

Bob Beykirch was born on November 24, 1928, in East St. Louis, Illinois, a son of Christopher and Marie Walters Beykirch. He was a staff sergeant in the Illinois National Guard and was stationed in Germany for a year during the Korean War. Bob was a graduate of St. Louis University, where he received a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1955.

In 1957, Bob and his family moved to Sedalia, Missouri, after acquiring an Anheuser-Busch wholesale distributorship that was renamed County Distributing Co. Bob served as president of the Missouri Beer Wholesaler Association and was a member of the Anheuser-Busch Wholesaler Advisory Panel.

Bob served on the Sedalia Park Board, was a board member of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce, was a past president of the Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce, and was a member of the Sedalia Area Tourism Commission. In addition, Bob sat on the board of Citizens Against Spouse Abuse, Children's Therapy Center, and the Sedalia Airport Board. Bob was also involved with the Sedalia-Pettis County United Way, local sports teams, and was an active member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Mr. Speaker, Bob was a successful businessman, civic leader, and a good friend. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife, Dorothy; his four sons, daughter, and 12 grandchildren.

HONORING MS. ELIZABETH (BETH)
S. RUYLE

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Elizabeth (Beth) S. Ruyle for her 21 years of service and dedication as executive director for the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA).

Ms. Ruyle became the executive director of South Suburban Mayors and Managers in June 1978. South Suburban Mayors and Managers is a council of government which includes 38 municipalities in South Suburban Cook and Eastern Will Counties. Through Beth's hard work, many of the communities' goals have been realized. These goals include the development of regional planning programs in transportation, solid waste, flood management, and housing. Twenty municipalities now have an intergovernmental self insurance pool for property and casualty. Twelve municipalities can now boast they have an intergovernmental self insurance pool for employee benefits. All thirty-eight municipalities can now rely on fire, police, and public works mutual aid agreements in times of emergency. Under the direction of Ms. Ruyle, the SSMMA was one of the first entities to establish a multimunicipal bond bank which now has \$50 million in assets.

Before coming to work at the SSMMA, Beth and her husband, Craig Hullinger, lived in Atlanta, GA where she had the position of governmental relations coordinator for the Atlanta

Regional Commission. Beth completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Florida in 1968. In 1975, She received her M.P.A. graduate degree from the University of Georgia.

Beth has won several Urban Innovations awards during her career such as an award for Employee Assistance Program, an award for South Suburban Drug Enforcement Program, and a reward for Cost Savings/Revenue Enhancement. In January 1996, Beth was listed in "Crain's Chicago Business" as one of the "100 Most Influential Women In Chicago".

Beth Ruyle's commitment and impact on her community is not only deserving of congressional recognition, but should serve as a model for others to follow.

At a time when our Nation's leaders are asking the people of this country to make serving their community a core value of citizenship, honoring Beth Ruyle is both timely and appropriate.

I urge this body to identify and recognize others in their congressional districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and enlightened America's communities.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF EARL
LESTER COLE

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Earl Lester Cole, one of the great pioneers whose exemplary years of service as an educator at Grambling State University spanned nearly half a century. Earl Lester Cole's tenure at Grambling began in 1936 as a science teacher; advancing through the ranks of the faculty, becoming dean in 1946 and was appointed vice president in 1969.

"Dean Cole" as he was affectionately called even after assuming the vice presidency, can be remembered for his active involvement in implementing curriculum which is considered to be the cornerstone to courses now being offered at Grambling State University. Even after his retirement in 1977, Earl Lester Cole continued to advise members of the faculty and administrators.

Mr. Cole was highly respected by his former colleagues and students and is described as a true professional, a good administrator, and a truly outstanding man who is credited for the positive influence in the educational advancement of his former students. Honesty and a fullness of integrity were accolades from those who knew him well. Over the years, he had been recognized for his numerous contributions to Grambling, culminating 10 years ago in the naming of the university's honors college, the Earl Lester Cole Honors College.

His influential involvement in the community brought several businesses to the university and as an active member of New Rocky Valley Baptist Church, "Dean Cole" was instrumental in the construction of a building for the church.

Mr. Speaker, Earl Lester Cole recently succumbed after a prolonged illness at the age of 89. He can be remembered as a man who

gave much to the field of higher education at a historically black university, always exuded a commanding presence during his lifetime. In his passing "Dean Cole" will be deeply missed by his family, colleagues and friends. Our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Garnett, his two children, and Elouise Martin, his sister-in-law.

MARTIN BANDA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending an outstanding young man from my district in South Texas, Martin Banda, who was the Southwest Region Youth of the Year in 1999 as part of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the National Youth of the Year Program. They only choose five winners nationally, so this was an enormous honor.

Martin Banda is an 11-year member of the Boys and Girls Club of Harlingen, Texas. The circumstances of Martin's life are the sort that would make many people lose hope. Growing up in the Lemoyne Gardens housing project in Harlingen, Martin could easily have chosen an easy but dangerous life on the streets.

But a higher power led Martin to join the Boys and Girls Club. He thanks the Lord for guiding him to the Club because it is a safe sanctuary from the street. But Martin's obstacles were not just on the streets. His father was incarcerated when Martin was just 5 years old, quickly making Martin the man of the house. This responsible young man took care of his mother and two sisters by disciplining himself and focusing his life around positive things.

I understand the trauma with losing a father early; my own father died when I was 16, leaving me the oldest male in the house. But young Martin had to face that reality and responsibility much earlier in life than I did, and under different circumstances, so it is hard to see how difficult that event marked his young life.

While Martin is grateful to them, the Boys and Girls Club and Harlingen are grateful to Martin as well. Martin is a role model for the other young people in the Boys and Girls Club. He has great athletic ability, having played on several championship football teams. But he is mostly admired for his strong leadership skills, developed first by his participation in the Torch Club and later by his service as vice president of the Keystone Club. At last count, Martin has already won \$29,000 in scholarships. This is a very determined young man who will continue his education on his merit.

Martin is a senior in high school and is a member of the National Junior Honor Society with a 3.75 GPA. It isn't just a pleasure, it is an honor, for me to represent this young man in Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Martin Banda, the Southwest Youth of the Year winner for his triumph over the odds and his dedication to excellence.