

HONORING PRESIDENT RONALD
WILSON REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, on February 6, 1911, America's fortieth president was born in a small midwestern town. A century later, we remember Ronald Wilson Reagan as a great man and a great leader who personified and advanced the highest ideals of the American people at home and abroad. He may have started his life with a humble beginning in America's heartland, but at a time when America longed for leadership, he answered the call to service.

After eight years of his presidency, the communism of Soviet Russia was collapsing, the American military was rebuilt, the nation's economy restored and its moral fabric renewed. As he said himself, President Reagan left America "more prosperous, more secure, and happier than it was eight years earlier."

Many will remember him as the Great Communicator. But as the President said many times, he was not a great communicator; he communicated great things. He communicated the traditional American values anchored by his profound Christian faith.

His ideas were simple, straightforward and distinctly American. President Reagan believed that freedom depended on limited government. He fiercely advanced the principles of less government, less taxes, a strong defense and a commitment to traditional moral values.

Mr. Speaker, like many Americans, President Reagan changed the course of my life. I had the honor of meeting him in the summer of 1988 as a candidate for Congress. Determined to say something of great meaning to him, I looked the President in the eye and thanked him for all he had done to inspire my generation to believe in America again. He responded with characteristic humility by saying that "the American people decided it was time to right the ship, and I was just the captain they put on the bridge when they did it."

In the midst of his extraordinary gifts, Ronald Reagan was a deeply humble man who believed in God and the American people with an unshakable faith. He also was able to find inspiration in his beloved Rancho del Cielo. When I had the opportunity to visit the ranch, I immediately understood why President Reagan found solace in its beauty. He spent many a day working at the ranch, and it is not difficult to believe that he contemplated many important decisions while clearing brush, fixing fences and breaking new trails in his jeep. The Young America's Foundation has since taken responsibility of the ranch, and I commend them for preserving this significant part of Ronald Reagan's legacy.

In his Farewell Address to the nation, President Reagan spoke poignantly of the distance that high office can place between the servant and the served.

He said, "One of the things about the presidency is that you're always somewhat apart. You spend a lot of time going by too fast in a car someone else is driving, and seeing the people through tinted glass—the parents holding up a child, and the wave you saw too late

and couldn't return. And so many times I wanted to stop and reach out from behind the glass, and connect."

Well, Mr. Speaker, one hundred years after his birth and two decades after he left public service, the American people are still connected to President Ronald Reagan's American ideals and values, which endure to this day.

HONORING LELA DUFFEL MORRIS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Lela Duffel Morris, the first African-American graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Washington, a career nurse, and a trailblazer in the field of occupational and public health. Mrs. Morris and her husband of 62 years, Dr. Walter Morris, have been stalwart members of the Bay Area community for decades. A loving wife, mother, grandmother, friend and colleague, Mrs. Lela Morris will be forever remembered for her warmth and compassion. With her passing on February 1, 2011, we are reminded of her life's journey and the joyful legacy she inspired.

Lela Duffel Morris was born on April 23, 1927, and was the youngest of Thomas Duffel and Harriett Jones Duffel's 12 children. Just before Lela's birth, the family relocated from the state of Louisiana to Beaumont, Texas. And, not long after Lela was born, her mother passed away. As the family struggled through the heights of the depression, Lela was sheltered from hardship and nurtured by her father and siblings.

In the fall of 1945, she enrolled in the School of Nursing at the University of Washington (UW), becoming the first African American to be admitted, and later, graduate from the nursing program. Mrs. Morris' subsequent career in public health began in the District of Columbia, where she saw a need for regulation and advocacy in occupational and environmental health issues.

At a time when workers were far too often exposed to hazardous workplace conditions, Mrs. Morris became founding director of continuing education for the Northern California Occupational Health Center, a division of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

In her over 50-year career, Mrs. Morris received many accolades, including the 2001 Distinguished Alumna Award from the UW School of Nursing and the Alumni Advisory Council, as well as special recognitions from the Northern California Public Health Association, the American Lung Association, the Golden State Medical Association and the American Cancer Society.

In the midst of her career and raising four children, Mrs. Morris received a Master of Public Health degree from the University of California, Berkeley. She also taught college health education courses and served as guest editor of the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses Journal. She was an active volunteer with community organizations, such as the Oakland Bay Area Chapter of The

Links, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and the Auxiliaries of the National, Golden State and Sinkler-Miller Medical Associations.

