

student can look up to. Aleisha Cramer has proved what hard work as a student, athlete and community member can accomplish.

Again, I would like to congratulate Aleisha Cramer, the 1999-2000 Gatorade National High School Girls Soccer Player of the Year, for her accomplishments. She has made the State of Colorado and this nation proud.●

GRACE TOWNS HAMILTON (1907-1992)

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, "A political leader who changes his stances to fit the times is often called a politician in the dirtiest sense of the word. One who refuses to change, who remains with her lifelong ideals, is often called reactionary and stubborn. But such a person may also be seen as possessing both honesty and intrigue." So spoke Alton Hornsby, Morehouse College historian in 1990 as the city of Atlanta remembered one of its greatest treasures, Grace Towns Hamilton.

Grace Towns was quite simply, a legend in her own time. Born in Atlanta in 1907, Grace entered this world during a time of severe racial tension. In fact, her birthday came only 5 months after a ferocious racial massacre in Atlanta. For whites, the first decades of the twentieth century were the "Progressive Era." For blacks, it was indeed a most dismal era. The end of Reconstruction had left blacks as an often despised and almost always disenfranchised class made up largely of dependent laborers with little land and even less rights. Atlanta University (AU), on the city's western reaches, seemed an island of tranquility in the South, where blacks experienced the worst of the racial oppression and exclusion. Grace Towns' father was a professor at AU and she was able to enjoy a sheltered existence where both the student body and the faculty were integrated.

Grace Towns flourished while growing up at AU. Once she matriculated as a collegiate there, Grace became active in the Interracial Student Forum. She took this advantage of the opportunity to discuss a wide range of topics, including those which were most racially sensitive. For her, this was a forum to bring black and white students together. While she was editor of the AU student newspaper, the Scroll, Grace wrote of the forum, "the Forum has given us contact. We have heard each other's music, and talked as fellow students."

After graduating from AU in 1927, Grace Towns went on to pursue a master's degree in psychology at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. During her college years, she became involved with the YWCA. The Atlanta chapter had a burgeoning student movement that took a divergent approach on race that was less cautious

than its parent organization at the time. It was interracial far before the first "Negro" was appointed to the board. After she graduated, the National YWCA offered her a secretarial job in one of its Negro branches. A favorite psychology professor at AU had a high regard for the psychology department at Ohio State and seeing as how the YWCA job would make it possible to finance her post-graduate education at the same time, Grace decided to go.

Grace Towns later admitted that there was no way she could have been prepared for what she faced in Ohio. The cocoon of Atlanta University ill-prepared her for the shock that awaited her in the Ohio capital city. Barred from movies, restaurants, hotels, even public restrooms, Towns felt accepted only within the confines of the Ohio State psychology department. Even the YWCA, which in Atlanta had seemed so dedicated to the rights of all women, without regard to the color of their skin, had its barriers and limitations. The prejudice and violent attitude towards blacks at the time made the goals and the religious and moral precepts professed by the organization a challenge that the "Y" often failed to meet.

These factors combined to make Grace Towns not sorry to leave Columbus, Ohio in the summer of 1928. She returned to Atlanta to finish the written requirements for her master's from Ohio State, having already finished the course work. After receiving the degree in 1929, she went on to teach at the Atlanta School of Social Work and also at Clark College in Atlanta. She married the love of her life, Henry Cooke Hamilton, in the summer of 1930. They moved shortly thereafter to Memphis where her husband had taken a job doing triple duty as dean, registrar and professor of education.

Grace Hamilton continued teaching, even through the first months of her pregnancy with her first daughter Eleanor, born in March of 1931. She had taken a position at LeMoyne Junior College and resumed teaching at LeMoyne while Eleanor was still young. She continued to teach there, although circumstances compelled her to undertake courses that she did not feel qualified to teach. In 1934, this frustration came to a head when gender issues and the Great Depression forced LeMoyne to terminate her employment. After volunteering with the NAACP and the YWCA, Grace took a position with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) conducting a survey on The Urban Negro Worker in the United States 1925-1936.

In 1941, the Hamilton family returned to Atlanta where Grace's husband became principal of Atlanta University's Laboratory High School. Grace had never set out to be a leader, but at this point she was thirty-four years old, had

an advanced education degree, and had worked steadily at professional jobs for more than a decade. She knew the value of community activism and education and set out to take part in the fight. This led her to the Atlanta Urban League.

From 1943 until 1960, Grace Hamilton served as the Executive Director of the Atlanta Urban League. During her tenure, she shaped the path of the League to better serve Atlanta, which was increasingly being seen as the South's "hub city." She moved the focus away from the national organization's emphasis on philanthropy and job procurement to a more Atlanta-focused program of housing, equality in school funding, voter registration and better medical care. Her biographers, Lorraine Nelson Spritzer and Jean B. Bergmark, wrote of her legacy that it "... was better appreciated by whites than blacks. The white world glorified her, clothing her in virtue without flaws. The black community viewed her with greater ambivalence, seeing blemish as well as the best and came closer to discerning the real and important person she was, probably because she was truly one of their own."

After Mrs. Hamilton resigned in 1960, she set out on her path to political success. She ran in a special off-year election in 1965 which brought her and six other black Democrats into the Georgia state legislature. The first black woman in the Georgia State Legislature, Hamilton was called "Atlanta's only real integrationist," "a leader," and a "bridge-builder." It was here where she made her most lasting contribution to her city and state, and all agreed she was that rare person who gave politics a good name. I remember fondly serving with her while I was in the Georgia state senate from 1970 until 1974.

