

CONGRATULATIONS TO CLAY AND  
SHERYN DAVIS UPON THEIR RE-  
CENT MARRIAGE

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Clay Davis and Ms. Sheryn Shearer who were united in marriage on Saturday, October 30th, 1999 in Somerset, Kentucky. Clay has been a dear friend of mine for many, many years and it was a personal honor for me to serve as his best man that day. Clay and Sheryn declared their love before God, family, and friends, and I can not think of two people who more deserve the everlasting love and happiness they have prayed for.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Clay and Sheryn on their recent nuptials. May their love only continue to grow with each passing year.

TRIBUTE TO GRACE MARIE TRIPP-  
HOLMES

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Mrs. Grace Marie Tripp-Holmes, longtime educator, who recently passed away.

Before retiring in 1972, Mrs. Holmes taught a generation of children in Alamosa, Colorado. Mrs. Holmes taught high school in Manassa schools and later operated a private kindergarten in Alamosa, before the Alamosa School District offered its own kindergarten. Following her contributions there, she taught fourth grade at Alamosa's Central School.

Mrs. Holmes was an asset to the children and families of Alamosa. Her role as an educator facilitated an environment where students were effectively taught the values necessary to succeed. But when we lose a woman such as Mrs. Holmes, being missed is certainly no precursor to being forgotten. And, everyone who knew her, will walk through life a little bit differently for it.

IN CELEBRATION OF POLISH  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. SAM GEJDENSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the people of Poland will celebrate their independence day. I rise tonight to pay tribute to them and people of Polish descent across the globe.

After 123 years of occupation, the Polish people regained their independence and their place on the map on November 11, 1918.

The principles laid down by Woodrow Wilson after the First World War helped build a

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

moral framework for Poland's reemergence. But it was up to the Polish people to guarantee that this promise was fulfilled. Many Poles had fought on a number of fronts, by choice or conscription, in World War I. Particularly famous was the "Blue Army" of General Jozef Haller, and the legendary Polish Legions of Jozef Pilsudski.

In July 1917 while resisting German control of his forces, Pilsudski was captured and imprisoned by the Germans at Magdeburg. Many Polish units subsequently refused to take an oath of allegiance to the Germans and then disbanded, building the ranks of the underground Polish Military.

As the Central powers collapsed, Ignacy Daszynski proclaimed a Polish People's Government in Lublin on the November 7, 1918. On November 10, Pilsudski was released by the Germans and returned to Warsaw where an awaiting Regency Council handed over power to him. Across the country, Polish military and ex-Legionnaires disarmed the Germans and seized political control.

Pilsudski telegraphed the allied governments that day with the immortal words, "the Polish state has arisen from the will of the whole nation." From that day onward Poles everywhere celebrated November 11th as Independence Day.

It is that much more painful that only two decades after throwing off the cloak of foreign occupation, Poland would undergo invasion and occupation by the Nazis followed by another invasion and forty-four years of domination by the Soviet Union.

My life has intersected with the bookends of this painful period in Polish history. My father was serving in the Polish army in 1939 when World War II erupted. After my family fled tyranny in Europe to settle in the United States, I ended up representing a Congressional district in eastern Connecticut that produced the submarines which helped the West win the Cold War and give the Poles their second chance for independence and freedom.

It was in the shipyards of Gdansk that the labor unions and Lech Walesa formed the Solidarity movement that rose from the underground to eventually negotiate communism's demise in Poland. It is my honor to represent shipbuilders in Groton, Connecticut—proud union members who stand for justice here at home and abroad. Some are Polish Americans who can trace their family history back to the days of November 1918 and before. Some of them like Wayne Burgess of Uncasville, a member of MDA-UAW Local 571, have visited the shipyards in Gdansk to express their solidarity with their Polish counterparts' heroic fight for freedom.

To complete the circle, it was my privilege to accompany President Clinton to the NATO Madrid Summit in July of 1997 when the Alliance invited Poland, along with Hungary and the Czech Republic to apply for membership. After years of occupation and oppression, the Polish people had finally found peace with the withdrawal of Soviet troops. When they joined NATO, the people of Poland achieved the only fundamental freedom they lacked—peace of mind.

I therefore rise with Polonia here in the United States and across the globe to pay tribute to Poland on the anniversary of its inde-

*November 11, 1999*

pendence. Tomorrow let the world hear again that "the Polish state has arisen from the will of the whole nation."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JULIA CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for one vote on Tuesday, November 9, 1999, missing rollcall 578. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE A.  
McMILLAN

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Californian and friend, Katherine A. McMillan, on the occasion of her 75th birthday.

The daughter of Irish immigrants Margaret and John Trumble, Katherine McMillan was born on November 17, 1924, in Worcester, MA, the youngest of nine children. Her five brothers are Thomas, William, James, Joseph, Francis, and her three sisters are Margaret, Mary, and Anne.

Katherine McMillan matriculated from St. Vincent Academy in Worcester and she went on to serve in the Navy as a nurse. She gave 37 years of nursing at Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City, CA, spending the majority of her time in the fast pace and demanding Emergency Room where she helped to establish their quality long-term care Extended Care Facility.

Upon her retirement from nursing, Katherine McMillan founded the first latchkey day care program in the San Francisco Archdiocese at St. Pius Catholic Church in Redwood City where she provided quality child care for school aged children. The children had the rare opportunity to learn both Katherine McMillan's unique perspective on life gleaned from a lifetime of experience and her distinctive regional vernacular, a legacy from her Irish parents.

In 1990, Katherine McMillan was the first woman to be awarded the In Via Award from Serra High School, San Mateo, CA, for her significant contributions to and support of the Serra High School community. This singular honor made her the first and only "woman" alumna from the all-male school. Katherine McMillan continues to spend time volunteering at the Serra High School Library, attending and leading rowdy school functions at the "Jungle" and was elected in 1998 by the student body as their Homecoming Queen.

Katherine McMillan spends her free time crocheting blankets with a group of dedicated, giving hands at the Redwood City Senior Center for Sheryl Parker's Pre-to-Three Program so all new babies born in San Mateo County have a blanket handmade by dedicated "volunteer grandmothers." She was appointed by