

stream of commerce. At the time, the Corridor needed to develop a financing package, and given Mr. Thomas' well-known expertise in public finance, he was appointed to the Governing Board specifically to develop the financing concepts to underpin the Corridor.

Utilizing his expertise, Mr. Thomas has played a vital role in developing a unique financing package for the Alameda Corridor. In fact, this package has become a model for other major public works projects across the country. Mr. Thomas was also instrumental in generating political support for the project when it was little more than a concept.

This body identified the Alameda Corridor as "a project of national significance" in 1995. The Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles comprise our nation's busiest port complex, and cargo volumes are projected to triple by the year 2020. The Alameda Corridor will link the ports to the transcontinental rail yards near downtown Los Angeles, creating a more efficient and timely way to distribute cargo into the stream of commerce, thus allowing our ports and our mainstream economy to maintain competitive advantages.

It is a testament to the distinguished service of Jonathan Y. Thomas that the Alameda Corridor is now in full-scale construction, on budget and on schedule to open in April, 2002.

We owe a debt of gratitude for his dedicated service.

TRIBUTE TO EARL MIDDLETON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Earl Middleton of South Carolina, who was recently named Orangeburg South Carolina's Citizen of the Year. Mr. Middleton is recognized for his noteworthy contributions to the community as a successful realtor, businessman, political history-maker, and respected citizen of South Carolina.

Along with having served the country during World War II as one of the Tuskegee Airmen, Mr. Middleton has displayed incredible service to his church and college. After returning to his hometown after his service during World War II, Mr. Middleton embarked on a career in business and politics. His hope was that through his career he could overcome the social inequalities that faced him as an African American during that time.

In 1974, he became the first African-American to represent Orangeburg County in the South Carolina State House of Representatives since the Post Reconstruction Era. He would go on to serve in the legislature for 10 years.

Mr. Middleton worked as a barber and an insurance salesperson while contributing his time and effort toward various social causes and political campaigns. Later, his business grew to include real estate sales. In 1985 his real estate business, Middleton Agency, would grow to include a franchise of Coldwell Bank-

er, becoming its first black-owned affiliate. Honorably, Mr. Middleton accepted an invitation to serve on the governing committee of Middleton Place, a plantation near Charleston, South Carolina where his great grandfather had been held in servitude before the Civil War.

Mr. Middleton is a life member of the NAACP. He has served on the trustee board of The Methodist Home, the mayor's and the governor's commission on employment of the handicapped and the Salvation Army board. His many awards include: being named to the Claffin University Hall of Fame and becoming a recipient of the Edisto Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in honoring my good friend and confidant, Earl Middleton for the dedicated service he has provided to the citizens of South Carolina and the noteworthy contributions he has made in the real estate business. I sincerely thank Mr. Middleton for his service to the country and to the state. I congratulate him on his recent recognition as Orangeburg's Citizen of the Year and truly wish him good luck and Godspeed in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LISTON RAMSEY

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of the Honorable Liston B. Ramsey, a resident of the Eleventh Congressional District of North Carolina, who died on September 2, 2001.

Rep. Ramsey served nineteen terms as a Democrat in the North Carolina State House of Representatives, including an unprecedented eight years as Speaker of the House. Liston Ramsey put Western North Carolina on the political map and used his influence in the legislature, for the benefit of his constituents.

Rep. Liston Ramsey was first elected to the legislature from Madison County in 1961. In those days, before the interstate highway system served our region, legislators from Western North Carolina faced an eight-hour drive from the mountains across the state to Raleigh. Liston Ramsey faithfully made that trip for years in order to be a voice and a force for the mountain region.

In rankings by the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research, Rep. Ramsey consistently ranked as one of the most powerful legislators in the state. Ramsey ranked as the most powerful lawmaker during his four terms as speaker, was eleventh in 1989, twelfth in 1991, ninth in 1993, twenty-third in 1995, and nineteenth in 1997.

Among projects that Rep. Ramsey played a key role in funding for Western North Carolina were: Haywood Community College; Southwestern Community College; Western Carolina University; UNC-Asheville; the North Carolina Arboretum; the Western North Carolina Farmers' Market; and countless roads.

I know all my colleagues join me in expressing condolences to his family members: daughter Martha Louise and her husband, Robert Donald Banks of Marshall; two sisters, Marie Prichard and Grace Castelloe, both of Asheville; one stepsister, Edna Sprinkle of Asheville.

HONORING CALIFORNIA RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION'S 2001 DIAMOND CUISINE AWARD WINNERS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Tom and Doris Chester, Lloyd and Leona Beiderwell, and Kenny and Myrna Hook for being the recipients of the Central Valley Chapter of the California Restaurant Association's 2001 Diamond Award.

In 1946, Lloyd and Leona Beiderwell opened a Foster's Freeze restaurant in Visalia, California. Today, 55 years later, the Beiderwells are still serving food at Foster's Freeze to their friends and neighbors in Visalia.

Tom and Doris Chester have owned and operated the Wagon Wheel Steak House in Visalia since 1975. In 1984, the Chesters expanded their business and began growing oranges. Most recently, the Chesters added a pizza operation to their restaurant.

Estrada's Spanish Kitchen was a Visalia landmark from the time it opened, in 1912, until its closing eighty years later, in 1992. Kenny and Myrna Hook were an integral part of Estrada Kitchen's long tradition of service and unique cuisine. The Hooks, along with numerous other members of their extended family, worked at Estrada's Spanish Kitchen for 34 years.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate Kenny and Myrna Hook, Tom and Doris Chester, and Lloyd and Leona Beiderwell on their receipt of the California Restaurant Association's 2001 Diamond Award. Furthermore, I would like to thank them for their hardwork and dedication to providing quality food and outstanding customer service to the people of California's Central Valley.

CONGRESSMAN KILDEE HONORS LORRAINE STONE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a