

IN HONOR OF CELIA CRUZ, THE  
QUEEN OF SALSA

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 1, 2000*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Celia Cruz, "the queen of salsa," one of the greatest singers of salsa music, who has entertained audiences around the world for five decades.

Celia Cruz has mesmerized audiences for five decades with her exceptional singing talent and her wonderful charisma. She has been one of the single greatest influences on salsa music, recording more than 70 albums, and receiving more than 100 awards, which included a Grammy in 1989 following twelve nominations. In addition, she has been honored with stars and street sections in some of the world's most visited avenues, such as the Walk of Fame in Hollywood and the Calle Ocho in Miami. Celia has also received honorary degrees from Yale, Florida International University, and the University of Miami.

Celia began her illustrious career in Cuba in the late 1940s, and joined the legendary group La Sonora Matancera in the early 1950s. After several successful recordings, the group's music was in demand beyond the borders of Cuba.

In 1960, Celia left Cuba for the United States, where her career blossomed and where she became a household name. During her first decade in the United States, she recorded several albums with the great Tito Fuente, and together they captured the hearts of nontraditional fans of salsa, a phenomenon known as "the Salsa of the 70s." Celia has also collaborated with other great Latin artists, including Johnny Pacheco, Willy Colón, and la Fania All Stars, as well as great American artists, such as Dionne Warwick, Patti Labelle, David Byrne, Gloria Estefan, and Wyckle Jean.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Celia Cruz—a great artist and entertainer, and a salsa icon.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES E. BRYANT,  
HI-DESERT WATER DISTRICT  
GENERAL MANAGER

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 1, 2000*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, in California's High Desert, water is one of the most valuable commodities, and the people who obtain and distribute this precious liquid are among the hardest working public servants in the 40th Congressional District. I would like today to offer a salute to an exemplary public servant who had spent years ensuring water is delivered in a dry place: Charles E. Bryant, general manager of the Hi-Desert Water District, which serves 25,000 people in Yucca Valley, California.

Mr. Bryant came to the Hi-Desert Water District in 1992 after serving as city administrator for the City of Hawaiian Gardens, California

and a member of the board of directors of the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District for 10 years. His extensive background prepared him to help run a far-flung but growing water district, but no amount of experience could prepare him for what happened within two weeks of his arrival. The Landers Earthquake, a massive 7.4 on the Richter Scale, damaged 40 percent of the district's 274 miles of pipelines. Working around the clock, Mr. Bryant and the dedicated staff of the district had everything repaired and working within two weeks.

Under Chuck Bryant's leadership, the district has joined with the Mojave Water Agency to build and operate the Morongo Basin Pipeline and the Hi-Desert Pipeline Extension and a 5 million-gallon reservoir that brings the area's residents water from the California Aqueduct. Working with my office, the district has joined the Bureau of Reclamation's Title 16 Program, and could qualify for \$12 million in grants for wastewater treatment facilities. The district has also sought and received other grants for wastewater facility construction and for removal of nitrates from local water.

Looking ahead to the future, Mr. Bryant oversaw creation of an "in-house capital replacement program" to replace and modernize the district's delivery system over 12 years. Other efficiency measures have improved customer service and placed the district on its most stable financial foundation.

Mr. Speaker, Chuck Bryant has decided to retire from the Hi-Desert Water District, and I would ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his years of public service, and wishing him well in his future endeavors.

HONORING DR. HOWARD SILVER  
FOR HIS SERVICE AS CHAIR OF  
THE COALITION FOR NATIONAL  
SCIENCE

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 1, 2000*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus, I want to recognize the outstanding contribution that Howard J. Silver, Ph.D. has made during the past six years as the Chair of the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF). As the volunteer leader of this volunteer organization dedicated to increasing support for investment in science, Dr. Silver has worked tirelessly on behalf of researchers in all fields of science. His efforts at building and mobilizing a coalition of diverse organizations has been a model of effective advocacy. Under his direction, the scientific community has brought the accomplishments of the National Science Foundation (NSF) to a broad audience, explaining the many ways in which NSF-funded research has improved our understanding of the world and increased our standard of living. These achievements and their clear benefit to all Americans are why I have been, and will remain, a staunch supporter of increased funding for NSF.

Dr. Silver has been with the Consortium of Social Science Association (COSSA) since 1983. He has been COSSA's Director since

1988 and is responsible for planning and directing all of the consortium's programs and initiatives. Dr. Silver previously was a consultant for legislative and political research, a political manager, and a legislative analyst in the Department of Education. He earned his Ph.D. in political science from Ohio State University, and he has taught political science and public policy at several colleges and universities.

In recent budgets and appropriations bills, the Administration and Congress have recognized the value of the NSF and the research that it supports. These actions will result in continued progress in science and technology that will benefit Americans now and in the future. The contributions of Dr. Silver and CNSF to the heightened appreciation of NSF have been substantial. Through his advocacy, I am pleased that this year the NSF will receive \$4.4 billion an increase of \$514 million than last year and a 13 percent increase above this year's NSF budget. This increase will help to ensure that more merit-based, peer-reviewed grants will be funded. Today, one in three grants is not funded because there is insufficient funding for them.

Samuel E. Rankin, III of the American Mathematical Association will have the honor of succeeding Dr. Silver. He should have the scientific community's continued support as he endeavors to continue the course that Howard J. Silver charted so ably for the past six years.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE ALLEN

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 1, 2000*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the late Steve Allen, one of the most prolific comedians, actors, and writers in our country for the past 50 years. Mr. Allen, the original host of the "Tonight Show," passed away at his youngest son's home in Encino, California, on October 30, 2000.

Mr. Allen started his show-business career at a radio station in Phoenix, Arizona. He was drafted by the Army during World War II, but was released shortly thereafter because of his asthma. He then moved to Hollywood for a job with a radio station. Mr. Allen transferred his radio act to television with "The Steve Allen Show," which debuted on Christmas in 1950.

Mr. Allen's greatest success came with the "Tonight Show," which began in New York in 1953. He is credited with establishing almost all of the conventions of late-night television—the opening monologue, chatting with the bandleader, and relying on a regular lineup of characters. His successors, Jack Paar, Johnny Carson and Jay Leno on "Tonight," and David Letterman on "Late Night with David Letterman," followed suit.

Mr. Allen's show involved madcap antics and was wholly unpredictable. For example, Mr. Allen, who was 6-feet 3-inches tall, plunged into a huge bowl of salad for a wrestling match on the show. He once peddled hot dogs on the street, dressed as a vendor. He also featured actors Bill Dana, Louie Nye, Tom Poston and Don Knotts for a scripted version of "Man on the Street" interviews. Mr.