

HONORING GENES THOMPSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the unique community service of Genes Thompson.

Genes, a native of Greenville, North Carolina, has lived in the East New York community for the past 20 years with her husband, Dwight and their son, Anthony. As an East New York resident, she has devoted a great deal of her time to helping the community to be a better place in which to live. For example, Genes has been a member of the 76th Precinct Community Council since 1980 where her efforts and devotion has been instrumental in uplifting her community.

The Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center has employed Genes for the last 25 years as its Chief Switchboard Operator. She is also a shop delegate for Local 1199, 144 division for the past 19 years. In addition to these daily responsibilities, she is an active member of Liberty Baptist Church where she serves on the Pastor's Aid Committee as well as working with staff of Thomas Jefferson High school. Genes' civic activism includes membership in the Milford Street Block Association and work as a volunteer with the political campaigns of Senator CHARLES SCHUMER and New York State Comptroller Carl McCall.

I commend the achievements of Genes Thompson, a true community activist, to the attention of my colleagues.

HONORING MR. CHANCY WHEELER
OF WEST UNION, OH**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a distinguished resident of West Union, OH, in the Second Congressional District, Mr. Chancy Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler will turn 100 years old on June 5, and he is being honored by the Government of France for his military service in the First World War.

Mr. Wheeler was born in 1899 in Mount Olivet, KY. He volunteered for the Kentucky National Guard, and then transferred into the United States Army in 1917. As a member of the First Infantry Division, 28th Regiment, First Machine Gun Brigade, he served in 1918 in the Aisne-Marne offensive, the St. Michiel offensive, and the Meuse-Argonne offensive. He was wounded twice in battle. For his actions, he received the Silver Star medal on July 21, 1918. He also received a 75th Anniversary Commemorative Medal for World War I veterans from the U.S. Army.

Mr. Wheeler will receive the French Legion of Honor in a ceremony organized by VFW Post 3400 in West Union, OH, on March 12. In his letter conveying the Legion of Honor to Mr. Wheeler, French Ambassador Bujon de l'Estang wrote: "The Legion of Honor is conferred on you by the French government as a sign of the high esteem my country has for you who personally contributed to the decisive

support the United States gave to French soldiers in the defense of their country during World War I."

Chancy Wheeler distinguished himself in the struggle to "make the world safe for democracy" and served his country with honor. All of us in the Second Congressional District are grateful for his service and commend him on his recognition by the French Government. I wish him health and happiness in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "SONNY"
RESSEL**HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to the memory of William (Sonny) Ressel.

Sonny Ressel was neither a politician nor someone who took on the responsibility of helping others because of some ulterior motive. Despite working long hours, Sonny Ressel always found time for his family and the community that he loved.

Before his untimely death on February 8th, Sonny Ressel served as the Co-President of the New Kensington Neighborhood Association where he strove to improve his neighbor's quality of life.

Sonny Ressel was a man of action who dedicated his life to helping others regardless of who they were. Through his efforts, broken streets and traffic lights in Kensington were quickly repaired. In response to a growth in the number of hearing impaired residents in the community, Sonny secured the installation of "Deaf People Crossing" signs alerting motorists that some pedestrians would be unable to hear their horns.

With his loving wife Ricki, Sonny Ressel helped the old and the infirm of our community. They did this by making people laugh and reminding them that they were not forgotten.

Friends and admirers have likened Sonny Ressel to an angel who was put on earth to help others and to spread happiness. I can think of no better tribute for a man who always rose to the challenge of helping meet the needs of others.

Sonny Ressel was an innovator and beacon of good will to all those he came into contact with. On behalf of myself and my constituents, I would like to extend my condolences to the Ressel family on Sonny's untimely passing and to thank them for allowing us to share in the bright light that was his life.

TRIBUTE TO HOPE EDUCATION
AND LEADERSHIP FUND**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, on March 12, 1999, Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) Education and Leadership Fund's Eighth Annual Symposium, entitled "A Proud Past . . . A Powerful Tomorrow," will take place in the 33rd Congressional

District. In honor of this important event, I am proclaiming March 12, 1999, as Latina History Day.

The Symposium serves to address a variety of issues important to Latinas of all ages. I am pleased that Latinas benefit from the workshops on health, business opportunities, and cultural identity. This Symposium also includes Teen Track, which focuses on providing young Latinas with workshops on leadership and on establishing a path to success.

Since its founding in 1989, the HOPE Education and Leadership Fund has remained dedicated to improving the educational, political and economic status of Latinas. HOPE has anchored itself by the principle that knowledge of the political process coupled with active participation will guarantee a more representative, democratic government.

The proclamation of Latina History Day during "Women's History Month" memorializes the important role Latinas play in American society. Latinas are breaking glass ceilings and pioneering into areas our mothers never imagined. Latinas own businesses, are executives in our country's largest corporations, are being elected to public office and appointed to powerful positions. We recognize the work and sacrifices of our mothers and grandmothers, celebrate contemporary Latinas, and are building the foundation for future generations.

I commend the HOPE Education and Leadership Fund for their commitment to Latinas, and in their honor, proclaim March 12, 1999, as Latina History Day.

TRIBUTE TO KARNEY HODGE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Karney Hodge for his many years of service to the community. Mr. Hodge has been a dedicated public servant and successful businessman.

Karney is an investment banker and vice president of Salomon Smith Barney and has spent his life in service to the community, initially as a volunteer. Hodge most recently worked as a financier of projects aimed at improving the facilities that Fresno is able to offer to its residents.

Hodge was an avid baseball player in his college days at California State University, Fresno. He seriously considered playing professionally, but he eventually left college to become a partner in the family clothing store, Hodge and Sons. He still played baseball and got his first taste of public service from an avid fan. In the 1960's Mayor Selland of Fresno, appointed Hodge to the planning commission, sparking Karney's interest in public service.

In 1982 Governor George Deukmejian was looking to involve members of the private sector in agencies like Retail Development and Planning. State Senator Ken Maddy surmised that Hodge's background in retail and long history of community service made him a perfect candidate for such a position. In 1983 Hodge and his wife Marilyn relocated to Sacramento and he embarked on his second career, Executive Director of the California Housing Finance Agency. Karney built a structure for the young agency by bringing in the best people.