On a personal level, I will always remember Mrs. Morris' gentle and kind spirit, but also her strength and brilliance. Her smile lifted my spirits, and she always offered a word of encouragement. She and her husband, Dr. Morris, were my early supporters when I first ran for public office in 1989. They consistently supported me throughout my many campaigns. And for that, I am deeply grateful.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors a wonderful human being, Mrs. Lela Duffel Morris. The contributions she made to others throughout her life are countless and precious. Our community is indebted to her work with East Bay organizations and to her many civic contributions over the years. My thoughts are with Dr. Walter Morris, his family, and Lela's extended group of loved ones as we celebrate her incredible life. May her soul rest in peace.

TRIBUTE CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE CITY OF EAGLE POINT, OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2011

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to mark the centennial of the City of Eagle Point, Oregon. Eagle Point was named for a prominent rocky cliff east of town that was a popular nesting place for eagles.

Today Eagle Point is known as "The Gateway to the Lakes" as it sets the scene for tourists and other visitors traveling east to view Crater Lake and the majestic natural wonders of the southern Cascade Range.

During the gold rush days of the 1850s—before it was even considered a "town"—Eagle Point was known for its rich agricultural production and became the "food basket" to the Rogue Valley. That regional importance was solidified in 1872 when the Snowy Butte Mill was built along the banks of the nearby Little Butte Creek. The grist mill quickly became an economic hub for the area. It is said that wagons lined the road to the mill for miles waiting to have their grain ground into flour. In addition to local farmers, the mill was important to Native Americans, who traveled more than 90 miles over the Old Military Trail from Fort Klamath to trade leather and berries for flour.

It wasn't until the Pacific & Eastern Railroad arrived in the early 1900s that a commercial district was established in Eagle Point, and as a result, the city became incorporated in 1911. As Eagle Point blossomed it became the home to three hotels, a livery stable, blacksmith shop, a few saloons, and some dance halls known for their "rowdy" behavior and bootleggers." Three of the original brick buildings which housed the bank, confectionary store and general store still stand and are now home to modern businesses.

Eagle Point residents have gone to great lengths to preserve their history. In 1987, the citizens of Eagle Point relocated a queenpost truss covered bridge built in 1922 from Antelope Creek and placed it across Little Butte Creek for children to cross as they make their way to and from school. In addition to the covered bridge, the Butte Creek Mill also serves

as a link to the past, and is still in operation today. This historic, water-powered grist mill with its original, 130 year-old, French-quarried buhr stones is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a popular tourist attraction.

Despite nearly doubling in size over the last decade, modern day Eagle Point continues to be a great place to live and raise children because of its small town rural charm, excellent schools and beautiful surroundings. Along with its rich history and rural setting, Eagle Point boasts a world-class Robert Trent Jones II-designed 18-hole golf course, which has attracted golfers and new residents alike.

Many notable celebrities have called Eagle Point home including Ginger Rogers, Patrick Duffy, and Kim Novak.

Mr. Speaker, on February 12, 2011, Eagle Point kicks off its Centennial Celebration. I invite my colleagues to join with me in wishing "Happy Birthday" to a growing, thriving city which serves as the "Gateway to the Lakes" and a window into southern Oregon's rich history.

TRIBUTE TO LA GRAN PARADA DOMINICANA DEL BRONX, INC.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2011

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, during the month of February our nation celebrates Dominican Heritage Month. I rise today to pay tribute to La Gran Parada Dominicana del Bronx, Inc., a valued institution in New York that promotes and celebrates Dominican life and culture.

The Bronx is home to one of the fastest growing Dominican populations in the country, and organizations like La Gran Parada Dominicana del Bronx help us to keep pace with this cultural enlargement. They articulate the Dominican experience here in the U.S., as well as the many ways in which Dominican Americans activate our national endeavor and strength.

Mr. Speaker, Dominican Heritage Month commemorates the anniversary of Dominican independence. It represents, as well, a moment when we pause to consider the growing influence Dominican Americans are having in this country.

Most Dominicans in the U.S. migrated here after 1960; the first generations put down strong roots in the Northeastern states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and also Florida. Migration increased steadily in the 1970s and more so during the 1980s. Today the Dominican American community is primarily an immigrant community, with all the struggles and triumphs that accompany this experience. It is also a relatively new immigrant community, which means, among other things, that we—as a nation—have the joy of being able to witness history unfold before us, as newness gives way to establishment, and first steps lead to progress and ultimately to Dominican power. Already, we idolize Dominican Americans in our national culture and sport, and see an ever-growing number in public offices throughout the land, serving their constituents with honor.

