

IN MEMORY OF DR. GROFF

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2000*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of the Fourth District of Texas, the late Mayor Marion Allen Groff III of Pilot Point, who died on August 22. Dr. Groff was an active and beloved member of his community—and he will be dearly missed.

At the time of his death, Dr. Groff was serving as mayor of Pilot Point, president of the Chamber of Commerce and member of the Kiwanis. He was a board member and president of Denco 911 for 8 years. In all these civic endeavors, he gave his time and energy to helping make Pilot Point a better place in which to live.

Allen was devoted to his family, his profession, and to his community, and he leaves a legacy of service that will be remembered by his many friends in Pilot Point. His legacy not only covers his medical service—though it was above and beyond—it goes to the throngs of friends and to many people that he never met. Allen reached out to anyone in need, gave advice, service, and warm friendship. He was a lobby for those who had no lobby. And he was capable of friendship to those in all walks of life—with equal love and dignity for all.

He was born in Shattuck, OK, on August 27, 1949. He served in the U.S. Army from June 1971 to June 1974. He was a graduate of Southeastern Oklahoma University, the University of North Texas and the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. He leaves behind his wife, Karen; has parents, Dr. M.A. and Betty Groff; a daughter, Kristen Groff; four sons, Marion Allen Groff IV, Bryant Adam Groff, John Robert Groff and Cole Kelly Schmitz; and a sister, Janet Sims.

Allen was devoted to his family. Kristen will miss him every day of her life—as will his four sons. Karen was the love of his life, and I had the pleasure of visiting with Karen and Allen during the last days at the hospital. She waited, she served, she encouraged, and she loved and lived within his reach day and night for many desperate days at Zale Lipsey Hospital. She held her head up—and was reassuring to family and a throng of friends who came to Midway Baptist Church to say goodbye to Allen.

Mr. Speaker, Allen was one of a kind—and we will miss him. As we adjourn today, let us do so in memory of Mayor Marian Allen Groff.

HONORING RUBY S. SWEZY OF  
MIAMI, FLORIDA

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2000*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize a wonderful woman and a dear friend, Ruby S. Swezy of Miami, Florida, who will be celebrating her 77th birthday on October 21, 2000.

Ruby was born on October 18, 1923 in Miami-Dade County. She is a descendant of Mr. Charles Lee Greene, of Georgia, and the daughter of John and Estelle Stripling, her loving parents. Her father died when she was a teenager but her mother was blessed to live to the age of 97. Ruby remembers with pride many important life lessons imparted by her mother, who was a strong willed, determined, caring and compassionate woman, traits that she now demonstrates.

Living most of her life in Miami-Dade County, where she grew up and was educated, she married the late Lewis Swezy, Sr. and raised her two beloved children, Laura and Lewis, with unwavering faith and love. The pride and joy of Ruby's life is her family. She beams and her eyes sparkle when she shares stories of their lives.

Abandoning the security of the education arena in the prime of her teaching career, she decided to break into real estate, which proved to be the business that was meant for Ruby. It was a bold and courageous step for a young mother. Over the past 50 years, Ruby has become a respected force having made noticeable contributions to the housing industry around our area.

In addition to real estate and political circles, today Ruby is a giant in local, national, and international housing. She was successful in her first political bid, diligently serving as a Councilwoman on the Hialeah City Council. She also has met with and served as an advisor to various administrations and other heads of government.

Ruby maintains a human and in-touch demeanor with all the people of her community. She is admired and respected not only for her compassion and generosity to anyone who is fortunate to meet her, but for her noteworthy contributions. It is my sincere pleasure and great honor to join Ruby's family and friends in wishing her a wonderful celebration and many more happy and healthy birthdays.

IN HONOR OF THE MASJID HASSAN OF AL-ISLAM FORT WORTH, TEXAS

**HON. MARTIN FROST**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2000*

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, this weekend in Fort Worth, Texas, it will be my honor and privilege to attend and participate in events which promote racial and religious unity and peace. On October 21, 2000, the Masjid Hassan of Al-Islam in Fort Worth, under the leadership of Imam Nasir Ahmed, will host a Southwest Regional Pioneer Banquet honoring those it considers to be pioneers in the causes of diversity, religious interaction, Islam, economic development, political awareness and education.

I am humbled to be among a group of honorees which includes religious radio broadcaster and journalist, Robert Ashley; American Jewish Congress Southwest Region executive director, Joel Brooks; community relations consultant, writer and member of the Thanks-Giving Square Interfaith Council, Rose Marie

Stromberg; 97-year old founder of the Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society, Lenora Rolla; long-time Muslim, 95 year old Dave Hassan; and the organizer of Brooks of Baaziga, a Muslim girls' group, Ruby b. Muhammad.

The work of the Masjid Hassan of Al-Islam is, by itself, noteworthy. Yet, the Masjid's efforts are heightened and broadened by the fact that this celebration will include the personage and the teachings of The Honorable Imam Warith Deen Mohammed, leader of the Muslim American Society. Throughout this country and around the world Imam Mohammed is known, respected and admired for his work towards peace, religious freedom and diversity, and liberty for all people. On October 22, 2000, the Fort Worth-Dallas area will have the pleasure of receiving his message on "Dealing With Racism From Religion". It is my great pleasure, therefore, to join with the Masjid Hassan of Al-Islam, my longtime friend Marzuq Jaami and his brothers and sisters in the Dallas Masjid of Al-Islam, and the larger Fort Worth-Dallas community in heartily welcoming Imam Mohammed to our community.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. JORDAN D. SMITH

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2000*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. Dr. Jordan D. Smith on the upcoming thirtieth anniversary of his pastorship at Clement Road Church of God in Columbia, South Carolina.

Rev. Smith was born in Orville, Alabama on April 15, 1939 to the late Fred and Clara Hamer Smith. He was the fourth of six children. In 1961, he was married to Eunice D. Pickett. To this union were born three lovely children—Veronica, Matthew and Donna.

Rev. Smith has been serving his church both locally and nationally since 1967. For three years he served the Tompkins Avenue Church of God in Brooklyn, New York as associate pastor and was ordained into the ministry there by the late Rev. John Cordes. In 1970 he became pastor of his current church.

Pursuant to his commitment to service, Rev. Smith has, in addition to his pastoral and state duties, served his National Church as a member of various committees, commissions and boards. For ten years he served as the elected State Chairman of the South Carolina Presbytery. In 1991, for his faith and commitment to his calling, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

Rev. Smith is a faithful husband, loving father, admired grandfather, and caring father-in-law. As a spiritual leader, he personified faith, love, service and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Rev. Dr. Jordan D. Smith, a devoted Christian and a wonderful South Carolinian, on the thirtieth anniversary of his pastorship.