

Mummery traces its routes to the countless cultures brought to America by European immigrants. Mummies, as the performers are called, dress in elaborate costumes and perform choreographed musical numbers largely on brass and string instruments. The city of Philadelphia and the surrounding region has a vibrant history of mummery stretching back to colonial times. Today, this tradition is kept alive and showcased every New Year's Day in Philadelphia, an event that has happened every year for over a century.

Mr. Spencer became the Drill Master of Garden State String Band in 1981 and later led the band for six years. During his time with the Garden State String Band, Mr. Spencer helped the band receive their best drill points earning them 2nd prize.

Mr. Spencer united the string band communities of Pennsylvania and New Jersey as a delegate and later the first secretary of the Penn Jersey String Band Association. He also played a vital role in string band parades. Mr. Spencer revamped the Gloucester City String Band Parade by narrating the events as emcee and television correspondent. In 1989, he was nominated to organize the New Year's Day Parade as Director.

After his time as Master of Garden State String Band, he became a drummer in the Ferko String Band. He continued to prove his leadership skills serving as Director, Secretary, and Vice President for seven years, and later became President of the Ferko String Band. Mr. Spencer has dedicated forty-one years of his life to string bands and mummery in the greater South Jersey area. On April 6th, 2013, he was inducted into the Mummies Hall of Fame due to his outstanding efforts to promote and produce activities incorporating string band entertainment.

Mr. Speaker, the commitment of Mr. Spencer to the string band community should not go unrecognized. I join all of South Jersey in expressing our gratitude for Dan Spencer as he celebrates his induction into the Mummies Hall of Fame.

HONORING MARGARET HILLMAN-BRYANT

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a decent and authentic woman, Ms. Margaret Hillman-Bryant. Ms. Bryant has shown what can be done through dedication and a desire to serve others.

Ms. Margaret Hillman-Bryant is a lifelong resident of Yazoo City, Mississippi. She was born April 19, 1960 to Cethel Maples and Eddie Hillman Jr. She graduated from Yazoo City High School in 1978. After high school she attended Holmes Jr. Community College from 1978–1980.

Ms. Hillman-Bryant is the mother of three children: Nikini, Clifton and Yolanda and she is raising four of her grand children: De'Onne, Maia, Wanya and Yakaria.

Ms. Hillman-Bryant has worked for the State of Mississippi for almost twenty years. Currently, she is employed with the Mississippi Department of Human Services. Before going to work for the MS Department of Human

Services she worked at the MS Department of Public Safety from November 1993 to February 2006.

Ms. Hillman-Bryant is also a member of New Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church where she serves as assistant to the youth department, program guide assistant and church secretary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Margaret Hillman-Bryant for her dedication to serving others

IN RECOGNITION OF KADVA PATIDAR SAMAJ 8TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the members, attendees and supporters of Kadva Patidar Samaj 8th National Convention, which will take place on Friday, June 14, 2013 through Sunday, June 16, 2013 at Shree Umiya Mataji Mandir, located at 4770 Raley Road in Macon, Georgia.

A Hindu place of worship and prayer, Shree Umiya Mataji Mandir, Kadva Patidar Samaj was established in Macon, Georgia in 2003. The first established Shree Umiya Mataji Mandir in the United States, the facility spans 32 acres and includes a 45,000 square foot cultural hall and temple. The temple was inaugurated on June 15, 2003. Approximately 5,000 people attended the grand opening of the temple held on June 13, 2003 to June 15, 2003.

There are many legends and theories that attempt to explain the history of Kadva Patidars. According to the most credible theory, the roots of Kadva Patidars go all the way back to the origin of Hindus. Called Aryans at the time, they worshipped life-sustaining elements such as the sun, wind, fire and rain. The Aryans migrated to India from the Pamir region on the Ayu River in central Asia, which is present-day Azerbaijan. They settled in the plains of a big river that they named "Sindhu", which means "big like an ocean," and over time, fully integrated with the natives living there. Between B.C. 7000 and B.C. 2000, the Sindhu Valley Civilization, also known as the Indus Valley or Harappan Civilization, was established. Covering 400,000 square miles from Kashmir in the north to the Godavari River in the South and from Delhi in the east to the Arabian Sea in the west, the Sindhu Valley Civilization was the largest known ancient civilization and a very advanced one thriving on agriculture, commerce, engineering and social amenities.

Over the years, some of the descendents of the Sindhu Valley Civilization spread to what is present-day Gujarat and Saurashtra and became known as Kadva Patidars.

The Kadva Patidar Samaj 8th National Convention is expecting about 5,000 attendees this year. Over the course of three days, participants will engage in social, cultural, educational and matrimonial events. Several dignitaries and political leaders from India have also been invited.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the members and supporters of Shree Umiya Mataji Mandir and the Kadva Patidar Samaj 8th National Convention.

I am proud that while the Hindu community of Middle Georgia is becoming more intricately woven into the fabric of our American tapestry, they are also coming together in observation and celebration of their vibrant culture, religion and values.

CELEBRATING DR. CARROLL ESTES ON HER 75TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague Representative MIKE THOMPSON to recognize Dr. Carroll L. Estes, PhD, on the occasion of her 75th birthday on May 30, 2013. Dr. Estes's many contributions as a distinguished scholar, inspiring teacher, influential policy advisor, institution builder, and advocate for the most vulnerable in our community have benefitted many community members throughout the Second Congressional District, the State of California, and the Nation.

Over her 40 year career, Dr. Estes has been passionately devoted to improving the health and economic security of vulnerable and underserved populations, with special concern for women, older persons, and ethnic and racial minorities. Through research, teaching, and public service, she has steadfastly worked to advance the public good and the interests of America's most powerless and disenfranchised populations. Fittingly, Dr. Estes was recently honored at a symposium celebrating her 40 years of policy research and leadership in health and aging.

Dr. Estes's service extends far beyond academia. She is a long-time member of many advocacy organizations, including the Gray Panthers, Responsible Wealth, and the Older Women's League. In 2006, Dr. Estes received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, where she is currently vice chair. She is also a current member of the Sonoma County Council on Aging.

Please join us in expressing deep appreciation to Dr. Carroll Estes for her long and impressive career, and her exceptional record of service.

IN MEMORY OF POLOSKO-KUMANOVSKI METROPOLITAN KIRIL OF THE MACEDONIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Polosko-Kumanovski Metropolitan Kiril of the Macedonian Orthodox Church. His recent passing is a great loss for Macedonia, the entire Macedonian Orthodox Church and its followers, particularly those from the Polog/Tetovo region of Macedonia.

I had the privilege of meeting Bishop Kiril and can attest to the strength of his conviction as a member of the Macedonian Orthodox faith as well as his firm and unwavering commitment to the moral betterment of the Macedonian people. Bishop Kiril was a true advocate of both the Macedonian Orthodox Church