

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in my family I was unable to attend votes recently. Had I been here I would have made the following votes: Rollcall No. 8—"aye"; No. 9—"aye"; No. 10—"aye"; No. 11—"aye"; No. 12—"aye"; No. 13—"aye"; No. 14—"aye"; No. 15—"aye"; No. 16—"aye"; No. 17—"aye"; No. 18—"aye"; No. 19—"aye"; No. 20—"aye"; No. 21—"aye"; No. 22—"aye"; No. 23—"no"; No. 24—"aye"; No. 25—"no".

TRIBUTE TO LEOLA HAGEMAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to an extraordinary woman and member of our community, a constituent of the 15th Congressional District in New York from the time I was first elected. Leola Hageman, who died on February 1, served her community over the last 40 years with energy, dedication, intelligence, creativity and love. Her passing is an enormous loss for the people of our community, New York City and the United States.

Leola Hageman moved from her native Chicago to New York City in 1959, with her husband, the Reverend Lynn Hageman, and their three children, Erica, Hans and Ivan. In 1963, Reverend Hageman founded an experimental narcotics program at Exodus House on East 103rd Street, and Leola Hageman worked with him as his full and indispensable partner. The program served thousands of addicts with exceptional rates of success.

Mrs. Hageman's contribution to our community by her work at Exodus House, without more, would already have been substantial. However, Mrs. Hageman demonstrated her exceptional energy, courage, intelligence and constructive spirit in a myriad of ways.

One particular project drew her attention and efforts for more than 30 years: improving the education for the children of our community. In the late 1960's, she worked tirelessly for the creation of local school boards, part of a decentralization plan to improve education in communities throughout the city by appointing people to the boards who would represent their communities. These boards helped to change the direction and conscience of the city and well beyond.

Later, in the early 1980's, when Reverend Hageman suffered an illness and was no longer able to carry on leadership of Exodus House, Leola Hageman opened a facility for children, including children of drug addicts, to come after school. Once again, well ahead of her time, Mrs. Hageman recognized the dangers of children being out on the streets in the afternoons after school and before their parents came home with nothing to do—and created a safe and constructive environment for

them to come to at Exodus House. The seed that Mrs. Hageman planted with that program has now blossomed into the East Harlem School at Exodus House, a highly successful middle school founded by Reverend and Mrs. Hageman's two sons. The East Harlem School is now in its ninth year of operation, providing an exceptional educational experience to its students.

Mr. Speaker, the loss of Leola Hageman, and only a little more than a year ago her husband, the Reverend Lynn Hageman, leaves an enormous void in our community. Their lives epitomized the finest dedication to service and "tough love"—as one alumnus of Exodus House put it at a recent memorial service for Mrs. Hageman. The example of the way Leola and Lynn Hageman chose to live their lives in dedication to others should serve as an inspiration and a challenge to each of us now and in the years to come.

HONORING ANGELA HOWE
ANDERSON**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the hard work of Angela Howe Anderson.

Angela is a true immigrant success story. After arriving in the U.S. in 1979 from Trinidad, Angela began working for Bloomingdale's department store. However, she remained there for only three months before moving to St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital. Angela has remained with the New York hospital industry since 1979. She is currently on the staff of Brookdale Hospital Medical Center where she is in charge of processing applications for patients in need of medical assistance. One of ten children, Angela received encouragement from her mother, Myrtle, to continue her education once she immigrated to the United States. To that end, she has pursued college courses at the Borough of Manhattan Community College. Her daughter Sharla is also attending college.

Angela has been married to Maurice Anderson since 1992. She remains a shining example of the rich contributions made to this nation by many immigrants. Please join me in recognizing the achievements of Angela Howe Anderson.

HONORING MATTHEW ERIC BLACK

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special young man, Matthew Eric Black, from Lakeport, CA. Matthew lost his life in the line of duty while attempting to suppress a wild-land fire on June 23, 1999.

Matthew Black, the proud son of Jo Ann and Gerry Gettman, was born on July 18, 1978. He was the beloved brother of Michael

and Mark, a quadriplegic, who he was devoted to, his fiancée, Jamie Bartko, sister-in-law, Denise, an aunt and uncle, Bonnie and Danny Black, a great aunt, Virginia Thompson, and his grandmother, Ilean Mason. He graduated from Clear Lake High School in 1997 where he loved playing sports including wrestling, track, and football. He was named MVP in a coed youth soccer league and played ice hockey for the Belmont Rangers, Level A Division, and won a state championship with them in 1994.

Having a desire to help people, Matthew joined the city of Lakeport Fire Department as a volunteer and was a former member of the Lake County Sheriff's Department Explorer Program. When Matthew was in high school he wrote an essay for a school project called Roots and Wings which laid out his dream to be a firefighter. It said in part:

My future is approaching real fast. I have thoughts about what I am going to do and the skills that I will need to do them. My goals are to graduate and go to junior college majoring in fire science and to go on and become a firefighter. . . . I have always wanted to be a firefighter for as long as I can remember.

Matthew Black wanted to save lives and to change lives for the better. He was a strong individual who enriched so many lives with his caring, compassionate, loving feelings. When someone was sad or angry, he would lift them up by making them laugh and feel better. He was an unselfish young man who, when he saw a need, delivered. He is often remembered for giving a young mother his bike for her son when she expressed she could not afford one.

To honor the remarkable life of this special man, the community of Lake County will be recognizing him at the 2000 Stars of Lake County Community Awards ceremony on Sunday evening, February 20, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we acknowledge and honor the life of Matthew Eric Black for his outstanding and unselfish manner in which he lived his life. He set an example for all of us to live by.

PRESENTING CONGRESSIONAL
GOLD MEDAL TO JOHN CAR-
DINAL O'CONNOR

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to John Cardinal O'Connor. As the leader of the largest Archdiocese in the nation, Cardinal O'Connor has been an active participant in the debate of the role of the Church and the role of society in helping those who cannot care for themselves. In that vein, the Cardinal has always embodied the Biblical passage of the Good Samaritan. In both his words and actions, Cardinal O'Connor has clearly demonstrated his devotion to the teachings of Christ and his spirit of the principles of this passage.