

TRIBUTE TO MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE RICHARD A. AUSTIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise and will be joined later by some of my colleagues to pay tribute to a man who was a mentor and a very dear friend, a man who defined the words dignity and respect. I am talking about Michigan's former Secretary of State, Richard A. Austin, who died last Friday at the age of 87.

Dick Austin was a man of great vision and one of Michigan's most distinguished and honored, accomplished statesman. He was Secretary of State for 24 years, having been first elected in 1970 and reelected a record five times. I had the great honor of nominating Dick Austin at three of our party's State conventions, and each time I had to struggle a little harder to try to squeeze it all in because Dick had accomplished that much in the preceding 4 years.

Under Dick Austin's direction, Michigan became a leader in highway safety and voting rights. He brought us one of America's first safety belt laws, spearheaded the drive for child passenger safety legislation, and won awards for his efforts to stop drunk driving. Thousands of people are alive in Michigan today because of Dick Austin's tireless dedication to safety.

Mr. Speaker, he helped to enact a landmark voter registration law that served as a model for other States and paved the way for the eventual passage of the national motor voter legislation. Millions of people in Michigan found it easier to exercise the franchise because of Dick Austin's determination to eliminate barriers to voting.

Dick was a great innovator. He automated the Department of State and transformed a department that consumers were upset about for its agonizing inefficiency. He did that, and made it into one to the best run, best managed and most highly acclaimed departments in the Nation.

Dick Austin was a pioneer in many fields, breaking down barriers with his intellect, self-confidence, and his dedication to hard work. He was the first African American certified public accountant in Michigan. He was the first African American candidate for mayor of Detroit, and the longest serving African American elected to statewide office.

He was born in Stouts Mountain, Alabama, the son of a coal miner who died when Dick was just 11 years old. His family moved to Detroit where he worked his way through school, never letting hardship become an obstacle to success. An academic and track star, he gave up a scholarship to Wayne State University when his family faced

hardship. Undaunted, Dick sold and took night classes to earn his degree as a CPA.

Dick Austin was the perfect combination of competence and decency. He was full of charm, and he was as honest as the day is long. He was a gentleman in the truest sense of the word. He served the people of Michigan with grace and dignity. He lived by the values that he preached. He was someone who took to heart the words of the prophet: "To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God."

In good times and hard times, Richard A. Austin was always there. He was calm, reassuring, standing strong.

Mr. Speaker, to his wife of over 60 years, Ida, and his daughter, Hazel, we send our deep regrets and prayers.

All of us in Michigan will profoundly miss Dick Austin. His memory and sense of justice will carry on for years to come, and the accomplishments of his remarkable life will continue to pave the way.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND LEON SULLIVAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I received some very disturbing news about the passing of the Reverend Leon Sullivan, founder and Chairman of OIC International.

Reverend Sullivan was a genuine example of civility and social commitment. He was a leader of human rights, and a true humanitarian. He is best known for his advocacy toward obtaining justice to end Apartheid in South Africa. This feat gained him the respect of all of us.

Through his steadfastness and determination, Reverend Sullivan enlightened history and impacted the world with his grace. He came to this earth with a bright inner glow and a spirit filled with light. Reverend Sullivan had a powerful soul and a judicious conscience. His desire to make a difference in the lives of others will be preserved now in our many memories of him. He was a true example of a public servant, and it was through his vision that many people became familiar with his love for hope and compassion for the welfare of people in underserved nations.

Reverend Sullivan was credited by President Clinton with The Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award, and was the author of the "Sullivan Principles" which will serve as part of his stellar legacy. I have no doubt that the Reverend will continue to work for the benefit of humanity from his eternal state. His faith in humanity brought inspiration to our society. As a poet once said "Do not weep because they are gone, smile because they lived".

Today we honor Reverend Sullivan with our everlasting gratitude and admiration. For those who have lived and not just existed, we must remember to carry on their messages. Reverend Sullivan's words will linger beyond existence, for time does not abandon immortals.

CONGRATULATING HAWAII'S 2ND DISTRICT PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate four remarkable young women from Hawaii: Lauren Noelani Calhoun, age 16, of Kapaa on the island of Kauai; Celinda Stanton, age 11, of Waimanalo on the island of Oahu; Tessa Munekiyo of Wailuku on the island of Maui, and Kauliani Ostrem of Kaawa on the island of Oahu.

Lauren and Celinda are Hawaii's top two youth volunteers for the year 2001 in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. They have each been awarded an engraved silver medallion, a \$1,000 award, and a trip to Washington, DC for the program's national recognition event. Hawaii's Distinguished Finalists—Tessa and Kauliani—have been awarded engraved bronze medallions.

Lauren Noelani Calhoun, a junior at Kauai High School, led an effort to establish a homework and learning center for children at a local family abuse shelter. As a volunteer at the shelter, Lauren was disturbed by its often hectic conditions and wondered how the children who stayed there managed to do their schoolwork. She approached the shelter's director with a plan to convert a storage area into a quiet room for the kids to do their homework. After the plan was approved by the director and the shelter's board, Lauren contacted businesses and organizations for donations. She surpassed her goal and raised over \$1,500 in addition to many in-kind donations. Lauren purchased furniture, a computer, a printer, software, books, and two sets of encyclopedias for the homework center.

Celinda Stanton, a sixth-grader at St. Andrews, brightened the lives of elderly residents of a long-term care facility by teaching them new skills and providing them with recreational activities. After visiting the facility, where her mother works, Celinda noticed that the residents seemed to enjoy the presence of a young girl and realized she could make a difference in their lives. During her volunteer time at the facility, she entertains the seniors by performing Japanese and Hawaiian dances and helps them play games. She also has taught an 80-year-old woman how to use a computer and regularly assists the staff with recreational activities and filing.

Tessa Munekiyo, age 16, a student at Baldwin High School on the island of Maui assisted in conducting interviews with tsunami survivors as part of a museum educational project.