

in obtaining education, securing both service-connected and non-service related disability and survivor benefits, providing home loans with favorable interest rates, enabling appropriate medical care, and generally improving the quality of life for Oregon's veterans.

I rise today to thank the ODVA and its employees for the important service they provide to our state. I am heartened by the ODVA's sixty year record of accomplishment and I look forward to many more years of service to Oregon and its community of veterans.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
TOMIE ZEAN TURNER GREEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Judge Tomie Zean Turner Green of Hinds County. Educated in Jackson Public Schools, upon completing the 11th grade at Jim Hill School, Judge Green entered Tougaloo College where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree. She earned a Master of Science degree from Jackson State University, and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the Mississippi College School of Law.

Judge Green served in the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1992–1998 and served as the Vice Chair of Ethics and as sub-chair of the Judiciary A committee. She also served on the Elections, Insurance, the Managed Care and Local & Private Legislation, Constitution and Investigation of State Offices committees. In 1999, Judge Green took the oath of office to become the first woman elected to the Hinds County Circuit Court. Since that time Judge Green has increased the accessibility and efficiency to the court by shifting judicial operations. Since she took the bench, Judge Green has served on the Judiciary Advisory Committee on Rules, and the Supreme Court's Committee on Media and the Courts.

Judge Green is best noted for in Hinds County for her sponsorship and support of the several laws such as the Municipal Public Hazard Law; Illegal Acts on Premises Law; the Professional Licensure and Child Welfare and Child Support Enforcement Act, etc. Additionally, Judge Green has sought legislation to in-

sure fairness for workers injured while on the job; raise the age for minors to legally possess a handgun from 18 to 21 years of age; to build and fund a stadium for Jackson State University; to establish a law school at Jackson State University; and to increase the opportunity and participation of minorities in state contracts for goods and services.

In addition to her dedication and commitment to her career, Judge Green has also expressed the same to her community. Judge Green is currently a member of the St. Peter Baptist Church of Jackson, MS. She is a member of the Magnolia Bar Association, Mississippi Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the Hinds County Bar Association, Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity. Other memberships have included: Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, the NAACP, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), MS League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women and Central Mississippi Coalition of 100 Black Women.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID LEE BUCKNAM

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the hard work of David Lee Bucknam, a dedicated public servant in Colorado who recently passed away.

Mr. Bucknam, who was 60 when he died November 22, 2004, spent 24 years directing the inactive-mine reclamation program of the Colorado Division of Mineral and Geology (Division), sealing abandoned mines and restoring the soil and water they contaminated.

Earlier today, I introduced two bills designed to address the barriers hampering the cleanup of abandoned hardrock mines in Colorado and throughout the west. The introduction of these bills reminded me of Mr. Bucknam and others like him who worked hard to protect the public and promote wise environmental stewardship. Mr. Bucknam worked with me and my staff on this legislation I am introducing today and I would like to take this opportunity to express my posthumous appreciation for his assistance and for all the work he did for Colorado.

Mr. Bucknam was born in Brockport, New York in 1944 and arrived in Lakewood, Colorado when he was 10. He became an avid and skilled mountaineer and skier, getting an early start in the Denver Junior Group of the Colorado Mountain Club in his teens. In the "Juniors" he headed climbing trips and outings, taught mountaineering skills to other teens and adults, and shared his love of the outdoors. He continued to climb throughout the western United States, in the Himalayas, in Canada and in Mexico.

Mr. Bucknam taught junior high history and geography for several years, worked for the Colorado Land Use Commission and then for

over 24 years with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. He retired as Director of the Office of Active and Inactive Mines, and when asked what he did, he always smiled and said he "closed up old mines". Under his leadership, Colorado's Inactive Mine Reclamation Program and the Colorado Mine Safety and Training program were nationally recognized. He was a mentor and role-model for many of the employees in the Department. His competence and dedication—coupled with his compassion for his co-workers and his leadership on national issues—made a lasting impact not only on the Division, but the state and the nation as well. In 1990 he served as president of the National Association of Abandoned Mined Land Programs and continued to provide leadership to the Association by serving on several national committees.

During his tenure at the Division, he helped secure access to about 400 abandoned mines a year out of an estimated 20,000 in the state in order to address the problems they created and reclaim the surrounding land and water. He also helped work on the endless problem of underground coal fires, of which at least 29 subterranean fires still smolder in coal seams throughout Colorado.

Mr. Bucknam's love of the outdoors, his service to his state and community, and his work on addressing the legacy of mining activity are all worthy of recognition. My staff and I wish to express our thoughts and wishes to his family and coworkers.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF RICHARD "HEAT-WAVE" BERLER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of Richard Berler of Laredo, TX.

Better known as "Heatwave", Mr. Berler is the chief meteorologist at KGNS-TV in Laredo, TX. This past Monday, February 14th, Berler, 51, celebrated 25 years of reporting and predicting the weather at the station.

Having started at a time when weather forecasts were not considered a serious part of the News, Berler has taken his job to a higher level and positively affected the local community.

Originally from Westport, Connecticut, Berler was first attracted to Laredo for its unique climate. Having always studied climate patterns for a hobby, Berler found it fascinating when he learnt about Laredo hitting 100 degrees as early as the month of February. Laredo is unique for its semiarid and subtropical climate, and it occasionally gets hot dry air from the Mexican Plateau.

After attending college at Florida State University and then working for a small station in Minnesota, Berler found an opening at KGNS in Laredo and jumped at the opportunity. Almost immediately after working, Berler became a meteorologist, taking his own atmospheric readings before every newscast to improve the accuracy of his predictions. He

quickly acquired the name "Heatwave" for his enthusiasm and commitment to the weather news. In his 25 years, he has witnessed and reported record highs of 103 °F in February, 105 °F in March, and 110 °F in April.

