.S. author who wrote about turning around poor, crime-ridden communities called her "Mother Teresa of Puerto Rico."

The Centros Sor Isolina Ferré has 350 employees, five offices throughout Puerto Rico, a postgraduate business and technical school and 40 programs aimed at stemming juvenile delinquency and strengthening families. With government and private funding, it serves more than 10,000 people a year.

The operation is built on Ferré's main principle: Poor communities have many resources they can use to improve their condition, and they can be taught to seek their own solutions and take control of their lives. Staff members teach leadership and strategic planning to people in public-housing projects, in Ponce—skills used to start businesses and organize community improvements. Through counseling and other services for youth and families, Ferré's group has dramatically reduced the school dropout rate within a public housing project in the San Juan area.

Mr. Speaker, Sister Isolina is the fourth Puerto Rican to receive the award. The others are former Puerto Rico Gov. Luis Muñoz Marín, a founder of the Popular Democratic Party; Antonia Pantojas, founder of Aspira, an agency known for helping Hispanic youth; and Sister Isolina's brother, former Puerto Rico Gov. Luis A. Ferré, founder of the pro-statehood New Progressive Party.

Sister Isolina attended Fordham University in New York where she earned a bachelor of arts and master's degree in psychology.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Sister Isolina Ferré for her outstanding achievements and in wishing her continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. ISRAEL  
MILTON ON HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. CARRIE P. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 1999*

Ms. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Miami-Dade County's unsung heroes, Mr. Israel H. Milton, who celebrated his 70th birthday on August 29. A native Floridian, Mr. Milton attended the then Dorsey High School in Miami and went on to earn his Bachelor's degree from Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach. He subsequently obtained his Master's degree in Social Work from Atlanta University. He is married to an educator, Thelma Milton, who

has since retired from teaching and with whom he has four children.

Mr. Milton epitomizes the preeminence of a good and decent servant who has tried to do his best to make government accessible to the community, particularly to the community, particularly to the more than 200,000 clients of the county's Department of Human Services. A veteran in social work services, he started his work in Atlanta, Chicago, and New York. On November 2, 1967, he was subsequently appointed to administer the Kendall Children's Home, our community's first group home for juvenile delinquents. He also started Alpha House, the county's first residential facility for emotionally disturbed children.

Mr. Milton's entrepreneurial spirit in accessing much-needed government funding allowed him to expand many and varied services to benefit the children and the elderly via his innovative Child Care Program, Adult Care Program, the Elderly Services and the Home-maker Services Program.

Additionally, it was his vision to incorporate alcohol and drug treatment programs within the Department, which provided the initiative toward the creation of our community's first Juvenile Residential Substance Abuse Program. Needless to say, he was awarded various citations from nationally-renowned agencies and organizations, which honored his pioneering stewardship in this arena.

Ever since I have known this government steward par excellence, Mr. Milton has always been at the forefront of ensuring equality of opportunity for everyone in our community, regardless of race, creed, gender, or philosophical persuasion. At the same time, his forceful advocacy in adhering to the tenets of equal treatment under the law in every segment of our county government has become legendary. In fact, countless others have been touched by his genuine commitment to their well-being, particularly toward those who could least fend for themselves.

In his own quiet, dignified way, Mr. Milton has been and continues to be our community's consummate activist. He abides by the dictum that those who have less in life, through no fault of their own, deserve the help of government to get themselves back up and to become responsible and productive members of society. His colleagues in government service consider him their model, and are often touched by his unique sincerity and personal integrity. The numerous accolades with which he has been honored by various organizations and agencies represent an unequivocal testimony of the utmost respect and admiration which he enjoys within our community.

Mr. Israel Milton understands the accouterments of power and leadership, and sagely exercises them alongside the mandate of his conviction and the wisdom of his conscience, focusing their impact upon the good of the community which he loves and cares for so deeply. His pioneering work in the social work arena has oftentimes shaped and formed the agenda of several professional organizations such as the National Association of Social Workers, the American Society for Public Administrators, the Governor's Constituency for Children, the Florida Foster Care Review Project, the National Forum for Black Public