

and development, and environmental affairs. She has been on the forefront of redevelopment for former military installations in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado and serves as the Vice Chair of the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority and has served as an Executive Committee Member of the Lowry Economic Recovery Project.

Councilwoman Mosley has also been an effective advocate for equal opportunity in Colorado and served as the Director of Community Relations for the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, as well as the Director of Community Development and a Board Member for the Urban League of Metro Denver. Her broad range of activities and interests has been a great service to the community as well. She was a founder and board member of the Women's Bank, and has served as the Chairperson of Denver Sister Cities International, the Denver Civic Theater, the Morning Star Senior Day Care Center and Adams County Economic Development, Inc. She has served as a member of the Governor's Trade Mission to the People's Republic of China and the Colorado Supreme Court Nominating Commission.

Her commitment and service has earned her several awards including the Aurora Chamber of Commerce "Woman of the Year Award", the Colorado Broadcaster's Association "Excellence in Broadcasting Award" for Best Sustaining Public Affairs Program, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Commission Humanitarian Award.

State Senator Gloria Tanner has an eminent history of civil leadership. I had the great privilege of serving with her in the Colorado State Legislature. Senator Tanner has been a trailblazer and is the first African American woman to serve in the Colorado Senate. Currently, she is one of six legislators to serve on the powerful Joint Budget Committee, which formulates the budget for the State of Colorado. Senator Tanner has been a voice for progress in Colorado and has sponsored and passed significant legislation pertaining to civil rights for women and minorities, marital discrimination in the workplace, parental responsibility, worker's compensation cost savings and parental rights for adoptive parents.

In 1998, Senator Tanner was elected President of the National Organization of Black Elected Legislators/Women. She is the founder and past Chairperson of the Colorado Black Women for Political Action and the Chairperson of the Colorado Caucus of Black Elected Officials. She has served on numerous commissions and boards including the Commission on Women, the Governor's Job Training Council, the Economic Development Commission and the Juvenile Justice Committee.

Her devotion and service to the community has earned her numerous awards for her civic and social contributions including the Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce "Leadership Denver" Award and the Colorado Association of Community Centered Boards "2000 Legislator of the Year" Award.

Hazel Whitsett has been on the front lines of progress for over thirty years. She is one of the co-founders and is currently the Executive Director of the Northeast Women's Center. This Center works with women and families to increase opportunity and build self-sufficiency through education, training and employment.

Hazel Whitsett has been a long time activist and has an extensive record of designing and conducting educational programs in the community. Her membership on several boards and commissions including Colorado Kids Ignore Drugs, The Black Church Initiative, The Colorado Black Women for Political Action, The Black Women's Network and the National Council of Negro Women exhibits her strong commitment to community, families and youth. Her devotion and service to our community has earned her several local and national awards including the National Common Cause Public Service Award, the National Council of Negro Women "Women in Excellence" Award, the Colorado Black Women for Political Action "Tribute to Black Women" Award, and the American Association of University Women "Trailblazers" Award.

Please join me in commending Faye Boyd, Anna Jo Haynes, Councilwoman Edna Mosley, State Senator Gloria Tanner and Hazel Whitsett for their courage, dedication and invaluable service to our community. It is the strong leadership they exhibit on a daily basis that continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all Americans. Their lives serve as examples to which we should all aspire.

HONORING ELSIE COFIELD FOR
OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE
COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 29, 2000

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join with the West Haven Black Coalition as they honor my dear friend, Elsie Cofield, with the Distinguished Citizens Award. Elsie, as founder of AIDS Interfaith Network, has demonstrated a unique commitment and dedication to the comfort and care of those members of our community living with AIDS and facing the many challenges of this terrible disease.

An educator for 31 years, Elsie founded AIDS Interfaith Network, an organization dedicated to providing care to New Haven residents afflicted with HIV and AIDS, after her retirement in 1987. Elsie, recognizing the need, focused her attentions on the inner-city. AIDS Interfaith Network provides a full circle of assistance with social service agencies, support groups, individual counseling, transportation, food and clothing—offering both physical and spiritual comfort. Elsie's enthusiasm and passion has improved the quality of life for many residents of New Haven. Beginning with a few volunteers, Elsie built a solid foundation and for eleven years has assisted hundreds of families as they face both life and death simultaneously.

What began as a small, volunteer-staffed program in a small church basement has flourished into a national working model for church-based AIDS programs. Under Elsie's strong leadership and endless faith, AIDS Interfaith Network has grown to hold nine full-time and six part-time employees. "Putting a face to people with AIDS" has been her en-

during philosophy and it is this personal approach that has made this program so successful. It is rare to find an individual that demonstrates the personal touch the way Elsie has—every man, woman and child she sees is special to her. She has traveled to hospitals at midnight to hold a hand, attended the funerals of clients she has served, and written commemorative poems memorializing those she has known best.

A myriad of awards and citations adorn her walls—testimony to her undaunted spirit and inspirational dedication. Devoting their attention to predominantly minority families and neighborhoods, AIDS Interfaith Network has caught the attention of local, state, and national organizations. Honors from the Yale Divinity School, State of Connecticut, the National Organization for Women, and an invitation to join President Clinton at his announcement for programs aimed at stemming the spread of AIDS in minority communities all speak to her success. Elsie's commitment to her work is well-known throughout the community and was further affirmed as former New Haven Mayor John Daniels declared October 11, 1990 Elsie Cofield Day.

It is with sincere thanks and appreciation that I stand today and honor Elsie Cofield for her outstanding and invaluable service to our community. She has made a difference in so many lives and has truly distinguished herself as a community member and citizen.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE PATRICIA
HILLIGOSS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 29, 2000

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to pay tribute to the Honorable Patricia Hilligoss, a community leader, who after years of fighting for Petaluma, California, recently lost her battle with Lou Gehrig's disease.

It's hard to think of Petaluma without thinking "Madam Mayor," as Patty was called.

During my eight years as Petaluma City Councilwoman working with Madam Mayor, I came to respect her hard work on behalf of our city. Even when we didn't see eye to eye, I knew that Patty was doing what she thought was right and what she considered best for the city.

Two of her legacies to our city include affordable housing for seniors and an award-winning general plan. These will continue to make a difference for Petaluma well into the future.

For 12 years, Madam Mayor pounded the gavel at City Council meetings and made numerous trips to Sacramento and Washington to advocate on behalf of our city.

Outside Council Chambers, Madam Mayor continued her advocacy for the residents of Petaluma. She was active with the Petaluma Valley Hospital Foundation, Boys and Girls Club, Committee on the Shelterless, and the Petaluma Visitors Bureau.

Whenever there was an event in Petaluma, you knew Madam Mayor was part of it. From parades to ribbon cuttings to Eagle Scout