Mr. Speaker, Heatwave has become an icon as far as the weather is concerned and people look up to him in the community. I thank him for his contributions, and congratulate him on his 25th anniversary at KGNS.

RECOGNIZING THE "TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE BRONX" 2004 CONFERENCE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the efforts of a number of Bronx-based organizations to organize a major energy and environmental symposium in the Bronx. This event, sponsored by the Center for Sustainable Energy at Bronx Community College and the Bronx Initiative for Energy and the Environment at The Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, will broaden the audience for, and awareness of, renewable and alternative energy technologies.

For many years, the South Bronx has suffered from high levels of pollution, which have led to public health problems in the area. For instance, asthma rates among children are 250 percent higher than in the rest of New York City. The South Bronx can benefit greatly from the use of energy-efficient and clean fuel technologies. Many businesses, developers, and other stakeholders, however, are unaware of both what they can do and where they can go to find these tools. This symposium will answer those questions, and help make the South Bronx a healthier and more environmentally sound place to live.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of this conference cannot be understated. This conference is an opportunity to promote technologies that can improve the energy efficiency of our buildings, prepare our students for the workforce through education and training, and promote practices that will help to strengthen our economy. I am confident that this conference will lead to greater community participation in efforts to improve the quality of life in the Bronx.

I would like to thank the President of Bronx Community College, Dr. Carolyn Grubbs Williams for her leadership on these issues. I also congratulate the Center for Sustainable Energy, the Bronx Initiative for Energy and the Environment, and the Bronx River Research Group for their efforts in making this conference a reality. Lastly, I would like to thank the many other partnership organizations involved in the project, including: Rebuild America program at the U.S. Department of Energy, New York Power Authority, New York State Energy Research & Development Authority, New York City Energy Smart Communities, and several Bronx-based businesses.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating all the parties involved for their

dedication to these important environmental and public health issues, and in wishing them continued success in the years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE ARNO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Stephanie Arno for her commitment to public service and her church.

Stephanie is one of five children born and reared in the East New York neighborhood of Brooklyn. She was educated in the New York City public schools. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University Center of New York at Binghamton and her Master of Arts in Political Science from Brooklyn College.

Employed with the New York City Department of Probation for the past 16 years, Stephanie began her career as a Probation Officer Trainee in the Kings Adult Investigation Unit. She rose through the ranks to become Borough Director of her present assignment, Manhattan Alternative to Detention (MATD), Family Court Division.

In 2002, one of Stephanie's noteworthy accomplishments is being the first President and founding member of the New York City Probation Guardians Association, Inc. In 2004, Stephanie was re-elected as President of the New York City Probation Guardians Association, Inc. The Probation Guardians Association, Inc. is a fraternal association for all African-Americans employed in NYC's Probation Department.

A member of the Greater Allen Cathedral of New York, AME, her favorite scripture is from Isaiah 54:2-3, "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords; strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities". [NIV]

The legacy of Stephanie Arno is to be known as someone who understands that every child who proclaims to be a "hard rock" is actually a gem so let us mine our future with delicate hands.

Mr. Speaker, Stephanie Arno has dedicated her professional career to public service through her work in the criminal justice system. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

TRIBUTE TO CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center—one of the premier hospitals in the world—for pro-

viding the highest quality of health care to hundreds of thousands of people, for its innovative medical research and for its dedicated work in supporting, housing and developing the Louis Warschaw Prostate Cancer Center.

Cedars is one of the largest non-profit academic medical centers in the Western United States. It has more than 1,800 physicians in all medical specialties, more than 8,000 employees and 200 volunteers. The physicians are leaders in basic and clinical research. They teach over 245 residents and fellows in 60 graduate medical education programs.

For the fifth straight two-year period, Cedars-Sinai has been named Southern California's gold standard in health care. In National Research Corporation's 2004 Healthcare Market Guide survey, Los Angeles area residents named Cedars-Sinai the "Most Preferred Hospital for All Health Needs." Cedars-Sinai is internationally renowned for its diagnostics and treatment capabilities and its broad spectrum of programs and breakthroughs in biomedical research and superlative medical education. It ranks among the top 10 non-university hospitals in the nation for its research activities.

The Warschaw family, one of Los Angeles' most prominent, turned to Cedars-Sinai to establish the Louis Warschaw Prostate Cancer Center with the mission of advancing the fight against prostate cancer. They did this in honor of their beloved husband and father, Louis Warschaw, who died from this disease.

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer in the United States. One in six American men will develop prostate cancer in the course of his lifetime. Each year more than 220,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer and about 28,000 die from the disease. It is the second leading cause of cancer death in men and requires the heavy firepower that Cedars-Sinai can muster.

Patients at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and the Louis Warschaw Prostate Cancer Center receive the best medical care possible and access to emerging therapies through its research programs. These programs rely on integrated prostate cancer clinical trials and a research lab that supports pre-clinical and clinical drug studies. In addition to receiving the most technologically advanced care, patients take comfort in knowing that experts from a range of disciplines work together to optimize their treatment.

The Louis Warschaw Prostate Cancer Center's medical oncologists and urologists are nationally recognized experts in prostate cancer. They include: Dr. Stuart Holden, Medical Director for the Center; Dr. David B. Agus, Research Director; Dr. Mitchell E. Gross, Assistant Research Director and Dr. Christopher Nu, Urologic Surgeon. They collaborate with other leading specialists throughout the country, exchanging research and clinical insights and have helped the Center earn its stellar reputation.

Cedars-Sinai's multi-faceted team of medical professionals combat the threat of cancer by bringing together experts in surgery, radiology, radiation therapy, oncology and pathology. The Louis Warschaw Prostate Cancer Center, the Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute, the Women's Cancer Research Institute, the Maxine Dunitz