widow of the late Herbert Bishop, a former mayor of Forest, and a banking official, who served for many years as the President of the Farmers and Merchants Bank in Forest, Mississippi, now known as Community Bank.

Miss LaVonne was born in Magee, MS and moved to Forest, MS at an early age. She graduated from Forest High School in 1920, and earned her music degree from Belhaven College in the mid-twenties. Upon graduation from Belhaven, she returned to Forest and taught music in the Forest school system until her marriage to Mr. Bishop.

For the greater part of her life, Miss LaVonne focused her efforts on building a strong church and community relations in Forest and Scott County. Very seldom was there a civic or community project developed within the city of Forest, or the county of Scott, that she did not have some input. Because of her efforts in community development, Forest was named a winner in the National Community Achievement Contest in 1960, and in 1962, Miss LaVonne was named Mississippi Club Woman of the Year. She also served as chairwoman for many Merit Programs sponsored by the State Chamber of Commerce. Further, for many years, she served as chairperson for the Forest Miss Hospitality committee, and actively participated in drives that benefited the Hospital Auxiliary, the Cancer Fund, the Heart Fund, and the March of Dimes Fund.

At Forest Baptist Church, she was the church organist for more than 50 years. On a number of occasions, she served as President of the Women's Missionary Union, and was a teacher and pianist in the junior department. At St. Catherine Village, she was pianist for the choir and the residents of Siena, the nursing division of the Village. Up until her death, she and her piano partner, Grant Smith, performed periodic concerts in the area surrounding Jackson.

Miss LaVonne was very devoted to her family. If you wanted to see pride and job at its apex, then start a conversation about her children, Neill (Mrs. Wade Barton) and Gene and their families, her late husband Herbert and his family, her parents the late Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Little and her brother Woodrow. Also, very dear to Miss LaVonne as her friend, Mrs. Alice Burke and her family, who worked at the Bishop household for many years.

Miss LaVonne's life and legacy can be summed up with one word LOVE; Love for God, Love for Family, Love for Friends, Love for Country, Love for State, and by all means, Love for Forest and Scott County. She was truly a great Christian, and an American, and I extend my heartfelt sympathy to her family, while at the same time, expressing my appreciation, and that of all citizens of the 3rd district for her life of service.

TRIBUTE TO JOANNE BALTIERREZ

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and colleague, Joanne Baltierrez, who retired earlier this year from a seat on the City Council of the City of San Fernando. Joanne had a distinguished five-year tenure on the council, including a one-year term as Mayor. While in office, she was a courageous, visionary and independent-minded public servant, who worked very hard to represent her constituents well and to make a real difference in the quality of life for the citizens of San Fernando.

During her time on the City Council, Joanne compiled an impressive list of accomplishments for her constituents. She is especially and rightfully proud of her successful efforts to keep a Los Angeles county health clinic from moving outside of its San Fernando location. She did this in a particularly creative manner by arranging a land swap with the county that enabled the much-needed facility to remain within her city. Joanne also helped assemble a coalition with San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services, the San Fernando Police Department and the courts to provide counseling and shelter for victims of domestic violence.

Another of Joanne's innovations was a series of town hall meetings to allow members of the Council to better gauge the needs and concerns of their constituents.

Joanne has always given unstintingly of her time and talents to public service. Over the past decade, in addition to her work on the City Council, she has served as a recruitment coordinator for Los Angeles Mission College, Director of Community Services for the Volunteer Center of San Fernando Valley, Resource Coordinator for the Latin American Civic Association and Community Liaison for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

Now that she has retired from the Counsel, Joanne has entered a new phase of her career in politics, serving as the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles. Joanne now puts her considerable abilities to work in representing the League throughout the community and promoting the growth of this highly respected organization through public relations and marketing strategies.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Joanne Baltierrez, whose commitment to her community and strong sense of justice are an inspiration to us all. I am proud to be her friend.

ST. LOUIS A SCHOOL DESEGREGATION SUCCESS STORY

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, May 17, 1999, marked the 45th anniversary of the Supreme Court's unanimous decision in Brown v. Board of Education holding racial segregation laws and practices unconstitutional and ushering in the civil rights era. Last month the Harvard Civil Rights Project published a report showing that the nation is now moving backwards toward re-segregation of public schools.

I want to call the attention of my colleagues to the remarkable story of desegregation in St. Louis. St. Louis illustrates the gains that can be made for children even in these times. In St. Louis, a 1983 settlement of a desegregation case brought by the NAACP resulted in the largest voluntary metropolitan school desegregation program in the nation, with 13,000 black students from St. Louis attending school in 16 suburban districts. The program was very successful in increasing the graduation and college-going rates of participating youngsters as was a magnet program in city schools.

When the State sought to end its financing of the remedy in the early 1990's many feared that the opportunities that had been afforded children would end as had happened elsewhere. But an extraordinary thing happened. The Missouri State legislature voted funds sufficient to continue the programs—including as well as major program for school improvements in St. Louis—for at least ten more years. The legislature insisted that the city of St. Louis contribute financially by raising its sales and property taxes. Many feared that this would not occur. But in February of this year the voters approved a sales tax increased by an almost 2–1 margin—and every Ward in the City—Black and White—voted for the tax increase.

Many people in Missouri worked hard to achieve this remarkable result. Special thanks are due to William H. Danforth, the Court-appointed settlement coordinator, who recognized that continuing a valuable remedy was not inconsistent with ending court supervision. James De Clue, the NAACP leader and Minnie Liddell, the community leader, toiled over twenty five years to advance the interests of children, they are the true heroes of this story. Legislative leadership was exercised by then-Representative Steve Stoll along with Senators Ted House, Lacy Clay and Harold Caskey. My colleague Congressman RICHARD GEPHARDT also helped assure that St. Louisans understood the importance of passing the referendum while business and religious leaders pitched in and lent their support.

Mr. Speaker, we must not give up on the promise of Brown v. Board of Education. The St. Louis story provides a model for other communities. I would like to share with my colleagues some articles that detail the success of St. Louis' school desegregation program.

[From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Jan. 7, 1999]

SETTLEMENT IS REACHED IN DESEGREGATION CASE

(By Rick Pierce and Carolyn Bower)

The clock on the library wall at Yeatman Middle School in St. Louis said 15 minutes after 2 p.m.

Dozens of lawyers, school superintendents, school board members and settlement coordinator Dr. William H. Danforth were waiting to announce an agreement to settle the area's school desegregation case.

A lawyer turned to another lawyer and asked, ''Everyone important seems to be here. Who are we waiting for?''

Moments later, Minnie Liddell, regal in a flowing red blouse and slacks and moving slowly with the aid of a four-pronged metal cane, entered the library.

Knots of people parted to let her through. Some hugged her.

Twenty-seven years ago, when school officials tried to transfer her son, Craton, and other students, out of Yeatman School—a school the Liddell family had fallen in love with—she and other parents sued the St. Louis School Board.

Now Liddell, 59, who has three grandchildren in St. Louis schools, watched as Dánforth announced the settlement, something many had predicted was impossible.

''There has been an agreement to settle the case,'' said Danforth, adding that the agreement would be presented to U.S. District