

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICHARD
"DICK" WOODFIN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Richard "Dick" Woodfin and thank him for his contributions to the state of Colorado. Dick, who last year celebrated his 100th birthday, has been an active leader in state political and agricultural communities for most of his lifetime. I would now like to recognize some of his past and present accomplishments and extend my gratitude to his service and dedication to our state and nation.

Dick came to Colorado as a child when his parents settled in Cheyenne Wells in 1916. He graduated from Colorado State University in 1928 and became an agriculture teacher and thus began a long career in the agricultural community. His work with the Colorado Farm Bureau began in 1930 as an extension agent. He worked and remained active in the cities of Crowley, Canon City, Grand Junction and Burlington. In 1948, his involvement took a step forward when he was instrumental in the creation of the Mesa County Farm Bureau. His official service to the Colorado Farm Bureau ended in 1962, but he remained persistent in fighting for the interests of the citizens of Colorado upon being elected to the state legislature in 1969.

Mr. Speaker, Dick Woodfin contributed so much to the struggles of the Colorado Farm Bureau and to the triumph of the people of Colorado. His achievements have recently been recognized with the presentation of the Colorado Farm Bureau 2001 Service to Agriculture Award. For his lengthy service to the State of Colorado and the United States of America, I would like to personally recognize him for his efforts. Dick, you are truly worthy of the praise of this body of Congress.

HONORING THE GIRL SCOUTS OF
HENDERSONVILLE, TENNESSEE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the young ladies of Girl Scout Troop #2765 in Hendersonville, Tennessee. Like so many Americans, they were taken aback by the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and proved, once again, that heroes come in all sizes.

In the wake of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, people all over America shared their food, shelter and prayers with those directly affected by the tragic events of September 11. The Girl Scouts from Troop #2765, saddened as so many of us were at the realization that hundreds of young children lost a parent in the attacks, took it upon themselves to launch "Operation Cuddles."

With the help of several local organizations in Tennessee, these fourth-graders were able to collect over 500 stuffed animals and deliver them in person to children in need at a ceremony at the State House in New Jersey.

The young ladies' kindness and commitment in the aftermath of such a tragedy exemplifies the spirit and tenacity of America. The compassion shown to our fellow man during this atrocity has revealed many heroes among us, not the least of which are the ladies of Troop #2765.

I wish to thank these brave young women for their tremendous contribution to the recovery efforts, and for helping us all gain some perspective in a time of national tragedy.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA ALEXANDER, ADVOCATE FOR EDUCATIONALLY DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the passing of Barbara Alexander, a very special woman whose life was dedicated to aiding children. Barbara is best known as a loving, energetic, feisty, and diligent advocate for advancing educational opportunities for children, especially children from economically disadvantaged families. Her courageous efforts continued until her untimely death at age 64 on November 27th of this year.

Born in Beaumont, Texas, Barbara moved to Richmond, California, in my congressional district, with her family when she was 7 years old. She met her future husband, Billy Alexander, while in church one Sunday. Barbara was married to Billy for 44 years and was the proud mother of three daughters, five sons, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Barbara's activism on behalf of public school children began in 1963, when her eldest daughter, Gaye, entered kindergarten at Coronado Elementary School in Richmond. She volunteered countless hours at the school and joined the Parent Teacher Association and the school advisory council. In the 1970s, Barbara and Billy successfully won a court decision against the Richmond Unified School District and the State of California for their handling of federal funds committed for special education students under Title I. Soon afterward, Barbara's involvement in education and her fight for the rights of disadvantaged children intensified. She served as a member of the National Coalition for Title I Parents, and the California Association for Compensatory Education. Barbara continued her lifelong passion for poor children by pioneering programs to assist low-income children such as Dreams for Children, which raised money to take low-income children shopping for Christmas, a Day of Sharing at Nystrom Elementary School, weekend tutorial programs, and a summer school program called Summer of Hope.

In recent years, the Alexanders founded the West Contra Costa Back-To-School Festival, an annual event that brings together businesses and community organizations to provide free school supplies, health screenings and community services to students attending schools in Contra Costa County. Last September, about 2,000 students and their parents benefitted from the event. Billy fondly

calls Barbara a modern-day "Robin Hood" because she passionately helped poor children and their families even when her own family was experiencing financial difficulties. I want to thank Billy personally for the sacrifice he and his family made throughout the years. Barbara Alexander was a model for us all. Indeed, her passion and advocacy will continue to inspire us to explore ways to improve educational opportunities for all children.

Mr. Speaker, today the House is going to pass historic legislation to reform the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, a law to benefit disadvantaged public school students first enacted in 1965. I would like to think that Barbara Alexander would be proud of the work we have done in this bill to ensure that federal aid to schools in fact is targeted, better than ever before, on those children most in need of help. I would like to think that she would be proud of our efforts to ensure that all children are taught by qualified teachers, that they have quality after-school programs and that they will benefit from the bright lines we will soon draw with regard to our expectations for schools. Our bill is rooted in the belief that all children, no matter what their backgrounds, can learn equally well as their schools have the proper resources and a qualified teaching staff. I believe these are the goals that Barbara Alexander spent many years of her life fighting for, and I will think of her today, and the children she fought for, as we pass this historic bill.

HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3295, The Help America Vote Act. I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. NEY and the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. HOYER for their diligent work in getting this legislation to the floor quickly enough for it to make a difference in the upcoming 2002 elections.

The Presidential election of 2000 highlighted the numerous problems within our federal election system. Voting machines broke down, thousands of votes were discarded due to damaged ballots over or under votes and hanging, dimpled and pregnant chads. The situation was especially grave in our minority communities, especially African-American neighborhoods. The United States election process broke down, as did the voter's confidence in it. We all came to this House just under a year ago, promising to immediately act to fix the many problems we discovered. Today we must take the opportunity to restore public confidence in the integrity of the electoral process.

With the passage of this important legislation, we will finally demand minimum Federal standards for voter registration. H.R. 3295 would also mandate minimum standards on the equipment used to cast ballots, and the procedure used to determine what is and is not a vote on every variety of voting machine used in this country. This will eliminate confusing and contradictory local laws that made