

on Wall Street. The company's client list started with underserved Brooklyn homeowners but grew to include Fortune 500 companies.

Mr. Procope and his wife were a driving force behind the creation of the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements plan in 1968 to help make insurance available to all residents of New York State. He and his wife were also highly visible in political and philanthropic circles.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sisters, Dr. Jean Martin of Bloomfield, Conn. and Jonelle Terrell of Manhattan.

JOHN L. PROCOPE—THE PASSING OF A LEADER IN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING AND THE CONSUMMATE BUSINESS LEADER

When John L. Procope died last week in New York City at the age of 82, he left behind a number of things.

The first is a rich legacy as an entrepreneur who along with his wife made a success of a business in an area where few Blacks had dared to walk as owners: Wall Street, perhaps the world's most famous financial district.

Secondly, he also left behind a history of having stood on the shoulders of many 19th and 20th century Black newspaper publishers whose organs of information articulated the cause of Black people with verve and determination, during some of the most perilous of times, dating back to era of slavery, through reconstruction, the days of Jim Crow and into the civil rights struggle and right up to these days of immense challenges, successes and failures.

People like John Russwurm, who in 1827 was a recent graduate of Bowdoin College, and a young militant minister, the Rev. Samuel Cornish, who created and launched "Freedom's Journal," the first Black newspaper in the United States were the models for later Black publishers. The Freedom's Journal was the expression of a force and energy that paved the way for thousands of other Black newspapers which stood at the forefront of the battle for freedom, decency, human rights, civil liberties and respect for people of color.

The Pittsburgh Courier, the Chicago Defender, the New York Amsterdam News and more recent additions to the list of outstanding voices of Black people, including the CaribNews, have and are making names for themselves with their clarion calls for social and economic justice and racial equality in government, business, the church and other areas of life.

That Procope was able to lead the Amsterdam News with distinction in the 1970s and early 1980s before he left to devote his full energies to the family business is a measure of the man who like Russwurm traced the roots of his family tree to the Caribbean. His steady hand as the publisher of the Amsterdam News, one of the country's most important Black newspapers, contributed to its viability and while he may not have always pleased all sections of the Black community he certainly made his mark as a voice of reason and frankness, two highly cherished commodities which are often missing in our everyday lives.

As a co-owner and the publisher of the paper, Procope established a powerful presence and became a major asset as an advocate for Blacks. He routinely assumed that role with both dignity and clarity, never shrinking from the task at hand, even if it meant stating a fact of life that some Blacks found unpleasant to mention.

This sophisticated, business-like an elegant 20th century man recognized that the power of Black business, whether in newspaper publishing, insurance or in other ven-

tures could be magnified through firm but behind the scenes action or public steps grounded in principle but devoid of fear.

In his later years, after leaving the Amsterdam News in 1982, a decade after he had joined with a group of Blacks who acquired the paper, Procope, joined E. Bowman, an insurance company founded by his wife, Ernesta G. Procope. He served as Chairman of the Board of the company, which served not only poor Black homeowners of Brooklyn but Fortune 500 companies whose shares were traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

Both Mr. Procope and his wife were noted for their business acumen and their philanthropic impulses.

His passing due to complication from pneumonia leaves the City, the business community and the Caribbean much poorer.

His wife, two sisters, Dr. Jean Martin of Connecticut and Junelle Terrell of Manhattan and other relatives survive him.

HONORING SPECIALIST ERNEST W. DALLAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Specialist Ernest W. Dallas, Jr. of Denton, Texas. Specialist Dallas was killed in action on July 24, 2005, in Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. According to initial reports, Specialist Dallas died when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle.

Specialist Dallas was assigned to K Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colorado.

Specialist Dallas' family resides in Denton, Texas. I would like to extend my most heartfelt sympathy and condolences to his family and friends who have suffered this loss.

CAREFUL AND DELIBERATE ACTION BEST ON EMINENT DOMAIN REFORMS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, many of us have serious concerns about the recent decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of Kelo v. New London and the potential effects on private property owners from local governments' exercise of the power of eminent domain.

Because of those concerns, I joined in voting for H. Res. 340, expressing disapproval of that decision, which was passed by the House last month.

However, as I said then, although I agreed with the resolution's statement that Congress could seek to "address through legislation any abuses of eminent domain by State and local government," I think we should be reluctant to take actions to curb what some—perhaps even a temporary majority—in Congress might consider improper actions by a State or local government.

The States, through their legislatures or in some cases by direct popular vote, can put

limits on the use of eminent domain by their agencies or local governments. I think this would be the best way to address potential abuses, and I think we in Congress should consider taking action to impose our ideas of proper limits only as a last resort.

So, I am glad to note that in Colorado discussion is already underway regarding possible changes to our laws that would modify the scope of eminent domain authority available to local governments.

A good example of that discussion is a recent editorial in Grand Junction's Daily Sentinel, which notes with approval a proposal for an amendment to the Colorado constitution but points out that its proponents should be cautious in their approach.

I think the editorial's points are well taken. I attach its full text and commend it to the attention of all our colleagues.

[From Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel, July 21, 2005]

VOTERS COULD CHECK EMINENT-DOMAIN ABUSE

State Rep. Al White, R-Winter Park, is joining a host of state government officials around the country who want tougher state rules on government's use of eminent domain to condemn private property.

Efforts are being pushed in at least 25 states in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling last month that said the city of New London, Conn., could condemn homes in an older middle-class neighborhood and turn them over to private developers for razing to build condos, a hotel, athletic clubs and other amenities.

Millions of Americans were understandably angered by the ruling. It opens the possibility that any home or small business can be condemned if some developer can demonstrate that his plans can produce more revenue for local government.

White says he intends to push a measure in the Legislature for a state constitutional amendment that would prohibit local government from taking land for private gain. If it doesn't pass the Legislature, he said he will mount a petition drive to get it on the 2006 ballot.

White's concerns for the rights of private property owners are well taken. But White should be cautious about overreaching. There are some cases where it may be legitimate for government to condemn private property and allow another private entity to benefit from it.

Even before this June's ruling, the Supreme Court had long held that governments can use eminent domain to condemn private property and turn it over to other private developers in order to eliminate blight.

Although "blight" may sometimes be poorly defined, eliminating health and safety issues associated with severely run-down or neglected properties meets a legitimate public need.

White's proposal or any other aimed at reducing the potential for eminent-domain abuse in Colorado must recognize that public need and provide clearly worded conditions under which it could be allowed.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF CORPORAL GEORGE ALLEN ALFORD, JR.

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Corporal