

A TRIBUTE TO HELEN KLEBERG GROVES

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Helen Kleberg Groves, who will be honored on October 3, 2009 at the Autry National Center's Annual Gala, "Celebrate the Spirit: Women of the West." The Autry National Center's mission is to tell the stories of all the diverse peoples of the American West, and that is reflected in the themes of their Galas—this year's theme, 'Celebrate the Spirit: Women of the West' reflects the often neglected stories of Western women.

Helen Kleberg Groves is a true Texas cowgirl, a mother, a grandmother, an author, and a philanthropist with a heart as big as the King Ranch, her family home. Groves was born in San Antonio on October 10, 1927, the child of Robert J. Kleberg Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg. She was reared on the 825,000-acre ranch in South Texas, where she learned about ranching, line breeding, genetics, and working cattle from her father.

She attended Henrietta M. King High School in Kingsville; St. Mary's Hall in San Antonio; and Foxcroft School in Middleburg, Virginia. She also attended Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York. In addition to raising five daughters and a son, Groves made time for civic work while spending a lifetime in ranching and livestock. For more than 30 years, from 1956 to 1988, she was on the board of directors of King Ranch Inc.

She is president of the Robert J. Kleberg Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation, established in 1950 by her parents. The foundation has funded countless projects in Texas and across the country, particularly in the areas of biomedical research, health services, higher education, and veterinary and wildlife projects.

Ms. Kleberg Groves has been called an ambassador to the equine industry for her support of equine research and contributions to the development of the American Quarter Horse.

Known as the "First Lady of Cutting," Groves has spent decades breeding, raising, and riding cutting horses. She began competing in cutting horse events in 1972 and took many championships until she retired from competition. She is a member of the National Cutting Horse Association Hall of Fame, National Cowgirl Hall of Fame, and the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Among her numerous honors is the Order of Australia from the Governor General of Australia. She was only the second American to receive this award. She is emeritus director of the U.S. Equestrian Team and a lifetime vice president of the Texas and Southwest Cattle Raisers Association.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me in paying tribute to Helen Kleberg Groves, an inspiring individual—and true Woman of the West.

IN TRIBUTE TO GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING COACH RON MCCUNN

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to commend to the House the life and career of my friend and former wrestling coach, Ron McCunn, who passed away last month at age 63.

Ron McCunn coached at Graham High School in St. Paris, Ohio, for 23 years. During his career, he led Graham's wrestlers to their first three state championships (1982, 1998, and 2001). His hard work, dedication, and discipline not only brought national recognition to the wrestling program, but also had a positive impact on the students, athletes, and families whose lives he touched.

In addition to his coaching duties, Coach McCunn taught chemistry and physics at Graham.

Madam Speaker, a ceremony was held at Graham High School on Saturday, September 12, marking Coach McCunn's years of service and devotion to his students. I was honored to join former teammates, students, and friends from throughout the region in celebrating his contributions and accomplishments. I offer my sincerest condolences to his wife, Dale; their son, Steve; Ron's mother, Peggy; and all of their family and friends.

CONGRATULATING SCOTTSDALE DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF JAMES FORD

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Scottsdale Deputy Fire Chief James Ford for his induction into the Arizona Fire Service Hall of Fame on September 10, 2009. Chief Ford will be recognized for his continued dedication and service to the community. The Arizona Fire Service Hall of Fame recognizes those who make constructive contributions to their community.

Throughout his career, Chief Ford has worked tirelessly to promote the safety and security of the Scottsdale community, and his efforts have saved countless lives. He has dedicated much of his career to ensuring the safety of every community member by pushing for the installation of residential and commercial sprinkler systems. His pioneering research and advocacy on behalf of mandatory sprinkler systems, which activate automatically during a fire emergency to preserve lives and property, has established Scottsdale as a national and international leader in fire safety.

I am proud to represent such a compassionate and hard working individual in my district. Not only have his efforts benefited the community, but he has inspired communities elsewhere to develop and implement mandatory sprinkler ordinances.

Therefore, I urge you Madam Speaker to join me in recognizing and congratulating James Ford on his recent induction and his lasting contributions to his profession and community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on Monday, September 14, 2009, I missed three recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 696, "yea" on rollcall 697, and "yea" on rollcall 698.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY AVIATION DIRECTOR WILLIAM DECOTA

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life—and mourn the passing—of Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) Aviation Director William DeCota.

Bill DeCota was appointed director of the world's largest aviation system in 1999. As Aviation Director for PANYNJ, he supervised the management of a diverse portfolio of airports, from international hubs like Laganardia and Kennedy to Teterboro, a general aviation reliever airport located in my congressional district in New Jersey. Before assuming the position of Aviation Director, Bill served PANYNJ as Deputy Director of Aviation, Assistant Director for Business and Properties, and Manager of Business and Financial Services for the Aviation Department.

In all aspects of discharging his responsibilities, Bill was superlative. He oversaw the largest airport improvement program in the history of the United States, and he brought his keen expertise of airport congestion to bear on one of the Nation's most crowded air corridors. During my time in Congress, I have fought to reduce airport overcrowding and aircraft noise pollution, as well as increase safety at Teterboro and all of our national airports. In that fight, Bill was an ally, partner, mentor, and friend. His institutional knowledge and acute understanding of the difficulties faced by people living near airports, as well as his consistent good humor and positive outlook, made him indispensable. He will be sorely missed.

