

kept a clean home rather she wanted to be remembered for having helped others.

My friend, your wish has been granted. Through your words and deeds you have left an indelible mark on both the great state of Texas and on our Nation.

[From the New York Times,
September 14, 2006]

FORMER TEXAS GOV. ANN RICHARDS DIES
(By The Associated Press)

AUSTIN, TEXAS (AP)—Former Gov. Ann Richards, the witty and flamboyant Democrat who went from homemaker to national political celebrity, died Wednesday night after a battle with cancer, a family spokeswoman said. She was 73.

She died at home surrounded by her family, the spokeswoman said. Richards was found to have esophageal cancer in March and underwent chemotherapy treatments.

The silver-haired, silver-tongued Richards said she entered politics to help others—especially women and minorities who were often ignored by Texas' male-dominated establishment.

"I did not want my tombstone to read, 'She kept a really clean house.' I think I'd like them to remember me by saying, 'She opened government to everyone,'" Richards said shortly before leaving office in January 1995.

Whether or not she succeeded at that, there was no question she cracked open the door.

Her single term as governor had ended in a 1994 defeat to George W. Bush, who went from besting his father's silver-haired critic to the governor's office to the presidency.

"Texas has lost one of its great daughters," President Bush said in a statement after learning of Richards' death.

Two years before she was elected governor of Texas, Ann Richards electrified the 1988 Democratic National Convention with a keynote speech in which she joked that the Republican presidential nominee, George H.W. Bush, had been "born with a silver foot in his mouth."

A longtime champion of women and minorities in government who was serving at the time as Texas state treasurer, she won cheers when she reminded delegates that Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did, "only backwards and in high heels."

As governor, Richards appointed the first black University of Texas regent, the first crime victim on the state Criminal Justice Board, the first disabled person on the human services board and the first teacher to lead the State Board of Education. Under Richards, the fabled Texas Rangers pinned stars on their first black and female officers.

Ron Kirk, the black former mayor of Dallas, said Richards helped him get his first political internship during a state constitutional convention in 1974 and later, as governor, made him secretary of state.

"She set the table so somebody like me could become mayor of Dallas," Kirk said.

She also polished Texas' image, courted movie producers, campaigned for the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico, oversaw a doubling of the state prison system and presided over rising student achievement scores and plunging dropout rates.

Throughout her years in office, her popularity remained high. One poll put it at over 60 percent the year she lost her re-election bid to Bush.

Republican Texas Gov. Rick Perry described Richards as "the epitome of Texas politics: a figure larger than life who had a gift for captivating the public with her great wit."

"Ann loved Texas, and Texans loved her," President Bush said. "As a public servant,

she earned respect and admiration. Ann became a national role model, and her charm, wit and candor brought a refreshing vitality to public life."

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, said Richards never lost her zest for life.

"I wrote her a note when I heard about her cancer and she wrote me back a wonderful letter. She was upbeat and positive and I think she was going to go out with guns blazing," Hutchison said Wednesday night.

Richards was diagnosed with cancer in March and underwent chemotherapy treatments.

Her four adult children spent the day with her before she died Wednesday night at her home in Austin, said Cathy Bonner, a longtime family friend and family spokeswoman.

Born in Lakeview, Texas, in 1933, Richards grew up near Waco, married civil rights lawyer David Richards and spent her early adulthood volunteering in campaigns and raising four children. She often said the hardest job she ever had was as a public school teacher at Fulmore Junior High School in Austin.

In the early 1960s, she helped form the North Dallas Democratic Women, "basically to allow us to have something substantive to do; the regular Democratic Party and its organization was run by men who looked on women as little more than machine parts."

Richards served on the Travis County Commissioners Court in Austin for six years before jumping to a bigger arena in 1982 when her election as state treasurer made her the first woman elected statewide in nearly 50 years.

But politics took a toll. It cost her a marriage and forced her in 1980 to seek treatment for alcoholism.

"I had seen the very bottom of life," she once recalled. "I was so afraid I wouldn't be funny anymore. I just knew that I would lose my zany and my sense of humor. But I didn't. Recovery turned out to be a wonderful thing."

After her re-election defeat, Richards went on to give speeches, work as a commentator for Cable News Network and serve as a senior adviser in the New York office of Public Strategies.

In her last 10 years, Richards worked for many social causes and helped develop the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, scheduled to open in Austin in 2007.

Richards said she never missed being in public office. She grinned when asked what she might have done differently had she known she would be a one-term governor.

"Oh," she said, "I would probably have raised more hell."

