

A voice that oversaw the citizen education workshops that empowered disenfranchised African-Americans to register to vote.

Born in Goldsboro, North Carolina, this tireless civil rights activist who proclaimed that the Civil Rights Movement was her life, was described as a warm presence who sang spirituals to ease tensions at demonstrations.

Educated at Shaw University, Virginia State College, and Boston University, Dorothy Cotton began engaging in activism at the Gillfield Baptist Church in Petersburg, Virginia where Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker, also head of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was pastor.

There she began to organize protests against segregation in the local public library and at the whites-only lunch counter at Woolworth.

Shortly after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke at the church, he requested that Dr. Walker join him at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and Dorothy Cotton followed.

At the SCLC, she served as an Administrative Assistant to Rev. Walker, quickly ascending to directing citizen education workshops to empower disenfranchised African-Americans to register to vote.

She recruited people, from pool halls to churches, to demand and exercise their voting-rights.

At the workshops, thousands of participants learned citizenship rights, black history, economic opportunity and organizing credit unions.

With that knowledge, they went back to their communities educating other African-Americans on the importance of political power and to help them register to vote, even teaching them how to pass literacy tests.

In addition, she trained children to participate in demonstrations which became known as the Children's Crusade, organized night marches against segregation in St. Augustine, Florida, and brought children to the local public beach to protest a whites-only policy.

She regularly traveled with Dr. King, typing his famous I Have a Dream Speech, going with him to Oslo, Norway to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, and staying in a Memphis, Tennessee motel room next to his until hours before his assassination in 1968.

Dorothy Cotton remained active in civil rights and education after leaving the SCLC, moving to Ithaca, New York in 1982 to be Director of Student Activities at Cornell University.

She worked with students to demand that Cornell University divest its financial ties to South Africa to protest the country's apartheid policies.

After retiring from the university, the Center for Transformative Action started the Dorothy Cotton Institute to advance global human rights in her honor.

In addition, the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers was established to help preserve the spirituals she sung.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Dorothy Cotton's life and legacy.

America is a better place because of Ms. Cotton and her service.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of Dorothy Cotton.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes on June 12, 2018.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 258, and YEA on Roll Call No. 259.

HONORING DR. THOMAS A. PARHAM

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize and honor Dr. Thomas A. Parham, an exemplary constituent and university administrator who I am immensely proud to represent. Dr. Parham is ending his 33-year tenure at the University of California, Irvine to become the President of California State University, Dominguez Hills. I know that Dr. Parham will take to Dominguez Hills with the same passion and drive that made his time at the University of California, Irvine such a success.

Dr. Parham most recently held the position of Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at the University of California, Irvine. Under his leadership, the Irvine student body was empowered to break down racial barriers in their classrooms and communities. Such work has been a staple of Dr. Parham's career as he played an integral role in chartering the Orange County chapter of 100 Black Men of America, eventually serving as President from 2002 to 2005. Through this organization, Dr. Parham spearheaded programs in Orange County and Los Angeles which set education goals for high school students that aimed to bring underrepresented students to the top of the educational ladder. This work demonstrates Dr. Parham's bearing to recognize vital areas of education that deserve continued attention and service. In addition to his work as a university administrator and community activist, Dr. Parham is also a voluminous author who has been published over 45 times. His written works bring to light the importance of the African American identity and the role this plays in counseling a historically marginalized group. His focus on the success of students demonstrates his caring and compassionate nature that has been a cornerstone of his career.

Dr. Parham has truly had a great impact on all the lives he has touched and his dedication to the service of others will truly be remembered. Though he is leaving Orange County, I am certain that he will be successful in this new endeavor and wish him well in his continuing mission to educate and mentor. With his vision and leadership, I am sure that the students at Dominguez Hills will be well served by Dr. Parham.

HONORING DR. PATRICK J. SWEENEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Patrick J. Sweeney upon his retirement from a distinguished eight year tenure as Superintendent of Napa Valley Unified School District.

Dr. Sweeney was born in Dublin, California and was one of eight siblings. He realized his passion for education at an early age and graduated from San Diego State University in 1979 with a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies. He then earned a Master of Arts in Administration and Supervision from San Jose State University in 1985, as well as a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of La Verne in 2000.

Dr. Sweeney has served Napa Valley Unified School District (NVUSD) as Superintendent since 2010. Under his leadership, NVUSD significantly increased its attendance and graduation rates, improved school safety and opened American Canyon High School. Dr. Sweeney also launched pivotal programs to improve student health and wellness, including opening Wellness Centers at the middle schools in the district. Dr. Sweeney guided the district through monumental changes in federal and state education policy and two significant natural disasters. During the October 2017 fires, he opened American Canyon High School as a shelter and focused on ensuring Spanish-speaking families were receiving accurate and up to date information.

In addition to serving NVUSD as Superintendent, Dr. Sweeney has also greatly impacted other schools and districts. He was Principal of a Bilingual Magnet School in Santa Cruz County, California, Superintendent of the American School in Durango, Mexico and Superintendent, and later Director of Educational Services, of the Patterson Joint Unified School District. In all of his roles in various schools and school districts, Dr. Sweeney has focused on building relationships within each community and has committed himself to serving students and educators from a broad range of cultural and socio-economic backgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Sweeney is a passionate educator with an esteemed record of giving back to his students, colleagues and the community, who has dutifully served Napa Valley Unified School District as Superintendent for eight years. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Dr. Patrick J. Sweeney here today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOME RULE BRIDGES ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Home Rule Bridges Act. This bill is necessary to repeal a redundant 1997 federal law that makes it a