

Mitchell Brooks and Ms. Nellie Ruth Riley Lewis of Dallas, Texas.

HONORING TANYA MARTIN OUBRE PEKEL

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the late Tanya Martin Oubre Pekel of Miami, Florida.

On Monday, May 22, 2006, this great pioneering young woman succumbed to a nearly 3-year battle with breast cancer at the age of 41. Her untimely passing will truly leave a deep void in our midst.

A native of Miami, Mrs. Martin Pekel was born on October 3, 1964. She graduated with honors from North Miami Senior High School. During that time she served as a page for U.S. Representative William Lehman and worked as a clerk for attorney H.T. Smith. Later, she earned a bachelor's degree from Duke University, and in 1989 she received her juris doctorate from Duke's School of Law.

Mrs. Martin Pekel continued on to work as a corporate attorney before being appointed a White House Fellow by President Clinton in 1995. Under this appointment, she became an associate director of Education and Policy Planning in the White House. In 1999, she accepted the position of Chief of Staff to Superintendent Patricia Harvey of Saint Paul Public Schools in St. Paul, Minnesota and served in the position for 6 years. In 2003, she was named one of that city's up and coming leaders.

Her commitment to public service and her community was evident from a young age. Throughout her life, she taught music, drama, dance, and Sunday school to children in an inner-city ministry. In addition, she volunteered as a tutor and mentor for at-risk youth.

Tanya Martin Oubre Pekel's life was a triumph. She was blessed with a loving family who took pleasure in every aspect of her life and her interests. Though she was taken from them far too early in her life, memories of her will live on in the heart of her family forever.

I pay tribute to Mrs. Martin Pekel, and I mourn her loss. She will be missed by all who knew her. I offer my heartfelt condolences to her family—her mother, Marcia Saunders; father, Montez Martin Jr.; husband, Kent; daughters, Lauren and Victoria; son, Adam; sisters, Terrie Rayburn and Emily Martin; brother, Montez C. Martin III; and grandmother, Elise Martin.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 5, 2008*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to express my strong support for H.R. 1424, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addic-

tion Equity Act of 2007. As a former social worker serving in the United States Congress, I am a proud cosponsor of this bill and am pleased to see it passed in the House of Representatives.

In my previous career, I worked with people affected by mental illnesses and substance abuse. Having seen the devastating effects these illnesses have on people's lives and their communities, I am glad my fellow Members of Congress also recognize that mental health services are absolutely critical to helping individuals regain control over their lives.

For years, people with mental illnesses have faced restrictions on the number of visits they can make to their providers and financial limitations which are either too restrictive or too costly for them to receive the treatment they require. With this bill, we empower people to seek the help and support they need. By helping make mental health services more accessible, we aid people to take a very important step toward overcoming the technical and social psychological barriers surrounding mental health.

Mental illnesses, like most other medical conditions, can be alleviated with treatment. When left untreated, these illnesses worsen and become a larger burden for the affected person. Because treatment is available and effective, it is a great injustice to allow financial and procedural restrictions to become yet another barrier people with mental illnesses have to overcome. Therefore, it is reasonable and fair that these illnesses receive the similar type of attention and medical coverage as other health conditions.

Mental health is a fundamental element of overall health wellness which has not been fully recognized in the past. I am confident this bill will make it possible for millions of people to improve their quality of life. I commend my colleagues for making this a reality for many of their constituents.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN M. "TERRY" MYLNE

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California, are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. John "Terry" Mylne is one of these individuals. On December 30, 2007, John's term representing Western Municipal Water District on the Metropolitan Water District board of directors ended. He was recently recognized for his dedicated service and retirement at a December board meeting of the Western Municipal Water District.

A fourth generation Riverside native, Terry Mylne represented the District for 29 years. He served as a Western board member from 1978 to 1995 and was on the Metropolitan board representing Western since 1993.

Prior to and during his tenure with the District, Terry excelled in every endeavor. He ob-

tained his bachelor's degree in engineering and master's degree in business administration from Stanford University, before beginning his career as manager of irrigation science for the Toro Company. He was elected to serve as a Western board member from 1978 to 1995, and served as Western's representative on the board for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California since 1993.

Terry was appointed to many Metropolitan committees during his years representing Western's interests, including serving as chairman of the finance and insurance committee, engineering and operations committee, land committee, committee on legislation, subcommittee on annexations, the facility naming ad hoc committee, and the electric industry restructuring ad hoc committee.

Terry is an active member of the Association of California Water Agencies; he has also served as director of its municipal water district section, its Joint Powers Insurance Authority board, its executive committee, and as a member of its directors and building committee.

Terry's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. I am proud to call John a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he ends his term.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING HOCKING COLLEGE FOR THE RECEIPT OF THE 2008 COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION AWARD

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Hocking College celebrates its receipt of the 2008 Council for Higher Education Accreditation Award with great joy; and

Whereas, this recognition is the result of what a hard-working people began in 1969; and

Whereas, Hocking College has unwaveringly served Ohio, its citizens, and the higher education community by providing higher education within the State of Ohio; and

Whereas, Hocking College has availed itself to prepare students in a more comprehensive manner to adapt to the needs of an increasingly technical and communicably diverse working society by voluntarily incorporating communications requirements into its curriculum; and

Whereas, Hocking College looks forward to continuing service to the citizens of Ohio and providing outstanding examples of higher education; be it

*Resolved*, that along with its friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Hocking College for its service, dedication and award.