HONORING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL
SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate October as National Spina Bifida Awareness Month. There are an estimated 70,000 people in the United States who are affected by Spina Bifida, the most common, permanently disabling birth defect. Of particular concern is that members of the Hispanic community are disproportionately at risk of a Spina Bifida pregnancy. The rate of Spina Bifida in the Hispanic population is almost seven in 10,000 births, nearly 40 percent higher than the non-Hispanic rate. However, fortunately there are steps that can be taken to reduce that risk.

An important goal of National Spina Bifida Awareness Month is increasing awareness and consumption of—a simple vitamin that can help reduce the risk of Spina Bifida. Recent studies have shown that if all women of childbearing age were to consume 400 micrograms of folic acid daily prior to becoming pregnant and throughout the first trimester of pregnancy, the incidence of Spina Bifida could be reduced by up to 70 percent. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Spina Bifida Association (SBA), all women of child-bearing age should consume a vitamin every day which provides them with 400 micrograms of folic acid. Multi-vitamins with folic acid or folic acid supplements can be found in the local grocery, pharmacy, or discount store.

Unfortunately at the current time, imported corn flours—unlike most wheat flour and cereal products—are not enriched with folic acid. Which means a majority of the corn-based products sold in the United States and consumed by the Hispanic community does not contain this important vitamin. To address this disparity and ensure that the foods consumed by the Hispanic community in the United States are enriched with folic acid, in July of this year, CDC, SBA, the National Council of La Raza, Wal-Mart, and Gruma announced an important initiative that has the potential to reduce the incidence of Spina Bifida among all babies by 70 percent by helping increase the intake of this nutrient among women.

With proper health care and support, people affected by Spina Bifida can live productive and fulfilling lives. In addition to supporting efforts to prevent Spina Bifida, I also urge additional federal attention to—and funding of—efforts, like the National Spina Bifida Program, to improve the quality-of-life for all who are affected by this birth defect. I would like to thank the SBA and its Florida chapters for their work on Spina Bifida Awareness Month and for being steadfast in their commitment to helping prevent and reduce Spina Bifida, particularly among the Hispanic community in the United States.

HONORING CHUCK GESCHKE AND
JOHN WARNOCK FOR THEIR IN-
NOVATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS IN
THE TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Chuck Geschke and Mr. John Warnock, founders of Adobe Systems, Inc. Although each man is most definitely worthy of his own separate congressional accolade, it is their teamwork and their shared passion that created a company that invented new forms of communication that assists thousands if not millions of people on a day-to-day basis.

Mr. Geschke and Mr. Warnock are industry pioneers in the true spirit of Silicon Valley. Prior to co-founding Adobe, Geschke and Warnock worked at Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center, PARC. Unable to convince

Xerox management of the commercial value of Mr. Warnock's Interpress graphics language for controlling printing, the two boldly left Xerox to start Adobe. At their new company, they developed an equivalent technology, PostScript, from scratch and brought it to market.

Today, their technology is ubiquitous. It assists hundreds, if not thousands of businesspeople, families, artists, entrepreneurs and dreamers in sharing their ideas across platforms and without boundaries.

Their ignition of the desktop publishing revolution through PostScript technology created new opportunities for the use, digitization and compression of ideas, images, and text. Their vision has evolved into a multi-solution approach to various challenges that include household names such as Acrobat, Illustrator and Photoshop—no longer a circus performer, an artistic occupation and a place to get film developed—but cool new ways to communicate, efficiently and clearly.

Geschke and Warnock's entrepreneurial success has been chronicled by some of the country's most influential business and computer industry publications, and they have received numerous awards for technical and managerial achievement, including their most recent, the Medal of Achievement Award from the American Electronics Association.

Innovation is rarely the effort of one person or one idea, but is rather the symbiosis of knowledge, intellect, genius, creativity, entrepreneurship, risk-taking and, in Silicon Valley, a kind of fleeting wing-and-a-prayer faith that things will turn out for the best. Mr. Geschke and Mr. Warnock have certainly filled the giant footsteps of their predecessors by taking their bold idea, based upon well-studied science and invention, moving forward with it and daring to do the impossible.

It is an honor to stand here in the shadow of their achievements and thank them for their contributions and the example they have set for the hopeful engineers, entrepreneurs and businesspeople of the coming generations.

A TRIBUTE TO BALTIMORE COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY, SANDRA O'CONNOR

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise before you today to salute a woman who has spent many years working towards bettering the quality of life in the State of Maryland. Sadly, after 32 years of service the eight time elected Maryland State Attorney, Sandra O'Connor, will give up her post. She is the longest serving prosecutor in the State of Maryland.