In the wake of his untimely passing, Bill leaves a legacy of safer air travel and improved quality of life for airport neighbors. He gave back to the community as richly and generously in his personal life as he did in his career, serving—in addition to positions on a variety of aviation-related boards—as president of the Queens Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Madam Speaker, Bill DeCota was a public servant of the highest order; humble, capable and knowledgeable. I rise today to applaud his achievements, mourn his passing, and express my heartfelt condolences to his friends, family and coworkers. New Jersey, and the country, are poorer for having lost him.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE
HOUSE REGARDING SEPTEMBER
11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the eighth anniversary of September 11th to commemorate this momentous day in American history. My heart goes out to the thousands of innocent people who were taken from their loved ones and fellow citizens, and I am mindful of the many sacrifices made by the members of our armed forces and their families as they stand in harm's way to protect our great nation.

The victims of the September 11th attacks were a microcosm of America. In the Twin Towers, on the hijacked planes, at the Pentagon, there were mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, friends; there were millionaire bond traders and minimum wage busboys; there were service men and women, police officers and firefighters; there were people of every race and religion, from dozens of countries, all with their own dreams and disappointments; all bound by an invisible thread . . . our common humanity. And we are forever bound to them, and to each other.

September 11th, 2001 was one of our nation's darkest days. But it illuminated some simple and important truths . . . that it means something special to be an American—something more than the happenstance of where you were born. It relates to the unending quest on the part of “we the people” to “form a more perfect union” and to a concept of the common good. Being an American means having a commitment to our collective well-being.

In memory of all those who perished on September 11th, in respect to the survivors, in gratitude to the rescuers, and for the sake of ourselves and our posterity, I recall the words of President Kennedy: “Let us not be blind to our differences—but let us also direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved. And if we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity. For, in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal.”

Mr. Speaker, during the vote on H. Res. 722, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the U.S. on September 11th, 2001, I was absent from the House. I want my colleagues and constituents of the 2nd District of Wisconsin to know that I intended to vote yes on this resolution. I am grateful to my colleagues, Mr. HOYER and Mr. BOEHNER, for their work in seeing it passed.

A PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING FLORENCE LEWIS ON ACHIEVING HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker,

Whereas, Florence Lewis will soon celebrate her 100th birthday; and

Whereas, Florence Lewis continues to be a positive influence on the lives of others and contributes to her state and country; and

Whereas, she strives to continue her good works of public service and provides inspiration, grace, and love to her family and her community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Florence Lewis for her contributions to her community and country.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 215 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Minority Business Development Agency, a member of the Department of Commerce.

Established on March 5, 1969, the Minority Business Development Agency is the only federal agency specifically created to foster the establishment and growth of minority-owned businesses in America. With five regional offices in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, New York and San Francisco, the Minority Business Development Agency network offers a broad range of services to minority entrepreneurs that are strategically located in areas with large concentrations of minority businesses. As a Representative of an area with a large concentration of minority-owned businesses, and as a business owner myself, I am especially aware of the necessity for the services provided by the Minority Business Development Agency business specialists.

Created in the midst of the Civil Rights Era, the Minority Business Development Agency has participated in many extraordinary events and left an impressionable footprint in its four decades of work. It participated with the International Trade Administration in the first trade mission to Bahrain, and many ITA missions with minority business delegations followed due to the success of this mission. Additionally, the Agency coordinated and supported disaster relief efforts for minority businesses following the devastating aftermath of the 1992 Los Angeles riots and the hurricanes that ravaged many of the coastal communities along the Gulf of Mexico.

With a current focus on access to capital for minority-owned businesses, I look forward to celebrating the future success of this organization. I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the Minority Business Development Agency on its 40 years of prosperity and endeavoring to advance minority businesses in our nation.

HONORING HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Historic Yellow Springs on the 35th Anniversary of its founding as a non-profit organization committed to preserving and enhancing one of the true historical treasures in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of Connie Fraley and other founders of Historic Yellow Springs, the organization purchased the picturesque 145-acre site and 13 historic buildings on the property in 1974.

The property traces its history back to the early 1700's when Lenape Indians first discovered “yellow water” bubbling from the ground. Stone ruins from America's first military hospital, which treated injured soldiers from the Valley Forge encampment during the Revolutionary War, are also part of the property. And the beauty of the property has inspired impressionistic painters and artists from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Country School during the early part of the 20th Century.

Since establishing Historic Yellow Springs as a non-profit organization in 1974, the talented staff and dedicated members of the Board of Directors have done a tremendous job of offering creative programming to teach generation after generation about the history of the property and to provide exceptional educational and artistic opportunities by holding classes in the library, Connie's House and the Barn Studio.

Staff and the Board of Directors will celebrate the 35th Anniversary during Founders Day on Sunday, September 20th and dedicate the recently restored Iron Spring Gazebo in the memory of Founder Connie Fraley.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Historic Yellow Springs as it celebrates this memorable milestone and in expressing sincere appreciation for the exemplary work of the staff and Board of Directors.

COMMEMORATING MRS. MARGARET BROSETT WILLIAMS ON THE OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to commemorate Mrs. Margaret Brossett Williams on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

On September 28, 1909, Williams was welcomed into this world by John and Vedaline Brossett in Cloutierville, La. She is the last surviving sibling of ten children born to this union.

She married James Houston Williams on October 12, 1928. They were the proud parents of four children: James Dewey Williams, Robert Earl Williams, William Ray Williams and Patsy Jean Williams.