La Gran Parada Dominicana del Bronx, Inc., was founded in May 1989 by Felipe Febles and Rosa Ayala. Its founders, friends, and allies had the foresight to recognize the value the Bronx would hold for Dominican Americans in years to come. They believed the Bronx would one day serve as a launch pad for Dominican aspirations across the U.S., and that the borough deserved an institutional partner worthy of the people who reside here. This belief has proven correct and in La Gran Parada Dominicana del Bronx, Dominicans from the Bronx have support to match their considerable talents.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bridge-building organization, one that understands honoring cultural achievement in America is at its best a shared experience. For this reason, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Dominican Heritage Month 2011, and to an organization helping to bring it to life in New York City, La Gran Parada Dominicana del Bronx.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL CAROL ANN FAUSONE

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2011

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Brigadier General Carol Ann Fausone upon her retirement from the Michigan National Guard after 34 years of dedicated and meritorious service.

In 1971, Carol Ann Fausone graduated from Cardinal Mooney High School in Youngstown, Ohio. After earning a bachelor of science in nursing from the University of Michigan in 1975, Carol Ann received her commission as a medical officer in the United States Air Force in 1977. She went on to earn the first of two master of science degrees from Madonna University, the first in administration in 1985 and the second in nursing in 1995. Brigadier General Fausone completed numerous compliments to her vast education in the interim and also attended Capstone National Defense University in 2003.

Brigadier General Fausone has been the recipient of numerous military awards and commendations including the Air Force Legion of Merit, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with one oak leaf cluster, the National Defense Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster and the Air Force Achievement Medal. She has also been decorated with the U.S. Air Force Senior Nurse and Chief Nurse Badges. In addition, Brigadier General Fausone was honored as the Air National Guard's Medical Readiness Officer of the Year in 1988. In 1994, she received the Nightingale Excellence in Nursing Administration Award from Oakland University and the 191st Airlift Group Commander's Trophy. The Brigadier General earned the highest award given by the National Guard Association of Michigan in 1995, the Major General John A. Johnston Award for Excellence.

Truly a pioneer of service women, Carol Ann Fausone was the first to be Michigan medical officer to achieve the rank of a general officer and on March 1, 2002 became the first woman in the Michigan National Guard to

be promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. After having spent the last 8 years of her illustrious career as Assistant Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs for the State of Michigan, Brigadier General Fausone was pinned with the Distinguished Service Medal and praised for her dedication and service upon her retirement.

Mr. Speaker, as Brigadier General Carol Ann Fausone begins a new chapter in her life with her beloved husband Jim, there is no doubt that she will continue to advocate for the rights of our nation's veterans. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Brigadier General Carol Ann Fausone and in recognizing her years of loyal service to our community and country.

HONORING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF CLAY COUNTY IN NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sesquicentennial of Clay County in North Carolina. Clay, the smallest county in North Carolina with an area of only 221 square miles, has developed a flourishing community and embodies all that is Appalachia.

In 1860, George Hayes ran for a seat in the North Carolina House of Commons on a platform of creating a new county and county seat in the area of southern Cherokee County. In February of 1861, after his successful election, Representative Hayes introduced a bill to establish Clay County, was named in honor of Henry Clay, U.S. Secretary of State and Senator from Kentucky. Rep. Hayes later received recognition for helping form the new County when the County seat, Hayesville, was named in his honor.

Now, Clay is a thriving community of 10,000 residents. Clay County's education system received national recognition through the prestigious Communities in Schools Organization Accreditation. This award shows the commitment the entire County has to educating the youth in the community and preparing them for successful and productive futures.

Clay County is home to the beautiful Nantahala National Forest which is being developed as a forest, game, and trout preserve. The county also boasts one of the best trout streams in Western North Carolina at the Fires Creek Wilde Life Management. From the spectacular views of sapphire-blue waters in Chatuge Lake to the picturesque beauty of Nantahala National Forest, Clay County encompasses some of the best of Western North Carolina's natural treasures.

On February 21, 2011, Clay County will hold a very special public gathering in celebration of the 150th anniversary of its formation by the North Carolina Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Clay's sesquicentennial and its contributions to the United States and the great state of North Carolina.