As a former prosecutor, I had the privilege of working under Sandy during her tenure. I have great respect and admiration for the work she has done over the last 32 years. She continuously worked to support victims and witnesses. In fact, she is responsible for creating the first unit in Maryland to assist victims and witnesses. Mrs. O'Connor cracked down on criminals by establishing tough standards for people who use handguns as well as commit violent crimes in Baltimore

County. As a direct result of her leadership, Baltimore County has the most offenders serving no-parole sentences in Maryland. She has also established a Child Abuse and Sexual Offense Unit, and a Repeat Offender Unit. In addition, she has established programs for Rape Awareness and "Better Safe Than Sorry".

Without a doubt, this is a woman of great caliber. Her grace, dignity, and unparalleled determination set her apart from so many in her field. She worked tirelessly through the years to remain free from partisan views and instead focused on how to better assist Maryland citizens.

Mrs. O'Connor not only devoted her time to the State's Attorney for Baltimore County office, but also to a number of other organizations. She is the Vice-President and Director of the National District Attorney's Association; a past president of the Maryland State Attorney's Association; and she was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors for the State Justice Institute and the Advisory Board for the National Information Center. Mrs. O'Connor has also been honored by a number of organizations for her outstanding service. In addition to serving on these boards, Sandy also lectures at the National College of District Attorneys and in 1991 she was a recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award.

As a graduate of Catonsville Senior High, Indiana University, and Indiana University School of Law she has made her alma maters proud. Mrs. O'Connor has set the standard extremely high and leaves big shoes to fill. Confidently, I can say that she is the best in this field and Baltimore County was lucky to have her for so long.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to salute State's Attorney for Baltimore County, Sandra O'Connor, for a remarkable job. She will always be remembered for raising the bar and setting the precedent for future Baltimore County State's Attorneys.

IN HONOR OF SEYMOUR ROBINSON, MAY 24, 1916—SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Seymour Robinson, a passionate advocate, a loving family man, and a good friend who passed away on Wednesday, September 13, 2006. Family and friends will be gathering for a memorial service on October 1 in Los Angeles to honor Seymour's long and full life, which was marked by a remarkable family, dedicated community service, and incredible friendships.

When an email came through from "SEYNITA@aol.com," you always knew you were in for a treat. Seymour reached out to so many of us on so many days—with emails containing an interesting article, a good joke, a personal observation, or a call to action. His email distribution list included members of Congress, community and business leaders, neighbors, friends, and just about anyone who was willing to sign up. So when the message arrived not long ago from SEYNITA@aol.com with the subject line "Seymour Robinson memorial service," everyone from our Nation's

leaders to faraway friends stopped in our tracks. Even when our loved ones and friends reach the amazing age of 90, we are still unprepared and deeply struck by their deaths. We come to rely on them to always be there, so that they might bestow upon us the strength and wisdom that we both need and appreciate.

Seymour brought contagious energy and vigor to his life's activities. A tireless advocate who was always there to roll up his sleeves and fight, Seymour fought as a labor organizer for living wages, as a community organizer for racial integration and harmony, and as a political coordinator for AARP/Vote. While serving on the Mayor's Advisory Committee, he helped former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan govern better. During my tenure here in this body, he has helped me serve the interests of our seniors better through his AARP/Vote advocacy.

And a special note about Seymour's service to our country during World War II.

Seymour received the Croix de Guerre for his contributions during the D-Day invasion and the liberation of Paris. Our country owes a debt of gratitude to veterans like Seymour who fought on the battlefields of yesteryear for the freedoms we hold today.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to his beloved wife of 60 years, Anita Robinson; children: David, Lorraine, and Billy Robinson; and his granddaughters: Rachel and Mara Woods-Robinson. Rarely do partnerships like Anita and Seymour's achieve the depth of commitment they had. To see Seymour light up when sharing a story about their travels was to see a man so passionately in love with his wife and so proud and content with their life together.

Mr. Speaker, it is with heart-felt sorrow, yet great pride and admiration that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Seymour Robinson. And though we are all comforted knowing that Seymour rests in peace, we also know that we have marching orders and must continue fighting for social justice in his honor.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT ENHANCEMENTS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6062, "the Community Development Enhancements Act of 2006." I want to thank Mr. FRANK for sponsoring this bill, and our distinguished Chairman Mr. OXLEY, who is an original sponsor of the bill. The bill will enhance the community development investments made by financial institutions.

The bill has two major provisions. One provision would increase the amount of investments that a financial institution can make for community development from 10 percent to 15 percent. This increase in the amount that banks can invest in such activities will enable the banks to invest more of its resources in investments that will directly benefit communities and low and moderate income persons.

Another provision directs portions of the investments made by the financial institutions to