

This is not the first time Betty has been honored for her devotion to others. Last year, she received the prestigious Bergen County Volunteer Center Service Award.

Betty is an officer with Proteus International, a venture banking and consulting firm in Mahwah. She and her husband, Bob, have two sons, two daughters and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating this dedicated community volunteer for her many years of unparalleled service to her neighbors, our community and our American way of life.

MESQUITE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Mesquite Independent School District for their centennial anniversary on March 12. Since 1901, the leaders and educators have strived to create an outstanding record in education. They continue to work tirelessly to ensure academic excellence and accountability for students, teachers, and administrators. Enriching these efforts are the partnerships and strong support of parents and the community.

As a result, the students acquire important learning skills and a foundation of knowledge that will serve them throughout life. Mesquite ISD is one of the largest districts to achieve "Recognized" status as a result of President George W. Bush's education initiatives while he was Governor of Texas.

With 42 schools and over 30,000 students, it has exemplified how successful our nation's public school system can be. I congratulate Mesquite ISD for one hundred years of educational excellence.

TRIBUTE TO BILL AND CLAUDIA COLEMAN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Bill and Claudia Coleman for their gracious donation to the University of Colorado. On January 16, 2001, University of Colorado president Elizabeth Hoffman accepted their donation, the single largest gift ever given to an American University. The gift, totaling \$250 million dollars, will be used to establish the University of Colorado Coleman Institute for Congenitive Disabilities. The program will fund advanced research and development of innovative technologies intended to enhance the lives of people with congenitive disabilities.

Cognitive disabilities are associated with a number of conditions, such as mental retardation and developmental retardation. "This will

make CU the international center of excellence in developing adaptive assistance technologies, based on advanced biomedical and computer science research and computer science research, for people with congenitive disabilities," Hoffman said.

Bill is the founder and chairman of BEA Systems of San Jose, California, and his wife Claudia, is a former manager with Hewlett Packard. An Air Force Academy graduate and former executive with Sun Microsystems, Bill said the idea for the donation came from a tour of CU's Center for LifeLong Learning and Design. Bill and Claudia are no strangers to congenitive disabilities. They have a niece with the disability, and they understand the benefits and the promise new technologies offer.

The Coleman's plan to play an active role in the institute. They said the "incredibly strong" team of researchers at CU played a decisive role in the decision to give the University the endowment. "We have witnessed the challenges this population faces everyday with problem solving, reasoning skills and understanding and using language," Bill said. "I passionately believe that we as a society have the intelligence and the responsibility to develop technologies that will expand the ability of those with congenitive disabilities to learn, to understand and to communicate," he added.

Mr. Speaker, this is an unprecedented gift by both Mr. and Mrs. Coleman. Their generosity and vision will help countless Americans now and in the future. For that, they deserve the thanks and praise of this body.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on March 13 and 14, I was unable to cast my votes on rollcall votes: No 46 on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 834; No. 47 on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 223; No. 48 on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 725 as amended; and No. 49 on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 861. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 46, 47, 48, and 49.

TRIBUTE TO CLARISSA WALKER AND DOROTHY WOOLFORK IN CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the historic achievements of American women this month, I wish to recognize two very special women from my Congressional district—Clarissa Walker and Dorothy Woolfork. For more than three decades, they have selflessly served the African-American community in

Minneapolis through their work at Sabathani Community Center.

Ms. Walker—Sabathani's Family Resources Director—and Ms. Woolfork—a Sabathani civil rights activist—have tirelessly aided those in need in the south Minneapolis community that Sabathani Community Center serves. I admire both of these women for their selflessness in reaching out to others to enact true social change.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell you a little more about the life experiences that shaped Clarissa Walker and Dorothy Woolfork's beliefs, and helped them become the dedicated women of conviction they are today.

CLARISSA WALKER

A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Clarissa Walker settled in Minneapolis in 1955. Her service to the Twin Cities community began when she worked as an operating room technician at the University of Minneapolis Hospital.

In 1968, Ms. Walker was recruited to work for Sabathani Community Center as a youth supervisor. She quickly moved up the ranks, serving in various positions—social worker/counselor, assistant director, acting executive director, and agency director of the Center. In 1971, she earned a bachelor's degree in sociology. Since then she has done some post-graduate studies in business management, and has become a licensed social worker. Ms. Walker has served in her current position as director of the Family Resource program since 1985.

Through the years, Ms. Walker has worked diligently to enrich the Sabathani community in a number of capacities. She has donated much of her time to several important agencies and causes, including the Minnesota Extension Advisory Committee; the Neighborhood Reinvestment Regional Advisory Committee; the Second Harvest Food Bank Board; the United Way First Call for Help Committee; the First and Secondary Market Loan Committee; the Neighborhood Housing Services of America Board; and the Project for Pride in Living Board. She has also served as President of the Southside Neighborhood Housing Services Board President, and has served on the Central Neighborhood Improvement Association; the United Way Budget and Allocation panel; the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee to the Mayor; and the Lake Street Partners Board.

DOROTHY WOOLFORK

Dorothy Woolfork was born in rural Arkansas in 1916. The daughter of sharecroppers, she was taught the value of hard work and the importance of voting—both values she brought to Minneapolis when she moved there in 1939.

Upon arriving in Minneapolis, Ms. Woolfork learned about a neighbor who was returning to the South to teach, because Minneapolis did not hire black teachers. This experience, along with the prejudices she witnessed growing up in the South, inspired her to learn more about the political process.

Characteristically independent, Ms. Woolfork believes strongly in the collaboration of community involvement and government to make positive societal changes. She has demonstrated this belief by serving on several boards, including the Civil Rights Commission; the Board of Equalization; the Bryant Village Initiative; the Bryant Neighborhood Organization; and South Side Neighborhood Housing, Inc. Furthermore, she served for fifteen years on the Council of