While serving in the state legislature, Grace Hamilton sought to strengthen local government, particularly the Mayor's role. She also worked toward equal justice for blacks, and the elimination wasted tax dollars by seeking consolidation of Georgia's numerous counties. In 1971, she persuaded her colleagues in the Legislature to approve a sales tax increase to finance a city-wide rail and subway system—now known in Atlanta as MARTA, a crown jewel among the nation's urban mass transit systems. Her time in the Legislature was infinitely successful and in 1984, at the age of 78 she began to consider retirement. She decided for "one last go-around" but failed to detect the political risk she faced. She was defeated by a 26 year-old graduate student in public administration at Georgia State named Mable Thomas. After almost twenty years in public office, Grace Hamilton set out for the next phase of life.

Grace Hamilton lived on another eight years, overseeing the care of her

ailing husband and guiding the search for a suitable depository for her papers and effects. She collected numerous accolades and awards before she finally succumbed to illness in 1992, survived by her daughter Eleanor.

As we come to the end of Black History Month, I respectfully submit this insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in honor of one of my personal heroes, Grace Towns Hamilton. Her service has been an inspiration to me and many others who have known her. I am proud of her legacy in Georgia and pleased to have this opportunity to share it. I would also like to thank Mrs. Hamilton's biographers, Lorraine Nelson Spritzer and Jean B. Bergmark, for their contribution to Grace's legacy—Grace Towns Hamilton and the Politics of Southern Change.

Thank you Mr. President.●

#### JAKE D. ROBEL

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to extend my heartfelt sympathies to the family of 6-year-old Jake D. Robel of Blue Springs, Missouri.

One week ago Jake died after being dragged for almost five miles at high speed by a man who had stolen Jake's mother's car in Independence, Missouri.

Jake's mom had stopped at a sandwich shop to run in and pick up her order. She left her car running and Jake was waiting in the car.

This town and area should be safe. Many would say tragedies like this one happen everywhere else, but not here. In this area, there are people who always leave their car doors unlocked and their keys in the ignition. Many leave their homes unlocked and have no idea where to find the house key.

Unfortunately, that sense of security is now shattered.

In those few moments it took Jake's mom to run into the sandwich shop, an assailant jumped in her vehicle and sped away. Jake, with his mother's help, tried to escape from the vehicle, but became entangled in the seat belt. In a heartbeat, the car door closed—with Jake tangled in the seat belt—being dragged behind.

I can't imagine the loss felt by the family and friends of Jake Robel. However, I want to join with the countless families in Missouri and across the nation in sending my thoughts and prayers to those in grief.

Mr. President, in addition, it is important to recognize the bravery, heroism, and citizenship of those that tried to come to Jake's rescue.

The man who stole the car took off on Interstate 70 at high speed. All along the way, people honked and shouted from their cars for him to stop. The driver was stopped and apprehended, not by the police, but by approximately four gentlemen who man-

aged to surround the vehicle after the man left I-70 and turned onto a busy street in Independence, Missouri. The man tried to escape on foot, but was stopped by these heroes who tied his feet together and sat on him until the police arrived. These men acted swiftly and responsibly.

Once again, Mr. President, my thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Jake Robel as well as to all those who witnessed such a tragedy. I also want to recognize the gentlemen who apprehended the driver. These honorable citizens have shown us firsthand that heroes do exist.●

#### RETIREMENT OF CHIEF ANGELO TOSCANO

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I am delighted to rise today to pay tribute to a well-respected and remarkable officer, Chief Angelo Toscano, whose retirement from the Wilton Police Force marks the end of 43 years as a Connecticut law enforcement officer. Day in and day out, Chief Toscano ensured that safety and peace prevailed in the Wilton community. I am honored to extend thanks and appreciation to him. On behalf of the people of Wilton and the entire state of Connecticut, whom I am privileged to represent in the United States Senate.

Chief Toscano was born and raised in Darien, Connecticut. After graduating from Darien High School he attended Norwalk Community College and the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy. In 1957, after serving in the United States Marine Corps for three years, he began his career in law enforcement as a patrolman. His dedication earned him the respect of his colleagues, and his leadership propelled him up the ranks—from patrolman, to sergeant, to detective, and finally, to Chief of Police.

Throughout his career in public service, Chief Toscano remained on the cutting edge of law enforcement techniques, always believing that there was more for him to learn. Chief Toscano continued his training up until the very end of his career, including participation in the Connecticut Police Academy, the Darien Power Squadron, and a wide range of F.B.I. training programs.

Chief Toscano embodied everything a community could hope for in a Chief of Police. He was a veteran of the streets whose years of experience became the source of his good judgment and dependability. He was a well-trained cop whose background and skill ensured that, as Chief, he led with a steadfast and reliable hand. Moreover, Chief Toscano was an innovative leader, with the uncanny ability to incorporate his specialized skills with his personal insight and creativity. Under his leadership, the Wilton Police Force introduced such initiatives as D.A.R.E. and

C.O.P.S., as well as the installation of defibrillators into every patrol car.

The job of a chief of police is a demanding task that requires strength of character and good judgment. One need not look far for proof of Chief Toscano's success and ability, for it is visible in the safety that Wilton residents relish everyday.

Today, it is my pleasure to join the Town of Wilton and the State of Connecticut in thanking Chief Toscano for his many years of dedicated service and wishing him well in the future.●

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following armed services nominations on the Executive Calendar: 415, 416, 418 through 422, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk.

I finally ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations appear at this point in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations, considered and confirmed, are as follows:

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Sylvia V. Baca, of New Mexico, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. William N. Searcy, 0000

#### IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be major general, Medical Corps*

Brig. Gen. Kevin C. Kiley, 0000

Brig. Gen. Darrel R. Porr, 0000

#### IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be vice admiral*

Rear Adm. Gordon S. Holder, 0000

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Ralph S. Clem, 0000

Brig. Gen. John M. Danahy, 0000

Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Lynch, 0000

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey M. Musfeldt, 0000