

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF COUNTRY MUSIC LEGEND MERLE KILGORE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Merle Kilgore, a talented musician, legendary writer, and friend, a fellow West Tennessean who dedicated his life to entertaining the world.

Merle began his music career in 1948, carrying Hank Williams' guitar at the Louisiana Hayride. He soon began performing, and he wrote and recorded hit songs such as "Ring of Fire" and "Wolverton Mountain." Mr. Kilgore was also an actor, appearing in films such as "Coal Miner's Daughter" and "Five Card Stud." Apart from his performance skills, he was a fine businessman, managing the legendary career of Hank Williams, Jr. He was named honorary State Senator by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1987, while I had the honor of serving in that body.

Merle Kilgore was more than a music legend. He is remembered by those who knew him best for his loyal friendship and sharp wit. Mr. Kilgore's stories and anecdotes brightened the lives of everyone he touched. Merle's cheerful outlook on life will be deeply missed by his family and friends. A dedicated family man, he is survived by his wife, Judy; two sons; three daughters; eight grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring the exceptional life of a true legend and dear friend, Mr. Merle Kilgore.

A TRIBUTE TO THE A.P. GIANNINI MIDDLE SCHOOL ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the A.P. Giannini Middle School of San Francisco, which is located in my Congressional district. This extraordinary middle school has long been known for its academic promise and delivering students who are well prepared to area high schools.

This school is named after Amaedo Peter (A.P.) Giannini, who started the Bank of Italy in 1904, with the then unheard of concept of providing banking services for the "little fellows," the hard-working immigrants that other banks refused to serve. After the devastating earthquake of 1906, A.P. Giannini immediately set up a temporary bank. Almost every building in the city had been destroyed, and he went about collecting deposits, making loans, and proclaiming to all that San Francisco

would rise from the ashes. Mr. Giannini ensured that many hard working immigrants could get their piece of the American dream by loaning them money when no other banks would. Under his watchful eye, this little bank, which started in a converted saloon, expanded rapidly throughout the State of California and in 1930 he renamed his institution the Bank of America.

Mr. Speaker, the middle school, which now bears his name, was opened in the Sunset District of San Francisco in September of 1954, but renamed after Mr. Giannini on January 26, 1955. Although Mr. Giannini had passed away six years earlier, both his widow and daughter Claire were present for the ceremony to dedicate the school. Today the school serves children from grades 6 to 8, with an average enrollment of 1,300 students. It routinely tests well above the California and national average, and over a quarter of the students study in the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program.

A.P. Giannini Middle School provides students with a diverse learning environment and as well as a lesson of tolerance. Like A.P. Giannini back in the early 1900's, A.P. Giannini Middle School gives their students a chance to achieve the American dream. The staff of A.P. Giannini Middle School deserves credit for providing their students with the tools they will need in high school and throughout life.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the last 50 years, A.P. Giannini Middle School has proven what dedicated staff members, counselors and teachers can do. The students are exemplars in the community and should be commended. I would also like to thank the Giannini family for their continued support of the school that shared so much of the vision of Mr. Giannini. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the A.P. Giannini Middle School Day, with me on February 17, 2005.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO ROBERT B. WILSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, 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 Mr. Robert Bernard Wilson of Carroll County in the State of Mississippi. Born September 10, 1928, in Chicago, IL, Wilson was educated in the Chicago Public Schools, and later at the Mississippi Industrial College (B.S.), and received certification in Science/Biology at Mississippi State University.

Mr. Wilson served in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict and received an honorable discharge. He was an educator for 32 years in the Carroll County and Montgomery County school districts where he taught science and biology. During his tenure as an educator, Mr. Wilson was the first African American to coach high school football after school integration in Mississippi. He received numerous awards, such as Teacher Award, Coach of the Year Award (Local and State), Senior Class Sponsor Award and the Montgomery County Citizenship Award.

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.

IN HONOR OF LARRY McREYNOLDS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry McReynolds for his outstanding leadership and remarkable accomplishments in the field of health care administration. After almost 5 productive years, Mr. McReynolds moved on from his position as executive director of the Jersey City Family Health Center on Friday, January 28, 2005.

A New Jersey resident since 1991, Mr. McReynolds has proven himself to be a valuable asset to health care organizations. During his impressive career, he has held a variety of positions with Clara Maass Medical Center and the Saint Barnabas Healthcare System. Since 2000, he has served as executive director of the Jersey City Family Health Center where he has been instrumental in the expansion and development of a wide range of health programs and initiatives.

Under his strong guidance, the health center has expanded many of its services that aid the underserved or low income populations in the community, including an AIDS treatment center and the Healthcare for the Homeless Program. Additionally, it has established a pharmaceutical program that helps patients access medication, the Reach Out and Read Program for inner-city kids, and many outreach initiatives aimed at helping the Hispanic community. While serving as executive director, Mr. McReynolds has seen the health center almost double its budget and staff size. Other

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