

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF FORMER
CONGRESSMAN HENRY B. GON-
ZALEZ

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a remarkable man and true American patriot, former Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez. He passed away on November 28, 2000 at the age of 84, after 37 years of dedicated service in the House of Representatives.

"Henry B," as his friends affectionately called him, was first elected to Congress in 1961, becoming the first person of Mexican-American heritage to represent Texas in the House. A well-known champion of the poor and the downtrodden, Henry B. fiercely defended his principles and was unafraid to stand up against the powerful from the moment he was sworn into office. To this day, his constituents in San Antonio and thousands of people across the country continue to reap the benefits of this courageous fight for safe and affordable housing.

An unabashed pioneer for populism, Henry B. was perhaps best known for his prominent position on the Banking Committee, and its Chairman for three terms. He used his leadership role on the committee to help repair the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., monitor the activities of the Federal Reserve System and pass numerous pieces of legislation aimed at cleaning up the savings and loan scandal.

Henry B. began his legendary political career shortly after his admirable service in World War II, when he was elected to the San Antonio City Council. In 1957, he reached the Texas Senate where he made a name for himself with a 22-hour filibuster to block legislation that would have reinforced school segregation policies. Henry B.'s reputation as a staunch defender of civil rights stayed with him throughout his career in the House, spanning nearly four decades.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in remembering the Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez. Henry B. truly set a standard by which all Members of Congress can be measured, and he will be sorely missed by everyone in this body who had the pleasure of working with him. His honor, his vision, and his passion for equality will live forever in the hearts of all those whom he touched. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt condolences to Representative CHARLIE GONZALEZ and his family during this extremely difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO MS. YVONNE A.
GRIFFIN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding federal government employee, Ms. Yvonne A. Griffin. On January 4, 2001,

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Ms. Griffin will retire from the United States General Services Administration after a distinguished 28 year career marked by dedication, commitment to service and a superb work ethic.

A native of San Francisco, Yvonne began her government service in April 1971, as an "intermittent." GS-4 clerk-Steno for the General Services Administration's Space Management Division. In 1975 she began working in GSA's Federal Supply Service where she served as a Secretary, Administrative Assistant and Administrative Officer to the Regional Commissioner.

Yvonne joined the Public Buildings Service in 1980 as a Program Analyst. In 1984, she made an important career move to the field of Property Management. She served as the Property Manager in Reno, Nevada where she worked until 1987. In April 1987, Yvonne came to Oakland, California as the East Bay Property Manager. Housed in leased space at 1333 Broadway in Downtown Oakland, Yvonne and her staff were responsible for numerous federal properties, including the Alameda Federal Center, the U.S. Geological Survey complex in Menlo Park, the United States Court of Appeals in San Francisco, the San Jose Federal Building and the John F. Shea Federal Building in Santa Rosa. More importantly, she was actively involved in the construction of what was to become the Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building and has served as Senior Property Manager to the present day.

In architectural terms, buildings are said to have "footprints"—the physical outline of the ground they cover. Since its opening in 1993, the Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building has had a "footprint": covering far more than physical space. Thanks to Yvonne, the building's footprint has extended to the East Bay community at large. "1301 Clay Street" is an address that has come to represent a spectacular gathering place always open to people of diverse philosophies. Following Yvonne's lead, the GSA staff have focused on making the people who, in fact, own this exquisite structure feel welcome and respected.

Under Yvonne's management, the Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building, has won numerous awards, the most prestigious being the 1997-98 Building Owners and Managers Association International Government Building of the Year, and the 2000 Energy Star Designation.

The daughter of French immigrants, Yvonne inherited both an affinity for hard work and a devotion to family. Her daughters, Michelle and Suzanne Griffin, and her grandsons McKinley and Cameron Parker, are the stars in her life's constellation. As she ends her federal career, she takes with her our appreciation, respect and warmest best wishes for a happy retirement with those she loves.

December 7, 2000

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
VICENTE CEPEDA BERNARDO,
MAYOR OF YONA

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, as elected public officials, we know the hard work and the personal sacrifices it takes to earn the trust and mandate of our constituencies. In my home island of Guam, there are no elected officials who are closer to their constituencies, or work harder in their behalf, even after an election, than our village Mayors. Prior to 1990, the title of these public servants was changed from commissioner to mayor, but their role in the villages did not change, and our dependence upon them, especially during typhoons and village-wide activities, did not diminish over the years.

Guam is a small place with a relatively small population, and our people are not far removed from their elected officials—myself included. This intimacy, and the expectation of direct and immediate access, is especially true of our Mayors. They are called upon in a multitude of ways—often to address problems having little or nothing to do with the delivery of community service, but to assist with private, familial matters. Whether it is to accept representative membership on a task force to address an island-wide youth problem, dropping out of school, for example, or helping Mr. and Mrs. Villager talk to their son Johnny into staying in school, village Mayors are expected to attend personally to village matters, large or small. This is the case of the Honorable Vicente Cepeda Bernardo, the Mayor of Yona, my home village.

In a few weeks, Mayor Bernardo will leave office after having served for many years. More than simply being one of my constituents, Mayor Bernardo is a long-time neighbor and friend. I am one of his constituents. Like my fellow villagers, I turn to Mayor Bernardo to address problems in Yona.

It would be too easy to let Mayor Bernardo's record of accomplishments speak in his behalf. The streets he named in honor of Yona's fallen military sons and those residents deserving of the recognition are numerous indeed. The capitol improvement projects he pushed for—the street lights, five hydrants, pump stations and water lines, the police koban, the village gymnasium, the village library, the paved roads and more—now benefit Yona and the rest of the island. The many, many community activities that he spearheaded earned praise for the whole village. But as extensive as it is. Mayor Bernardo's list of accomplishments does not convey how well he knew and understood the people of his village. It does not convey his deep and abiding love for his neighbors or how much he had given of himself over the years. I am privileged, as his constituent, neighbor and friend, to commend him for his achievements and to thank him for the many, many hours he has contributed beyond the regular eight-hour, five-day work-week.

As his constituent, my family and I have benefited in countless ways from his devotion