

develop, the water-marketing agreements that helped bring the business world and the urban water community on board. His work on water marketing has always been ahead of his time: he was early to the idea that market forces can be brought to bear on conservation and the protection of water and other public goods.

This is a great example of Tom's ability to look at new ideas and adapt them to environmental improvements, which has always been an incredible strength, one matched by very few people—too few, really—in the world of environmental policymaking.

Nothing in California water politics is easy, as the people gathered in Sacramento tonight can attest, and Tom is one of the very few people who can broker an agreement between the north and the south, between State and Federal politicians, between Democrats and Republicans, and of course, between Democrats and other Democrats.

Tom is a great friend, and a great ally. I have relied on his counsel for 30 years, and whenever a new issue crops up that requires an innovative strategy, I turn to him—and so do many, many others.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself, my staff, and all of our colleagues in Congress who have benefited from his guidance and advice, it is my honor to recognize Tom Graff.

HONORING GAIL SWARD

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gail Nanette Sward for her dedication to her family, business and community. Mrs. Sward passed away at her home in Oakdale CA, surrounded by her family on Sunday, March 2, 2008.

Gail Sward was born and raised in Stanislaus County; she attended Turlock schools and graduated from Turlock High School in 1959. On March 1, 1966, Sward Trucking began operating out of Oakdale, as a sole proprietorship and became a California Corporation on September 1, 1977. Mrs. Sward was the co-founder of Sward Trucking and helped to build it from the ground up. Today Sward Trucking operates 50 tractors and 100 trailer units to transport a number of commodities including: lumber, roofing, insulation and related building materials, corrugated paper, waste paper, glass containers, empty cans, plastic bottles, case goods and plastic pipe. The company transports goods throughout California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. Mrs. Sward was only more dedicated to one other thing in her life, her family.

Mrs. Sward was a mother, a businesswoman, a community advocate and leader. She was a past president of the Oak Valley Hospital Foundation, past president of OLGA, director and past president of the Stanislaus County Fair Board. She was also a board member of Private Industry Council and past president of the Oak Valley Hospital Board. She has been honored for her services in a number of ways. In 1996 Mrs. Sward was a delegate to the Republican Convention. In 1998 she was named the Stanislaus County Outstanding Woman of the Year and the 1999 Legislative Woman of the Year.

Mrs. Sward is survived by her husband of 47 years, Vic Sward, her children; Sandra West and Eric Sward; her grandchildren; Sara Shipman, Nic West and her great grandchildren; Cameron, Kaidyn, Cole and Case.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Gail Sward for her dedication to her family, her business and her community. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring her life and wishing the best for her family.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ZANE STATE COLLEGE FOR ITS NO. 9 RANKING OF BEST 2-YEAR COLLEGES IN THE NATION, AS REPORTED BY WASHINGTON MONTHLY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Zane State College in Zanesville, Ohio, has achieved the distinction of being ranked the 9th Best 2-Year College in the Nation, as reported by Washington Monthly magazine.

Whereas, this ranking is based on Zane State College's graduation rates that are approaching three times the national average and on student feedback as collected in the Community College Survey of Student Engagement, which measures how well the Nation's 2-year colleges use teaching techniques that lead to better learning; and

Whereas, 43 percent of all college freshmen begin their education at 2-year institutions, which is an important reason for comparing effectiveness and student experiences at 2-year colleges; and

Whereas, Zane State College's academic challenge, high student-faculty interaction, support for learners, and above-average graduation rates are testaments to Zane State College's impressive ability to meet the needs of its students, many of whom are the first in their families to ever attend college; and

Whereas, collaborative support from the community surrounding Zane State College has played an important role in the success of these students as well; and

Whereas, Zane State College's well-deserved ranking is also due to the highly effective leadership demonstrated by its president and its supportive boards. Thanks to this leadership, and to a philosophy of "personal touch" demonstrated by faculty and staff, Zane State College has rightfully earned its rank as one of the best 2-year colleges in America; and be it

Resolved, that along with its friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Zane State College for its outstanding service to students, families, and the Zanesville community. Congratulations to Zane State College on its ranking as number 9 among 2-year colleges in the U.S.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RIC KELLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have remained in Orlando, with my wife and our new daughter who was born on Monday, March 3. If I had been present yesterday, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall 103: "nay"; Rollcall No. 104: "nay"; Rollcall No. 105: "yea"; Rollcall No. 106: "nay"; Rollcall No. 107: "nay."

WOMEN'S HERITAGE MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's Heritage Month to commend the accomplishments of two astonishing black women, Dr. Beverly Mitchell Brooks and Ms. Nellie Ruth Riley Lewis of Dallas, Texas.

Born, raised and educated in south Dallas, Ms. Mitchell-Brooks received a master's degree in genetics from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas, becoming the first African-American to achieve the degree in pure science from the school. In 1990, she became the first woman to head the Urban League of Greater Dallas, which has set the path for future generations of young women. Under her leadership, the Urban League built its first permanent headquarters and state of the art technology center in the heart of Oak Cliff.

Currently serving as president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Dallas, Dr. Brooks has also served as executive director of the Greater Dallas Community Relations Commission, director of public affairs for Dallas Area Rapid Transit, and director of the Martin Luther King Center.

I pay tribute to another prominent Dallas community leader, my dear friend who left us on March 1, 2008, Nellie Ruth Riley Lewis. Throughout her life, Nellie Lewis was a well-known, respected figure in Dallas who leaves behind a legacy of accomplishments that will be remembered for years to come.

Mrs. Lewis moved to Dallas in 1977 with her late husband Dr. Lewis, where they were both employed with the Dallas Independent School District. During her 20 years with DISD, Mrs. Lewis' duties included serving as an instructional specialist, a curriculum coordinator and an area director. She also served as director of learning services, the administrative assistant to four superintendents and supervisor to a group of 10 elementary school principals.

In 1997, Mrs. Lewis received the Charles D. Moody Founder's Award, presented by the National Alliance of Black School Educators. As our Nation experiences great technological innovation and success in the global market, the value of an education takes on even greater importance. Mrs. Lewis has exhibited the characteristics we seek in our educators, school administrators, and community activists.

On behalf of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, I am honored to recognize and commend these two prominent women Dr. Beverly