

TRIBUTE TO DR. ALICE WALKER-DUFF

**HON. JULIAN C. DIXON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 3, 1995*

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to salute the outstanding contributions made by Dr. Alice Walker-Duff to the children of Los Angeles. As executive director of Crystal Stairs, Alice presides over one of the largest nonprofit and most enduring child care resource and referral providers in California. She has earned a well deserved reputation as an indefatigable advocate for comprehensive, quality early child development services as an essential ingredient to helping children mature into successful, productive adults.

Alice's career with Crystal Stairs began nearly two decades ago. It was not, however, the career she had envisioned but one that she came to out of a desire to help her good friend and Crystal Stairs' founder, Karen Hill-Scott. In the early 1970's, in a venture that would serve as the precursor to Crystal Stairs, Alice and Karen had teamed together to found the Childcare Resource and Referral Service. The program was the sole African-American alternative program in California. It offered working parents, most often single mothers, with quality child care development services, affording many the opportunity to return to school or to the employment roles.

In the mid 1970's, while supervising a classroom project in one of her urban planning classes at UCLA, where she taught, Karen discovered there was a paucity of information available at the city and county level regarding available day care providers located in the urban areas of Los Angeles. Armed with this information, she applied for and received funding from the State of California to establish an agency that would address this shortage. Thus was born Crystal Stairs, a nonprofit agency incorporated in 1980 that supervises and certifies affordable, safe, and reliable child care development providers in the African-American community of southern California.

Alice agreed to help Karen by managing the day-to-day operation and management of Crystal Stairs. Karen was still a professor at UCLA and she needed an individual who was smart, politically savvy, and above all, knowledgeable about early childhood development. Although the initial agreement had Alice remaining at Crystal Stairs for just 8 short months, 2 years ago, when Karen stepped down as executive director to serve as a consultant in children's television programming, Alice settled in as the agencies executive director.

During her nearly 20 years of dedicated service and commitment to Crystal Stairs and the children of Los Angeles, Alice has been instrumental in expanding the agency's outreach to include a comprehensive array of services, including child-care research, a food program in Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside Counties; parenting classes, and employment training programs.

Last year, Crystal Stairs added one more jewel to its crown with the opening of SAGE, a child-care center in the Nickerson Gardens public housing development. The center offers a range of afterschool classes, including in-

struction in computer skills and math and art classes. SAGE is providing a tangible resource to the children of Nickerson Gardens by helping to enhance their development and offering a beacon of hope for a future that is too often viewed as hopeless.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to salute the outstanding accomplishments of Dr. Alice Walker-Duff to the Los Angeles community. Her career has been marked by a level of excellence that is worthy of the accolades she receives this day. She has labored nobly and steadfastly in her quest to ensure that children receive the appropriate day care and essential nurturing to which all children are entitled. Please join me in commending her for her contributions to the children of Los Angeles, and in extending to her, her husband attorney Joe Duff, and their two daughters Gingi and Laura, our appreciation and best wishes for continued success in the future.

HONORING VETERANS OF THE  
KOREAN WAR

**HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 3, 1995*

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, as we remember the 42d anniversary of the armistice of the Korean war, and as we dedicate the new Korean War Veterans Memorial on the Mall, I want to commemorate the patriotism of the 1.5 million Americans who served, the courage of those who were wounded or taken prisoner-of-war, and the sacrifice of the more than 54,000 who did not come home. These soldiers, including many from my congressional district and the State of Connecticut, have made an indelible contribution to our nation and to our world by exemplifying America's uncompromising devotion to freedom.

The soldiers who fought in Korea were the first American servicemen and women to directly contest a Communist army. Their bravery in combat against North Korea and China proved that the United States would not appease Communist aggression. Their defense of freedom in one corner of the world gave hope to millions of people under Communist rule in other corners that the democratic nations had not forgotten their plight. Korea was the first volley in the battle that was won when the Berlin Wall came down and the Soviet Union crumbled.

Our Korean war soldiers also demonstrated to the world that we were ready and willing to help even our smallest and most distant allies fend off foreign aggression. While no one questioned America's strategic interest in defending Europe during the world wars, our commitment to our friends in Asia was not as certain. But in the summer of 1950, the United States spoke loud and clear: we would stand up for freedom anywhere it was threatened by tyranny. That message still resonates today.

But our soldiers did not merely engage in battle against international aggression; it was a contest between democracy and totalitarianism. In Korea, our soldiers proved that Americans did not just talk about the importance of democracy—they would risk their lives for it. The march of American soldiers up the Korean peninsula from Pusan to the 38th Parallel was a remarkably brave demonstration of our

commitment to lead by example. Today, as nations on every continent strive towards democracy, they rightfully look to us for moral guidance.

By fighting side-by-side with soldiers from around the world, American soldiers also demonstrated that multi-national coalitions can bring about peaceful ends. When we contemplate the awesome success of Desert Storm 4 years ago, we can look back to Korea as the prototype.

Through these accomplishments, the soldiers of the Korean war left an indelible mark on the modern world. Sadly, Korea is at times called the forgotten war. But the freedom and security it brought the world will long be remembered.

Were it not for the courage of our soldiers, South Korea would not be a free and prosperous nation, one of our most trusted and valuable allies in the Pacific rim.

And were it not for the fortitude of our neighbors, relatives and friends in uniform who joined the battle against North Korea, the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe and in Central America would have been far less assured.

Most importantly, were it not for the selflessness of American servicemen and women who triumphed over dictatorship in a country many had never even heard of, the guiding light of democracy we extend to other nations would not be nearly as bright.

We still live in a dangerous, unpredictable world. But the heroic, selfless efforts of Americans in places like Inchon, Chosin, and Pusan have ensured that future generations of Americans will live in a world where freedom is cherished and tyranny is repelled. For that, we owe the veterans of the Korean war our eternal gratitude.

I commend the Korean war veterans from the First District of Connecticut and from around the United States on the occasion of the 42d anniversary of the end of the Korean war.

CLEANING UP BROWNFIELDS

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 3, 1995*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues from Ohio, Mr. BROWN, and my colleague from Missouri, the distinguished minority leader, Mr. GEPHARDT, to introduce legislation which, if enacted, will promote the cleanup of lands containing abandoned or under used industrial facilities where legal, environmental, and financial barriers prevent redevelopment.

Contaminated, often vacant industrial sites, known as brownfields, pose significant economic and environmental challenges for communities throughout southeastern Michigan. These challenges are formidable, but not insurmountable. I will explore the issues which determine how to succeed in converting our brownfields in Downriver and Detroit back to engines of economic progress.

Industrial properties, contaminated from years of use, are very difficult to redevelop. Even ongoing operations may be difficult to sustain. Cleanup costs are high and liabilities for past contamination scare potential purchasers, developers, and lenders. However,