

he were in . . . [a] room, everybody would be drawn to him. It was just the nature of his aura, his magnetism."

Ellington's career as a bandleader lasted more than fifty years; during at least forty-five of which he was a public figure of some prominence. It is often said that there were three high-water marks in that span. The first occurred in the late 1920s, when he attained the security and prestige of a residency at the Cotton Club, where the best black entertainers of the day worked for gangsters and performed at night for all-white audiences. Duke survived those years with his dignity intact—no small achievement—and he learned from his musicians, some of whom were then more skilled than he. By the end of the twenties, he had begun to experiment as a composer and arranger, and had several hits under his belt.

In the early thirties, he sharpened his skills, and made his first attempts at composing longer works. By the late thirties, he had assembled the best collection of players he ever had under his command at one time. Duke showed off his musicians in miniature masterpieces, three-minute concertos that displayed a single soloist against the backdrop of a tightly-knit ensemble. Many of these pieces are among his most enduring. Others from this time, equally memorable, explore a dizzyingly shifting labyrinth of textures, as different instruments take the lead and the accompaniment moves from one section of the band to another.

Billy Strayhorn, a brilliant young arranger who had joined the band in 1939, became increasingly important as Duke's principle collaborator in composition. By most accounts, Strayhorn was a musical genius of Mozartean proportions for whom composing music was as natural as breathing. Capable of doing almost anything musically, he chose to spend most of his adult life as an adjunct to Ellington, matching his compositional style to the maestro's, but also introducing some new musical concepts that would become part of Duke's palette. Ellington always learned from his musicians, but Strayhorn was his postdoctoral fellowship.

Duke Ellington created a body of music that endures and always rewards. His place in the sweep of American music is unique, and his stature is the equal of that of any of the acknowledged European masters.

In 1988, Congress appropriated funds for the acquisition and care of Duke Ellington's vast archives. Today I went before the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education and requested that \$1 million be added to the FY 2000 appropriation for the Department of Education Program and that it be earmarked for the Smithsonian Institution's Jazz Program.

We must continue to keep Duke's music alive for all generations.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. RAYMUNDO D.
TALABAN

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Raymundo D. Talaban

who is retiring from Madison Medical Center after 28 years of dedicated service to the medically under served people of southern Missouri. Dr. Talaban is a doctor of medicine, (an accomplishment that earns accolades by itself), but more importantly he is a doctor in a part of my District which typifies rural America. Some may have a hard time understanding the problems with health care access in rural America. Mr. Speaker, in southern Missouri there are only three health care professionals for every 100 people, and the average hospital is located anywhere from 35 minutes to two hours away from the next hospital. Many times people must take time from work and drive hours to the nearest hospital to receive what other people would consider a routine procedure or checkup. So you see, in this part of America, Dr. Talaban is not just another doctor, he is one of a few who brings care and attention to many.

Dr. Talaban's wife, Nenita, has proudly shared with me some of the her husband's wonderful accomplishments. I would have to say that Dr. Talaban's most outstanding achievement must be his family, including his three daughters: Caroline, Catherine, Andrea and his three grandchildren. I'm sure they realize what a wonderful father and grandfather they have, a role model and a man who spent the entirety of his life helping others.

Dr. Talaban received his medical degree from Far Eastern University Medical School in Manila, Philippines. Before he came to Madison Medical Center, Dr. Talaban worked at Missouri Baptist Hospital and St. Louis State Hospital. The folks of southern Missouri were lucky enough to have him come on board at Madison Medical Center in 1971. There Dr. Talaban held two prestigious positions as Vice Chief of Staff and Chief of Surgery. He not only established a record of outstanding care, but also a history on unflinching compassion.

Dr. Talaban also found time to volunteer his services to the American Red Cross and advisor to the American Cancer Society. His membership in many prestigious groups including the Philippine Medical Society of Greater St. Louis, the American Medical Society, The American Society of Abdominal Surgeons, the Missouri State Medical Society, and the St. Louis Metropolitan Medical Society enhanced his ability to give quality health care to the people of Madison County.

Dr. Talaban, I want to thank you for dedicating your life to helping others. Although we all will be sorry to see you leave Madison Medical Center, we hope that you will heartily enjoy the years of your retirement. My thoughts are with you, Dr. Talaban, as you, your family and friends come together to celebrate all the important years that you dedicated to our community. You had a very positive impact on peoples' lives in rural southern Missouri, and we will never forget your dedication and service to our community.

IN MEMORY OF ART PICK

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, today my colleague, Mr. BROWN of California, and I would like to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication to the community and to the overall well-being of the city of Riverside, CA, is unparalleled. Riverside was indeed fortunate to have such a dynamic and dedicated community leader who willingly and unselfishly gave of his time and talents to make his community a better place in which to live and work. The individual we are speaking of is Mr. Art Pick, who we were fortunate to have been able to call our friend. He died yesterday at the age of 68.

Born Joseph Arthur Pickleheimer, Jr., Art moved to Riverside from Kentucky in 1955. A fixture in the community, Art was a man who never shied away from community involvement. Art led the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce for 26 years, first as executive vice president, then as executive director and chief executive officer. He truly believed that Riverside was the best place in the world, and worked tirelessly to get that message across to others. In his position, he reached out to the Hispanic and African-American Chambers of Commerce to ensure that the area's diverse business community worked together.

Art knew education was key to job creation in his community. A graduate of the University of California at Riverside, he was an enthusiastic member and officer of the Alumni Association. Besides being an unabashed booster for his alma mater, Art also recognized the role that the private and community colleges in Riverside played in preparing the workforce for a recovering local economy.

He was also active in many community organizations, including serving as a Riverside City Councilman; serving as a La Sierra University trustee; founding member of the Inland Area Urban League; and, serving as a trustee for the Riverside Community College District. He was also a lifelong supporter of the Sherman Indian School. His good deeds and work in the community would fill pages and pages were we to try and list them all.

Art's forthright honesty and outspokenness rubbed more than a few politicians and journalists the wrong way. But we always remembered that his goal, first and foremost, was what was good for his city. And those of us on the receiving end of Art's comments were always better for the experience because Art was so often right; and, if he wasn't right, well at least he had made us think long and hard about the subject at hand.

Our deepest condolences go to his wife, Galina Mokshina; his daughter, Maria; and his brother, David. Art was a true patriot and an outstanding American who will be deeply missed by everyone in the community. We can best honor him by trying to meet the same high standard he set as a patriot, citizen, and friend.