

Japan. Next he was assigned to the Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico.

After completing his third year of service in the military's most elite branch of service, and on behalf of a grateful Nation, we take this opportunity to award Cpl. Hector A. Somoza with the good conduct medal. It is an honor to pay tribute to a young man who continues to serve this Nation with distinction.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF THE
HONORABLE RALPH W. YARBOROUGH OF TEXAS

HON. HENRY B. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, the recently concluded regular session of the 75th Texas Legislature adopted, and the Governor then signed, House Concurrent Resolution No. 318, in memory of the Honorable Ralph W. Yarborough, who represented the great State of Texas in the U.S. Senate from April 1957, when he was elected to fill an unexpired term, until he departed elective office in January of 1971.

I am the only remaining member of the Texas delegation who had the privilege of serving with the late Senator Yarborough in the U.S. Congress, an honor which I had for more than 9 full years.

As the dean of my State's delegation, and as one who deeply admired and respected the Honorable Ralph W. Yarborough, I would like to take the opportunity to pay tribute to this champion of the common citizen and outstanding public servant by having placed in the RECORD the full text of the Texas Legislature's House Concurrent Resolution No. 318, which is here attached:

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 318

Whereas, the passing of the Honorable Ralph Webster Yarborough on January 27, 1996, at the age of 92, brought a great loss to the family and many friends of this distinguished native Texan and former member of the United States Senate; and

Whereas, he was born in 1903 in Chandler and attended Sam Houston State College and the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York; after teaching school for three years, he enrolled in The University of Texas School of Law, graduating from that institution with honors in 1927; and

Whereas, a specialist in land law, he went on to become an assistant attorney general and, in a landmark case, helped to secure for the State's permanent school fund the interest money on nearly 4,000,000 acres of land; he was a respected jurist as well and served as a district judge in Austin before becoming a presiding judge over 30 counties in Central Texas; and

Whereas, like many of his generation, Senator Yarborough proudly served his country during World War II as a member of the United States Army, and he rose through the ranks of the military to become a lieutenant colonel; after the war ended, he was named military governor of Japan's Honshu Province, and his valor and meritorious service throughout his military career earned him both the Bronze Star and the Battle Star; and

Whereas, in addition to his remarkable contributions in these areas, Senator Yar-

borough will be well remembered for his outstanding career in the United States Senate; he first won election to that office in April of 1957 and went on to serve his State, and nation with the utmost integrity and distinction for 13 years; and

Whereas, Senator Yarborough was inspired by the goals advocated in President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal of the 1930's and 1940's; he truly envisioned himself as the people's servant and was dedicated to restoring fairness, justice, and economic opportunity for all Americans; indeed, shortly before the November 22, 1963, assassination in Dallas, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy said of the prolific federal legislator: "Ralph Yarborough speaks for Texas in the United States Senate, and he also speaks for our nation, and he speaks for progress for our people;" and

Whereas, a staunch advocate of equal rights, he earned further distinction as the only Southern senator to vote for the Civil Rights Act of 1964; he chaired the Labor and Public Welfare Committee and sponsored or actively supported nearly every piece of legislation in President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society programs of the 1960's; and

Whereas, Senator Yarborough's experience as a teacher fostered his abiding commitment to public education; he was instrumental in the creation of the country's first Bilingual Education Act, and as the sponsor of a Cold War GI Bill, he helped to extend education benefits to 5,000,000 veterans; and

Whereas, this illustrious statesman further enhanced the quality of life of his fellow citizens through his work on health care and social security legislation, and his involvement extended to the area of natural resources as well, for he helped to preserve the beauty of the South Texas coast by authoring legislation establishing the Padre Island National Seashore and many other national parks and preserves in the state; and

Whereas, firmly believing that every human being is best viewed as an asset, rather than as a liability, this renowned lawmaker's philosophy was quaintly summarized by his frequently-expressed hope that "... the jam be kept on the lower shelf so the little people can reach it ..."; and

Whereas, Ralph Yarborough further contributed to the political culture of our country by inspiring those who have followed in his footsteps, and he has left behind a legacy of outstanding achievements that will endure in the hearts and minds of future generations for many years to come; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 75th Legislature of the State of Texas, Regular Session, 1997, hereby honor the memory of former United States Senator Ralph Webster Yarborough and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his beloved wife, Opal Warren Yarborough; to his brother, Donald V. Yarborough; to his sisters, Nell Yarborough Mallet and Margaret Yarborough Pickett; to this three grandchildren; and to the many other friends and relatives of this eminent public official; and, be it further

Resolved, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of the Honorable Ralph Webster Yarborough.

HONORING COUNCILMAN ENOCH H. WILLIAMS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and achievements of Councilman Enoch Williams.

While attending the needs of a racially and ethnically diverse constituency, Mr. Williams has been a member of the New York City Council, representing the 41st Councilmanic District, since 1978. Prior to entering elective office, Mr. Williams served as the executive director of the Housing Development Corporation of the Council of Churches of New York City. He was also a community-organization specialist in the now-famous Youth-in-Action, Inc. anti-poverty agency, where he developed the skill of working with community groups, guiding them to create housing and employment in the innercity.

While making important strides in his role as a councilman, Enoch has managed to contribute to his community in other meaningful ways. Currently, he is the civilian director of the New York City region of the Selective Service System. He is a member of the American Institute of Housing Consultants, the Community Service Society, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Urban League, and the Unity Democratic Club. In addition, the councilman served as an elected delegate to the 1992 Democratic National Convention, having served in the same capacity in 1968 and 1972. He also served as Democratic district leader from 1986 to 1994.

As a veteran, Major General Williams has again proven his commitment to his country. He was appointed Commander of the New York Guard in 1990. After serving as an enlisted member during World War II, General Williams earned his commission in 1950, and has enjoyed over 30 years of active service. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Army Commendation Medal, both the Bronze and Silver, and Silver Selective Service System Meritorious Service Medals. He retired in June 1995 as Commander of the New York Guard, with the rank of major general.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Councilman Enoch Williams for all of his years of faithful service to his country and to the 41st Councilmanic District of Brooklyn, New York.

NATIONAL ELECTION FAIRNESS
ACT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, without question, a fundamental necessity of our republican form of government is the participation of citizens in the electoral process. Today, across America, millions of voters will go to the polls and select their Representatives in Congress, the Governor's mansion, or their city council. These choices are extremely important and should enjoy the benefit of the collective wisdom of all citizens.