

successful. In technology, Blacks have invented the incandescent light bulb, truck refrigeration, polymer fabrics, and automated manufacturing machines used in making shoes, telephones, and other items essential to our daily lives. In space, Lt. Colonel Guion Bluford was the first Black to fly in space. Hoping to advance human services, astronaut Ronald McNair tragically died in the Challenger shuttle explosion. These individuals and many many other African-Americans must be fully recognized for their contributions to American life.

Once we recognize African-Americans for their accomplishments, we must respect them as valuable contributors to American society. In my home state of North Carolina, the African-American community emerged from the shadows of slavery to quickly take positions in government, education, entertainment, and media. The progress has not always been easy or free of hardship and danger, but the results for North Carolina include a vibrant and diverse sense of community that benefits every citizen.

Take, for example, two North Carolinians who should have our respect. First, in the early 1900's Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown founded a school for African-American children. Although she was attacked and oppressed with Jim Crow laws, her faith in God and her commitment to her community gave her the strength to ensure that her school, known as the Palmer Institute, educated Black children in the sciences, language, and culture. She received many honors, and was a friend of Eleanor Roosevelt, W.E.B. DuBouis, Booker T. Washington, and other leaders of the day. I have nothing but respect for people like Dr. Hawkins, who spend their lives committed to God and community.

There is one more person who exemplifies the sort of success that we should respect. Hiram Rhoades Revels is especially significant to me for three reasons. First, he committed his life to God and proclaiming the truth of the Christian Gospel. Second, he was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina, only 30 miles from where I was born. Third, he was the first Black member of the United States Congress. It is remarkable that his adult life spanned the Civil War, Reconstruction, and ended in 1901 during the Progressive Era. He was a true pioneer of American political life.

All the people I have mentioned today—the scientists, teachers, politicians, and every African-American—should be respected members of our Nation.

Finally, we should consider America's future in light of the recognition and respect due African-Americans. America works best when every American can act responsibly, work well, and live in a safe community. When Black History Months ends, we must not end the recognition and respect earned by African-Americans. Our recognition and respect for African-Americans leads to a reliance on African-Americans for their valuable contributions to American life.

Today, there are nearly 400,000 African-American children in the North Carolina public schools. We must work together to ensure that their future is full of success and opportunity. Through the efforts of their forebearers, this Nation has come closer to fully understanding our Declaration of Independence: That all men are created equal under God and are entitled to the opportunity for life, liberty, and the pur-

suit of happiness. For many years, these words rang hollow to African-Americans. Let us be wise enough to now recognize their accomplishments, respect their value to society, and rely on them to be equal members in the great work of this Nation.

And may we remember the words of Adlai Stevenson, who was the Democratic nominee for President in 1956, this year I was born, when he said:

Trust the people, trust their good sense, their decency, their faith. Trust them with the facts; trust them with the great decisions; and fix as our guiding star the passion to create a society in which no American is held down by his race or color, by worldly condition or social status from earning that which his character earns him as an American citizen, as a human being as a child of God.

TRIBUTE TO DANYCE HOLGATE-
WILKINS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the Borough of Brooklyn is blessed with a tremendous resource of talented citizens who are dedicated to improving their community and making it a better place to live. Danyce Holgate-Wilkins is one of those dedicated citizens. She was born and raised in Brooklyn, and received her undergraduate degree from Stony Brook University, and her law degree from Howard University School of Law.

Since obtaining her law degree, Danyce has worked in a variety of capacities, including a clerkship with the Honorable Judge Bruce Wright, in addition to working in the law firm of Gaston and Snow in Boston, MA. She also has worked as an assistant corporation counsel for the city of New York.

Danyce is involved in a host of local political endeavors, in addition to serving on the board of the Association of Black Woman Attorneys. Additionally, she is a member of the board of the Tri-Community Development Corporation, and the Parent Teacher's Association.

Danyce is married to William Scott Wilkins and is blessed with two wonderful children, twin girls, Danah and Danielle.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK DEL OLMO

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pride that I rise today to recognize and honor one of this country's finest journalists—Mr. Frank del Olmo—as he celebrates 25 years of service at *The Los Angeles Times*.

For over two decades, Frank has written for Los Angeles' award-winning daily and has delivered more than just a story and a byline.

Frank began his career at *The Los Angeles Times* as an intern in 1971 and was hired as a reporter upon completion of his apprenticeship. After spending a year reporting local news, he soon became a staff writer specializing in Latin American affairs—a stint which

lasted nearly 10 years and distinguished him as one of the best writers at his hometown paper.

Frank rose to the rank of editorial writer and held the position for 9 years before beginning his 6-year tenure as deputy editor of the editorial pages. Today, Frank is assistant to the editor at *The Los Angeles Times*. He holds the highest position of any Latino at the newspaper, and he continues to be one of the few high-ranking Latinos in newspaper management in the country.

Frank has earned a reputation for being a journalist with integrity—a risk-taker who knows how to thread the needle—a man confidently anchored as much in his words as by his deeds.

Perhaps one of the most defining moments in Frank's career was born in a dissenting opinion he wrote a few years ago while deputy editor of the editorial pages. When *The Times* issued a gubernatorial endorsement with which he strongly disagreed, Frank put his pen to work despite the brewing tension that many believed might lead to his permanent departure from the paper. For Frank, expressing his opinions publicly was a matter of conscience. He could not sit back while the official *Times* opinion so offended California's ethnic and immigrant communities. His efforts brought him greater respect from journalists in the newsroom; and management fully realized the talents and crucial voice that Frank brings to its pages.

As assistant to the editor, Frank continues to write an insightful column for Sunday's opinion page, and he has greater input in what the paper will run each day. Frank earned this responsibility because he worked hard, because he was vigilant on behalf of his paper and his principles. He earned it because he dared to speak his mind—legitimately, constructively.

The quality of Frank's work over the years has earned him public acclaim. In 1991, he was a co-winner of *The Los Angeles Times* "Editorial Award" for pieces written on the Rodney King/LAPD/Darryl Gates case. In 1984, Frank received the prestigious "Pulitzer Gold Medal for Meritous Public Service" for a series of articles on Southern California's Latino community.

While Frank is highly regarded in the Los Angeles newsroom where he has worked for over 20 years, the story is no different outside the newsroom.

Frank, the highest-ranking Latino at The Los Angeles Times, serves as a role model for Latinos and other minorities, especially young aspiring journalists. His commitment to advancing the lives of young people and desire to see more Latinos blaze the journalist path inspired him to join with his colleagues to establish the California Chicano News Media Association (CCNMA) nearly 25 years ago.

Today, the 500-member organization serves as a valuable resource for working journalists and aspiring journalists alike. Frank was a principal architect in the designing of the summer high school journalism workshops that are synonymous with CCNMA. The workshops allow participating students to acquire—through one-on-one training with professional journalists in actual newsrooms—the necessary tools to report the world.

From covering the local beat as a rookie reporter, to reporting the violence and bloodshed of civil disturbance in Central America, to writing commentaries and helping students, Frank