

HONORING THE LIFE OF DON
DAVIS

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to honor the life of a good friend, outstanding Florida and community leader State Representative Don Davis. Don passed away after a brave battle with cancer on April 10, 2008. He represented part of St. Johns County and Florida's First Coast since 2000.

Those who knew him as their Representative in Tallahassee and the People throughout the State of Florida who worked with him lost one of its most capable and dedicated public servants. He served his Nation as a decorated Korean War veteran. He served his community as a true gentleman and someone who was respected by everyone who was honored to know him.

Before representing the people of Jacksonville in the State Legislature, Don was elected to the Jacksonville City Council and was elected several terms as president of the council. His leadership and great sense of humor were special hallmarks by which he will always be remembered. Colleagues remember Don as always willing to lend a helping hand in no matter how big or small a task.

Don was devoted to his community as a leader in the American Cancer Society, the Florida Theatre, The First Tee of Jacksonville, Prisoners of Christ, and other organizations.

Born in Okemah, Oklahoma, he attended the Los Angeles City College (1949–1950), University of Redlands (1950), and the University of California-Los Angeles (1959).

The Jacksonville area, the State of Florida, and our Nation has lost a wonderful and distinguished leader.

To his wife, Alice, and two sons, Donald Jr. and Dean; and on behalf of the House of Representatives, we extend our deepest sympathy.

HONORING BRIDGES . . . A COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEM, INC. AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to Bridges . . . A Community Support System, Inc. of Milford, Connecticut as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this outstanding organization dedicated to providing support and mental health services to those in need.

Originally founded in 1957 as the Milford Family Counseling Association, the organization's mission initially focused on addressing the mental health need of children in the Milford community. The organization expanded so did its scope of services—including adult psychiatric services, drug and alcohol prevention services and opening its doors to the neighboring communities of Orange and West

Haven. As the needs of our communities and its residents changed, so did the agency as well as its name. Designated in the 1990' by the State of Connecticut as the Local Mental Health Authority, the organization made its final name change in 1999 to Bridges . . . A Community Support System to better reflect its purpose and mission.

Today, Bridges, working with local agencies and organizations, is able to provide a multitude of programs to those most in need. From individual counseling to bereavement support; teenage drug and alcohol prevention to vocational and social rehabilitation services, Bridges and its dedicated staff have continually identified the changing needs of our community. The partnerships they have established allow them to provide comprehensive services to their clients—making a real difference in the lives of thousands of children and families.

In building upon the vision first established with the Milford Family Counseling Association, Bridges has been able to provide those coping with the challenges of mental illnesses with one of life's most precious gifts—hope. Through its gift of hope, Bridges has left an indelible mark on our community and the thousands of lives they have touched. In its fifty year history, Bridges has established itself as an invaluable resource as well as respected advocates—not only for their clients, but community leaders and policy-makers alike.

Today, Bridges is continuing its legacy of helping people live more fulfilling and productive lives by providing clients with "Pathways to Health, Hope, and Recovery." For its many invaluable contributions to our community and for all of their work on behalf of our children and families, I am proud to stand today and extend my sincere congratulations to the Bridges . . . A Community Support System on their 50th anniversary.

HONORING IRMA P. HALL

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Irma Hall, a grand American and educator, for her commitment to the arts and to the community of Dallas.

The daughter of Josephine Hall, Irma Dolores Player Hall was born in Beaumont, Texas. She was raised on the South Side of Chicago, Illinois, where her father was a saxophone player who performed jazz music. She then went on to attend Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa.

This native Texan taught school in Dallas ISD for 30 years inspiring many of our youth to succeed. Irma Hall retired from teaching in 1984.

An interest in acting eventually led her to co-find the Dallas Minority Regional Theater with Reginald Montgomery in 1973. She made her stage debut there in "Happy Endings." An acclaimed actress, Ms. Hall shined in such plays as "Raisin In the Sun," "Zooman and the Sign," and "Take a Giant Step."

Ms. Hall's career on the silver screen also began in 1973 after a director saw her at a poetry reading. An accomplished poet, Irma

Hall's reading was so poignant that Raymond St. Jacques cast her in the crime film *Book of Numbers*. This led to frequent television roles. In 1979, Ms. Hall appeared in "The Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders" and its 1980 sequel, Ron Howard's "Skyward." In 1981, she acted opposite Joanne Woodward in "Crisis at Central High."

Throughout the 1990s, Ms. Hall had roles in several well known feature films including "Backdraft," "Straight Talk," "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," and "Beloved." Her role in the film "A Family Thing" earned her acclaim and a Chicago Film Critics Association Award. In 1997, Ms. Hall was voted Chicagoan of the Year and also won an Image award for her role in the film "Soul Food."

Ms. Hall continued her television career in the early 2000s with roles in the television series "Soul Food," "A Girl Thing," and "All Souls." In 2004, she received the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival for her role as the landlady in the film "The Ladykillers."

In 2007, the UIL Competition was renamed in honor of Ms. Hall as the Irma P. Hall Theater Festival in order to honor her for her work and achievements.

The arts are, above all, about human communication and interaction. I am one who believes that Ms. Irma Hall has achieved the fullest definition of a role model, not only as a woman, an African American, and an artist, but as an ambassador of creativity and goodwill. She has shared the beauty of the arts and the written word with our multicultural community that is Dallas.

Today, Ms. Hall continues her work with the Dallas Minority Repertory Theater, the Artist & Elaine Thornton Foundation for the Arts, the African American Museum, the Afro American Artists Alliance, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and her membership at the Inspiration Boy of Christ Church.

Madam Speaker, on April 19, 2008, the Dallas community will gather at a special dinner to honor and celebrate Irma Hall's career. I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting an exceptional woman, Irma Hall, for her outstanding service and many contributions to Dallas, and to all who love the magic and vitality of art.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, on April 10th, 2008, I was unable to vote due to a prior commitment in my district. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on roll-call votes 178, 179, 180, 181, and 182.

HONORING ROBERT J. LEENEY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable career of Robert J. Leeney, a member of our local media community whose talent