

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

the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to serve on the San Mateo County Health Plan Board where she works to ensure healthcare services for all those without insurance coverage.

Katherine McMillan has three loving, grown children . . . her two daughters Katherine and Mary; and her son, Robert, who is married to Julie and have given her two beautiful grandchildren, Sean McMillan, 6 years old, and Kenny "B" McMillan, 4 years old.

Katherine McMillan is especially proud of rearing her three children as a single working mother all of whom went on to college and are now productive members of our community. She is exceedingly proud of her two grandsons who carry the legacy of her extraordinary spirit into a third generation of McMillan's.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Katherine McMillan, a great and good woman, for her countless contributions to our community and our country and congratulate her on the attainment of her 75th birthday. We are indeed a better country and a better people because of this woman.

TRIBUTE TO JOE SERNA, MAYOR  
OF SACRAMENTO

**HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in great sadness to pay tribute to a very distinguished leader, to one of the most honorable public servants I know, and to a true friend. On Sunday, the mayor of Sacramento, and my good friend Joe Serna, lost his courageous battle with kidney cancer. As the community mourns his loss, I ask all my colleagues to join with me in saluting the career and efforts of this extraordinary person.

Joe Serna was born in Stockton and raised in Lodi, California. He grew up the son of an immigrant farm worker, where he was taught the honorable values and hard work ethic that exemplified his career. It was here too that he began a storied and successful career, becoming a sheet metal worker at the age of 19. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in social science/government from Sacramento State College in 1966 and attended graduate school at UC, Davis, majoring in political science.

Always wanting to serve others, Mayor Serna entered the Peace Corps in 1966, working in Guatemala as a Community Development volunteer specializing in cooperatives and credit unions. Upon his return to the States, he continued his service by pursuing one of the most noble of all professions—he became a teacher. He joined the faculty at CSU, Sacramento, in 1969 becoming a professor of government. Of course the energy he brought to life was quickly transferred to his students in the classroom, and in 1991 he received the Distinguished Faculty Award.

Continuing his lifelong calling to public service, Joe Serna was first elected to the Sacramento City Council in 1981 and reelected in 1985 and 1989. He was then elected mayor of Sacramento in 1992 and again in 1996.

As mayor, Joe Serna left a proud legacy of leadership and accomplishments. He worked throughout his career to revitalize Sacramento's downtown which included initiating the Sacramento Downtown Partnership Association, the "Art in Public Places" program, and the Thursday Night Market. Joe Serna was selected in 1995 by the National Council for Urban Economic Development to receive their annual Economic Development Leadership Award.

He also established the Mayor's Commission on Our Children's Health and the Mayor's Commission on Education and the City's Future, which led to a new Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Trustees. As part of his active role in improving the Sacramento City School District, he founded the Mayor's Summer Reading Camp, a literacy program for below average scoring second and third grade students.

Over the past three decades Mayor Serna was a member of numerous organizations including the Regional Transit Board of Directors and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Commission. He was the Co-trustee of the Crocker Art Museum Association and an Advisory Board Member of Senior Gleaners, Inc. He also was a former Chair of the Sacramento City/County Sports Commission, member of the Board of the Sacramento Employment and Training Agency, member of the Sacramento Metropolitan Cable Television Commission and Sacramento Air Quality Management Board. From 1970 to 1975, he served as the Director of the United Farmworkers of America's Support Committee in Sacramento County. Mayor Serna also served as a two-time presidential appointed member of the Board of Directors of "Freddie Mac."

Mayor Serna was known as an elected official with profound vision for the future and the energy to implement that vision. He knew how to build coalitions, ignite community involvement, and succeed in achieving his goals. Because of this vision, he leaves a proud legacy in Sacramento of downtown revitalization and growth, a stronger public school system, more jobs, more community police, and a higher quality of life.

What made Mayor Serna such a remarkable leader was his ability and willingness to listen to the community and make himself available to all voices that wanted to be heard. In an era when following the politically expedient route is commonplace, Mayor Serna was never afraid to fight for what he believed in if he knew it was the right thing to do. He never compromised his values and always brought a sense of honor and dignity to the Sacramento community. I thank him for his courage, for his kindness, and for the exceptional integrity he maintained throughout his career. Clearly, Mayor Serna leaves a new standard of leadership that we should all do well to follow.

I would also like to extend my deepest and heartfelt sympathies to Mayor Serna's wife, Isabelle, his son Phillip, and his daughter, Lisa. I along with the city of Sacramento and the California community mourn with them.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Sacramento has suffered a tremendous loss of one of its most distinguished and visionary leaders, as well as one of its best citizens. We will all miss him dearly.

REMEMBERING THOMAS D. WELLS  
III

**HON. MAX SANDLIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a great American, a great Texan, and a great friend. Thomas D. "Tommy" Wells, the long-time County Attorney for Lamar County, Texas, died on October 15, 1999, will be sorely missed.

Tommy served Lamar County as County Attorney for twenty years and will always be remembered as an exemplary public servant. But I will remember Tommy as a friend—a man dedicated to his family, committed to always doing the right thing.

My friend Tommy was an inspiration to the people of East Texas. He graduated from Paris High School and received his bachelor's degree from Baylor University. After graduating from law school at St. Mary's University, he returned to Paris to practice law.

Subsequently, Tommy won five consecutive elections to the County Attorney post. He was elected president of the Texas County and District Attorney's Association and also served on the State Bar of Texas Grievance Committee. After leaving his prosecutor's post for private practice, Tommy continued to serve his state as a special prosecutor.

Clearly Tommy was a credit to his profession—but his lasting legacy is his family. Tommy and his wife of thirty years, Rusty, raised two sons in Paris. Nothing was more important to Tommy Wells than his family.

His dedication to his family's activities brought him closer to his community. Tommy taught Sunday School for the First Baptist Church of Paris and coached football for Optimist teams. He was active with the Paris Boys Club. He served on the board of the Salvation Army and was a member of the "Old Men's Club."

Tommy Wells was not an old man, though. He died at age fifty-four. A young man both in age and spirit, he contributed more to Lamar County in his brief life than its residents ever could have asked of him.

Mr. Speaker, East Texas has lost a leader and a friend. His wife, sons, and mother have lost a dear member of their family. But the City of Paris and Lamar County gained so much from the life of Tommy Wells. We celebrate his life and are grateful for his time with us.

PARNICK JENNINGS

**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, sooner or later, all of us have to deal with the death of a loved one. Often, during that difficult time, the devotion, counsel, and wisdom of another person can make a bad experience a little easier to bear.

Parnick Jennings of Rome, GA, is one such person. For the past 50 years, he has operated Jennings Funeral Home in Cartersville,