

the history of the State of California, and in the process touched the lives of countless individuals. Ms. Florence Walton Richardson Wyckoff, who would have been 95 this week, died in her sleep on September 20, 2000 in her Watsonville, California home.

Florence was born on October 5, 1905, to Leon J. Richardson and Maud Wilkinson Richardson in Berkeley, California. She earned a B.A. in fine arts at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1926, and it was there that she met her future husband, Hubert Coke Wyckoff. In 1931 they married and moved to San Francisco, where Florence became involved with politics and what would become her life's work, activism. While in San Francisco, she worked with the San Francisco Theater Union and the National Consumers League for Fair Labor Standards. She also worked with the gubernatorial campaign of Cuthbert L. Olsen, and was appointed by Governor Olsen as Director of Community Relations for the California State Relief Administration. It was in this position that she began traveling and investigating the living conditions of farm laborers in this country.

Shocked by the standards she saw, and by the lack of access to such basic necessities as education and healthcare for migrant workers, she became a powerful lobbyist for social change in these areas. During World War II, her husband, Hubert, recruited my father, the late Senator Farr, to work at his side in Washington, DC as a Deputy Administrator in the War Shipping Administration. While in Washington, Florence testified before congressional committees for minimum wages and public health improvements for farm workers. It was at this time that she also served on the Boards of Directors of the National Consumers League and Food For Freedom.

After returning to California, she worked to begin the first citizen's health council in Santa Cruz County, and was appointed by Governor Earl Warren to the Advisory Committee on Children and Youth. She served on this board for twenty years under four governors, and worked to establish health-care clinics for farm workers along the migrant routes used in the nation. Additionally, she was appointed by Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown to the State Board of Public Health in 1961, and it was during this time that Florence was integral to the creation and passage of the Federal Migrant Health Act, which remains in effect today.

Never one to sit down when she was needed, she continued to work tirelessly almost until the day she passed away. She helped found organizations that would assist migrant children in attending college, and was a crusader in promoting reading and education among all children. Her last project was the successful recent opening of the Freedom Branch Library, which began as a small library for the children of migrant workers. Florence was also active in many organizations, including Migration, Adaptation in the Americas (MAIA), The Friends of the Freedom Library, The Corralitos Valley Community Council, the Coastal Resource Management Project, the Migrant Agricultural History Archive at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and the Santa Cruz County Community Foundation Board.

I will really miss one of my late mother and father's best friends. I will miss her smile, charm, love for friends and never ending sup-

port and stories of my parents as young activists. As described to me, she was a leader in her life in creating a more compassionate and just society. We have lost a person of history who made this country a better place because of her deeds.

Described by friends and family as "tenacious and determined," "influential" and "caring," and "A woman that made a difference," Florence Wyckoff will be sorely missed by her sister, Jane R. Hanks of North Bennington, Vermont, as well as the many nephews, nieces, friends and the California community, in general.

RECOGNITION OF THE QUEENS COURIER

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the Queens Courier, a weekly community newspaper in the borough Queens, New York, which is celebrating its 15th anniversary.

The Queens Courier was launched late in the last century by Victoria Schneps and John Toscano. Victoria was a school teacher who teamed-up with then WABC-TV reporter Geraldo Rivera to expose abhorrent conditions at the Willowbrook State School for the Mentally Retarded. Victoria's daughter Lara had resided at the facility. John meanwhile, a former political editor at the New York Daily News published the weekly newspaper Queens Week. The two entrepreneurs invested a mere \$250 each to embark on their journalistic quest where in the beginning they worked out of Victoria's living room and did not take salaries for the first year.

The first issue of the newspaper hit the streets on May 9, 1985 as the Whitestone/College Point Courier. The front page headline read "Whitestone-College Point Courier: First Issue Today." That first edition included stories on traffic tie-ups on the Throgs Neck Bridge, local school news and political and gardening columns. Within the next few years, Victoria bought John out and the newspaper attracted many loyal readers and established a strong identity in the area. Then as readership increased, Victoria Schneps expanded the newspaper to cover most communities throughout Queens and subsequently renamed the paper to the Queens Courier.

Today the borough-wide publication includes five newspapers serving 36 neighborhoods in Queens. The newspaper features quality writing and reporting in a contemporary and easy to read format. It is available both by paid subscription and can be obtained at hundreds of outlets throughout Queens.

The Queens Courier has also won numerous awards for excellence in community journalism while affording local businesses and merchants, the opportunities to reach their customers in an efficient and cost-effective manner. In addition, the publication has ventured into the broadcasting and Internet domain with the weekly public affairs show "Queens on the Air" on local cable and an informative site on the world wide web at www.queenscourier.com. I encourage everybody to log onto this site to see what community journalism is all about.

Yes, from humble beginnings—including that stint until 4 a.m. to get the very first edition—to obtaining the respect and trust of thousands of Queens citizens, the Queens Courier has become a newspaper heavy-weight in the new millennium. Yet the publication continues to stay on the original mission that it set 15 years ago—to provide local news coverage in a fair, accurate and balanced manner. Whether through the breadth of its stories, the quality of its editorials, the informative advertisements, special features and insightful columns—the Queens Courier remains on the cutting edge of community journalism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in congratulating Victoria Schneps and the entire staff of the Queens Courier for a terrific 15 years of service to the Queens community. I am confident that the Queens Courier will continue to enjoy success for many more years to come.

FOR BREAD AND FOR FREEDOM: THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF SOLIDARITY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to add my voice to those who commemorate the 20th anniversary of the founding of Solidarity and join as a co-sponsor of this resolution, H. Con. Res 416. Significantly, one of the original 21 demands of the Gdansk workers was a call for the implementation of the Helsinki Final Act. As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I therefore take special satisfaction in hailing one of the success stories of the Helsinki process.

Stalin is reputed to have once said that trying to impose communism on Poland was like trying to put a saddle on a cow. Certainly, there were few places in Central Europe where communism was more unwelcome and unnatural. The peaceful dismantlement of a totalitarian system imposed by force is testimony to the heroism, ingenuity, and integrity of Solidarity activists and the millions of Solidarity's supporters throughout the country.

Of course, the events at the Gdansk shipyard in the summer of 1980 were the continuation—and elevation—of the opposition to communism that was the inevitable by-product of communism itself in Poland, from the workers' strikes in Poznan in 1956, to the university dissent in 1968, to the Gdansk riots of 1970. But Solidarity was unique in two critical ways. First, it established an unprecedented union between workers and intellectuals, making the whole more than the sum of the parts. Second, it evolved into a mass movement, drawing support from all segments of society. With the critical support of the Catholic Church, Solidarity came to embody the hopes and aspirations not only of the people of Poland, but of dissidents and democrats throughout the region. When Lech Walesa was awarded the Nobel Peace prize, that award rightly recognized the achievements of an extraordinary individual as well as the historic role of the Solidarity movement itself and the people who comprised it.

Indeed, there are many well known heroes of this movement, in addition to Lech Walesa: