

years, Lee served as Fire Chief, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Fire Marshall. Lee also held the positions of Judge of Elections and Township Commissioner. Lee has also served God as a loyal member and trustee of the First African Methodist Episcopal Church. I wish to congratulate Lee Taliaferro for receiving this award in honor of his timeless service to his community.

Lester Smith, owner of Smithy's Barber Shop in Darby Township, has served both his family and community faithfully. After serving in the Air Force for four years, Lester returned to his family and help his father raise his nine brothers and sisters. He joined his father in the family business after attending Tri-City Barber School. Today, Smithy's Barber Shop stands as a landmark in Darby Township, with players of the Philadelphia Eagles frequenting the shop. Lester has sponsored a softball team in his community and has served St. Barbara's as an usher and president of the Men's Club. For his dedication to his community and family, I recognize Mr. Lester Smith.

Carol Lecher has been an educator in the Southeast Delco School District for over thirty four years. But her educating has not stopped at the doors of Harris Elementary School. She has taught both Sunday School and Summer Vacation Bible School at the Media Presbyterian Church and has been instrumental in the development of the Neighbor to Neighbor Community Development Corporation After-School Tutorial Program. As an educator, Carol has touched the lives of many young people and continues to do so today. My deepest regards go out to Ms. Lecher for her selfless service.

In addition to these outstanding civil servants, I would like to thank Mr. Richard A. Dent and the entire Board of Directors and Advisory Board of Neighbor to Neighbor for sponsoring these awards in recognition of those individuals who seek to serve their communities. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing all of these fine Americans.

COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS OF  
RELATIONS BETWEEN PEOPLE  
OF THE UNITED STATES AND  
PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES F. BASS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 1998*

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Philippines Centennial Celebration. On June 12, 1998, the Philippines will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of their independence from Spanish rule.

Nearly a century ago, a revolution in the Philippines ended more than 300 years of Spanish domination in the area and established the first democratic republic in Asia. The makings of the revolution began in the late nineteenth century with the children of the elite business class. They had been educated in Europe and exposed to ideas of independence and revolution. Among these nationalists was Jose Rizal, whose novel "Noli Me Tangere" sparked the revolt against Spain.

Followers of Jose Rizal formed a secret group of reformists and radicals called the Katipunan. Eventually, in August 1896, tensions in the Philippines had raged to the point that the Katipunan's leader, Andres Bonifacio, declared complete severance from the colonial government and the revolution began.

The Philippine-Spanish Revolution began at the same time that the Spanish-American War was being fought halfway around the world. The Americans came to the aid of the Philippines, and on June 12, 1898, Emilio Aguinaldo, a leader of the Katipunans, declared victory over the Spanish colonial government and established the Philippine Republic.

The survival of the Philippine Republic over the last 100 years has not been without difficulty. The Philippines has survived American colonialism, a four year occupation by Japan during World War II, the complete wartime destruction of Manilla, Ferdinand Marco's martial law regime, and a devastating volcano called Pinatubo.

However, even with all of these struggles the Philippines is on the road to prosperity. It has been over a decade since the Peoples' Revolution ousted the Marcos regime and instituted the democracy that now exists. The Philippine economy has been rejuvenated and stands poised to join in the globalization of the East-West world market.

It is fitting that in the year of their centennial, the dictators are gone, the volcanoes are quiet, and the Philippines appear to have reached what Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed nearly 100 years ago: that an independent Philippines, "today begins to have a life of its own."

HONORING JUNETEENTH

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 11, 1998*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the upcoming Juneteenth celebrations honoring freedom and African-American history. Texas has honored Juneteenth as a state holiday for nearly twenty years, observing the day with joyous public celebrations. But outside of the Lone Star State, many do not understand the significance and meaning of Juneteenth in the lives of African-Americans past, present and future.

Juneteenth is a celebration of freedom for African-Americans. It honors the day that black slaves in Texas finally learned of their emancipation. Juneteenth honors a day that was far too long in coming. Although President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves was signed on January 1, 1863, the proclamation did not bring immediate freedom for slaves. Only after the Civil War ended in 1865 was the Emancipation Proclamation enforced, using Union soldiers to finally free slaves in the South. On June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger of the Union Army arrived in Galveston, Texas, to ensure the freedom of the slaves. Though news of the Emancipation Proclamation had been kept quiet throughout the war, the word had spread, and

when General Granger arrived in Galveston a large number of slaves turned out to greet him and his troops.

Legends abound of the origins of Juneteenth. One holds that word of emancipation spread through the Union Army via black soldiers who spread the news as the Army moved south. Another states that a messenger carrying the news was murdered on his way to Texas, while another claims that a black ex-Union soldier rode a mule from Washington, DC with a message given to him by Abraham Lincoln. But the origins are not as important as the purpose of the celebration itself.

Today, Juneteenth is widely known as Black Independence Day, as significant to many African-Americans as July 4th. It is a chance for all Americans to celebrate freedom and learn more about African American history. June 19, 1865 is the day when African-Americans in Texas began to enjoy their rights and realize their opportunities as free Americans. While the struggle continues, Juneteenth allows us to recognize how far our nation has come and celebrate the history, achievements and contributions African-Americans have made to our nation.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF JIM  
HUMMEL, FRIEND AND LEADER

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 11, 1998*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to report to the House of Representatives that a great friend and leader—Jim Hummel—has died. This man, perhaps the epitome of humility and service, always gave more than he took. A lifelong political activist, Jim served more than 35 years as a San Antonio firefighter. He retired with great honor just last year from Station 17.

I knew Jim personally. He visited me here in Washington only a couple of months ago. Despite his disease, he continued to fight for the cause that meant most to him: the rights of his fellow firefighters. A lifelong member of San Antonio Fire Fighters Local 624, Jim served as their vice-president and led their legislative committee for years. His concern for other workers led him into the leadership ranks of the San Antonio AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, where he served as Second Vice-President.

Jim began his life in 1937 and received his education in San Antonio before joining the United States Navy in 1954. He served for two years before becoming a firefighter. He was active in community and church, devoting time to the fight against muscular dystrophy and the Make-a-Wish Foundation. Jim was an active member of St. Gerard's Catholic Church and St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

We will miss Jim's humor, his warm smile, and his constant and extraordinary devotion to civic service. Jim Hummel stands as an example of what one person can do to relieve suffering and better the lives of those around him.