

share this retrospective of her exceptional career with my colleagues.

A native of New York City, Teresa Hughes received her bachelor of science in Physiology and Public Health and completed her graduate work in Sociology at Hunter College. She holds a master of arts in education administration from New York University, and earned a Ph.D. in education administration from the Claremont Graduate School in Claremont, CA. She is married to physician Dr. Frank E. Staggers, and is the proud mother of attorney Vincent Hughes and Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Deirdre Hughes.

Dr. Teresa Hughes was elected to the California State Assembly in a special election on June 17, 1975. Over the next 17 years she authored numerous legislative initiatives, including measures establishing the Hughes Earthquake Safety Act of 1987; the Hughes-Hart Education Reform Act of 1983; and the Conflict Resolution and School Violence Reduction Program. In addition, she successfully fought for increased funding for research grants into the causes of Lupus and high blood pressure, diseases that disproportionately impact the African-American community.

Owing largely to her keen leadership skills and legislative acumen, while serving in the Assembly she was selected by her peers to Chair the Committees on Education; Human Services; and Housing and Community Development. She served as the first chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus, as well as the California Women Legislators Caucus.

In recognition of her distinguished contributions to public education, in 1988 the Los Angeles Unified School District honored then-Assemblywoman Hughes by renaming an elementary school in her name in the city of Cudahy, CA. The "Teresa Hughes Elementary School," thus stands as a fitting legacy to her longtime, public and personal commitment to ensuring quality education for California's school children.

For the past 6 years, State Senator Hughes has continued her strong advocacy for the citizens of California. Currently, she is the Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Employment and Retirement, and is a member of the Committees on Appropriations; Education; Energy, Utilities, and Communications; Government Organization; Health and Human Services; and Insurance.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 25 years, Teresa Hughes has selflessly committed herself to improving the human condition for the people of the great state of California. She has carved out an enviable legislative record, and leaves a legacy for every young person to emulate who aspires to a career in public service. I am proud to call her my friend and to single her out for this special recognition here today.

I have no doubt that she will continue to make contributions to our society, even as she prepares to set sail on a new course. On behalf of the citizens of my congressional district, I want to thank her for her service. I wish her and Frank, a future that is rich with good health and good fortune.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INS SHOULD NOT DEPORT THE  
MART FAMILY TO ROMANIA

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2000*

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a family that I have come to know very well in my time in Congress.

Julian and Veronica Mart and their children Paul and Adelina fled their homeland of Romania in the turmoil surrounding the downfall of communism. They came to the United States, like so many others before them, seeking its promise, and fleeing from a country where the freedom we cherish was unknown. They fled tyranny and persecution and wanted nothing more than to live out the American dream, to make a better life for themselves and their children.

When they entered America, Lady Liberty welcomed them to our shores—but the INS did not. The INS has done everything in its considerable powers to deny the Marts the opportunity to live the American dream. The INS denied their application for political asylum, despite credible evidence that they faced retribution from the Romanian government if they returned home. And now INS bureaucrats have denied their application under the Diversity Visa program—on a technicality. The INS has done a great injustice to this family that must be made right. If it is not, the Marts may be deported.

The Marts have made a great impact on their community and have become well-loved by their friends and neighbors. I have here signatures from over 700 people who believe the Marts should be allowed to stay in the country. What is truly remarkable about this is that these signatures were gathered by teenage girls, friends of Adelina Mart who love her so much and believe so strongly in her cause that they have made this effort to help her.

Even the Honorable Robert Jones, a federal judge who heard the Marts' case against the INS, agrees that their treatment has been unjust. In handing down his opinion, he said, "The Marts are good people. They are highly intelligent, creative people. . . . And this is where they—in my view, this is the country where they belong. . . . The person was given the lottery opportunity, was denied that opportunity on a technicality, and it just isn't right in my opinion."

America has always been a city upon a hill and a light unto the world. And throughout our history America has welcomed those who have been driven from their homelands by hunger, government tyranny, religious persecution, and poverty. We must not allow this proud legacy to die. We must not drive away those whom we should welcome with open arms. We must not allow this injustice to stand. And we must not allow the INS to deport this family.

*July 14, 2000*

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JULIA CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2000*

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent yesterday, Wednesday, July 12, 2000, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 386 through 395. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 386, "yes" on rollcall vote 387, "yes" on rollcall vote 388, "yes" on rollcall vote 389, "yes" on rollcall vote 390, "yes" on rollcall vote 391, "yes" on rollcall vote 392, "yes" on rollcall vote 393, "no" on rollcall vote 394, and "yes" on rollcall vote 395.

THE RETIREMENT OF CHARLES F.  
LEE

**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2000*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the impending retirement of Charles F. Lee. After a distinguished career of public service to our nation, Chuck will retire from Federal service this week.

Chuck personifies the best of our Federal public servants. Personal qualities that include unquestioned integrity, diligence and tenacity, thoughtfulness and thoroughness, a willingness to confront difficult and complex issues and a determination to establish both the facts and the truth together with a thoroughly professional demeanor describe Chuck Lee.

Chuck currently serves as the Democratic Counsel of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Chuck's contributions are indeed noteworthy, but they are just the capstone of a remarkable career. Chuck's service to the nation includes undertaking a wide range of demanding responsibilities. Highlights of his career include serving as the Assistant Director for Veterans' Benefits Programs for the Department of Veterans Affairs; counsel to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee; Executive Assistant to former Assistant Secretary of Labor Preston Taylor; and, a senior staff member of the Commission on Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Assistance. As a veteran who served in Vietnam, Chuck's public service career has been dedicated to assisting his fellow veterans.

Chuck joined the Democratic staff of the House Veterans Affairs Committee early last year and has made significant contributions to the work of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee in a broad range of policy areas. We will miss his shrewd judgment, his thorough preparation and his sense of humor. Thank you, Chuck, for your high ideals and your dedication to America's veterans. We wish you only the best in all of your future endeavors.