

California State president of Adelante, commissioner on the Civil Service Commission of Kern County, president of MAPA of Kern County and State 15th Senate District, State and National vice president for the Mexican American Political Association, and State vice president of the Latino American Political Association, in addition to being a member of many more.

Furthermore, Angel's influence in the Central Valley as a successful advocate for health safety regarding water contamination distinguishes this man as a genuine fighter and champion for Latino children and families everywhere.

Apart from owning Diaz Enterprise. Angel is also the founder and CEO of California Migrant Leadership Pre-school. It is through this school that Angel is able to successfully convey the importance of establishing a solid foundation for the educational development needs of children in order to prepare them for further academic advancement. As a result of his involvement with this school, Angel has met with a wide spectrum of politicians and community leaders to compel them to recognize the positive ripple effect it creates for our society.

Angel Diaz is not only an empowering leader, but a true friend not only to me and my family and the Latino community. I am grateful for Angel's admirable dedication to instilling positive change and leading an exemplarily life, one of whose footsteps we all hope to follow. God Bless him for love of country and mankind.

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE  
FOUNDING OF FORT FAIRFIELD

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2008*

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the families who 150 years ago came to the banks of the Aroostook River following the Aroostook War and the Webster-Ashburton Treaty which paved their way. Working together in the midst of wilderness, the community supported a school and increasing amounts of small businesses. Finally, in March, 1858, the Secretary of State certified that an act to incorporate the Town of Fort Fairfield had been signed by Governor Lot M. Morrill.

Today, equipped with the same community spirit and sense of common purpose, the people of Fort Fairfield continue to embrace the challenges and opportunities of living and working on the border in northern Maine. Their commitment and the commitment of their ancestors are to be commended. It is these individuals and families along with the many other hardworking people of Maine that I remember every time I cast a vote here on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of Fort Fairfield and I am pleased to have this opportunity to help this community celebrate its 150th Anniversary.

HONORING ELLA RILEY GARDNER

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2008*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ella Riley Gardner who after thirty-four years of service with the New York City Department of Education retired in 2004. Born in Beaufort, South Carolina, she is the only child of Dan and Idelle Riley. She is a wife and mother of Elliot, Michelle, and Deisha, all college graduates and the grandmother of Shantrelle, Jonelle, Terrell, and Michaela.

Ella's motto, "Love your calling with a passion; it is the meaning of your life" saw her teaching English for twenty-three years where he enjoyed the richness of literature, poetry, novels, short stories, essays, etc. from all over the world. Her greatest joy was to see the expression of awe and wonder on the faces of her students as he unfolded the themes and life lessons derived from literature. Her greatest satisfaction was to know that they had learned and achieved as a result of her diligent and thorough instruction.

Ella received many accolades during her tenure as teach, including "Teacher of the Year" in 1992. From that year until her retirement, were spent in various capacities of administration and supervision: Site Facilitator for District 5 Professional Development Laboratory; Department Chairperson, Literacy Staff Developer, Assessment Coordinator, Assistant Principal at I.S. 195 and administrator of a \$350,000 Comprehensive School Reform Technology Grant from 2002 until her retirement.

As an avid community servant, Ella serves children and women in two community-based shelters, adopted schools and other community concerns through two professional organizations; the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa and the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs. She is currently in her second term as President of the Brooklyn Club. There, she was instrumental in securing an endowment fund that provides \$22,000 yearly for five years to Brooklyn Club scholarship applicants.

Madam Speaker, Ella Riley Gardner's educational preparation includes a B.A. in English, City College New York (1971); MA in Reading CCNY (1973); MS in Educational Administration and Supervision, Pace University (1987); Paralegal Certificate, Long Island University (1989); Professional Diploma in Teacher Leadership, Teacher Leadership Institute at NYU (1993). As a lifelong learner, Ms. Gardner continues to enhance her knowledge and often-times attends countless workshops and seminars that expound the latest developments in literacy.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to pay tribute to Ella Riley Gardner for her selfless dedication to her passion—her calling as a teacher.

DANIELLE LEEPER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Danielle Leeper of Kingston, Missouri. Danielle is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Danielle has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Danielle has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Danielle Leeper for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scout Gold Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF PEGGY DODDS

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2008*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize Peggy Dodds, a native South Carolinian for her service, loyalty, and dedication upon her retirement from the South Carolina Research Authority, SCRA.

Before her commitment to SCRA, Mrs. Dodds worked for Columbia College for 13 years, concluding her tenure as the executive assistant to the president.

On its upcoming 25th anniversary, SCRA is looking forward to celebrating its two and a half decades of building and managing multi-organization teams for industry, government, and academia to advance our country's technical competitiveness. During Mrs. Dodds' service to SCRA, she dedicated herself to the premise that SCRA was founded upon—to more quickly deploy our research successes for practical and competitive uses. This is still the bedrock of the organization across many disciplines, which include: manufacturing, shipbuilding, composites, law enforcement, homeland security, health care, and energy.

Mrs. Dodds rose to the position of director of corporate relations and has been an integral contributor, often behind the scenes, to SCRA's many successes. As Bill Maloney, SCRA's CEO and president, has said, "in a variety of ways and across a variety of programs, Peggy has provided consistently effective interface and execution capabilities on behalf of both the CEO and the entire company, punctuated with a unique signature of polite, pleasant professionalism."

During Mrs. Dodds' 18 years of service to SCRA, she has skillfully served and admirably performed in her capacity. Mrs. Dodds actively coordinated official business matters with the State's General Assembly and the South Carolina congressional delegation on behalf of SCRA presidents. Other responsibilities included scheduling and interaction with the