

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF DR. SHERMAN SPARKS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in honor of the beloved community member Dr. Sherman Sparks, of Rockwall, Texas. Dr. Sparks was a tireless country doctor who devoted his life to his friends and neighbors. He had served his community from the 1940's until his retirement in 1996. He died at the age of 92.

Sherman was a bedrock of the Rockwall community as it grew from its rural roots into a suburban city. His devotion to the community was constant, though. It was said that he did not have patients, but he had friends. During his medical practice he delivered over 3,000 babies.

He was very generous with those who needed him, but could not afford a doctor. He founded the Rockwall High School chemistry program and volunteered as doctor for the High School's athletic teams for over 30 years. Sherman also donated his services as jail doctor for the Rockwall Detention Center between 1945 and 1975. Dr. Sparks made house calls up until the day he retired—often traveling to homes that could only be reached by tractors.

Outside of his medical services, Sherman was also instrumental in the community's politics. He founded the Rockwall County Republican Party and even traveled to Washington to testify before Congress on behalf of his patients about Social Security. In the mid-1950's Sherman was instrumental in starting the Rockwall Municipal Airport, much of which they built with their own hands. He was an avid pilot.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Sherman Sparks was one of those rare community leaders who gave his entire life to shaping the community. The impact he made is incalculable. He will be remembered as a selfless giver and great family man, a father to four sons, Dr. Randy P. Sparks, Dr. Bob Sparks, David P. Sparks and James Sparks; with 14 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. We will remember with sadness the passing of this kind and caring man who gave everything to his family and community—Dr. Sherman Sparks.

HONORING NANCY RICHARDSON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nancy Richardson for receiving the Excellence in Public Service Award sponsored by the Business Council. Ms. Richardson will be recognized at a luncheon sponsored by the Kenneth L. Maddy Institute, The Fresno Bee, and the Business Council.

Nancy has been active within the community for years. Her interest in the juvenile system was sparked when she learned that judges from Valley counties were sentencing children to years in the California Youth Authority at a rate that exceeded the state average. This realization led Ms. Richardson on an expedition to uncover and expose the truth. She gathered information and published 1,000 copies of her findings to let people know what was occurring. After this amazing contribution to the juvenile justice system, Nancy went on to volunteer her services to more places which benefited from her initiative. She was elected to the Fresno Unified School District's Board of Trustees, served as coordinator of the Inter-agency Council, and now works on the Foster Care Oversight Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nancy Richardson for receiving the Excellence in Public Service Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Ms. Richardson for her tremendous contributions to the community, and in wishing her many years of continued success.

HONORING MS. MAIOLA COLEMAN AS AN AGENT OF CHANGE IN TUCSON'S AND PIMA COUNTY'S AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. PASTOR. Mister Speaker, I rise today to mark the celebration of Maiola Coleman's life by her family, friends and her community on April 19, 2002, at Grace Temple in Tucson, Arizona. They have gathered to honor Maiola's 50 years as an agent of change in Tucson's and Pima County's African American Community with choirs, commemorative awards, and remembrances by those who have been touched by her generous spirit. The community members have chosen this public acclamation to acknowledge Maiola's many achievements on their behalf.

Maiola Coleman is and has been a passionate and committed advocate of civil rights all of her life. Her mother, Tommie Thomas, was her mentor, teacher, and role model for community, grass roots activism on behalf of equal rights and equal opportunities. Maiola learned her lessons well and has honored her mother's teachings by living them and passing them on.

Her childhood experiences helped focus her energies in working with youth and young adults, especially minority youth. Her work as a job developer, trainer, and employment counselor has enabled thousands of minority youth to pursue their dreams of upward mobility through education and good entry level jobs. She has created model programs with the Tucson Urban League and with the University of Arizona that have served as national

models for successful minority educational retention programs and community collaborations for at-risk youth.

In addition to her work with youth, Maiola is the "go-to" person for solutions to problems in the African American community. Maiola works diligently with elected officials, agency directors, private employers, community leaders, and the clergy to bring resources from every sector to bear on finding solutions to problems, whether the problem affects one person or the whole community. Maiola is able to engage multiple resources because she is a "bridge builder" who is constantly linking people and organizations to maximize their effectiveness. She has a wide range of personal contacts and friends who respect her work "from the heart" and who trust her community spirit to work for the greatest good for all. Her latest collaboration has been the Desert Waste Not Warehouse which is recycling computers into the households of the minority and low-income neighborhoods of Tucson and Pima County. This program is making a tremendous difference locally in the "digital divide". It, too, may serve as a national model.

I applaud Maiola Coleman for all she has done for our community in Arizona District 2 to make civil rights a reality and to improve the living conditions of those in need. She has been given many awards and certificates of achievement. They are well deserved. We are proud of her spirit and her service. I thank Maiola for all that she has done to make our country better and stronger. I also thank her 3 children, Marcus, Stellvonne, Kimiro, and her 2 grandchildren, Kivone and Enai for encouraging and sustaining her as she shares her great gifts with the rest of us. Finally, I thank Maiola for being my friend and for sharing with me the vision of a just world.

IN MEMORY OF BOB DE LORENZI

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a friend of Northern Virginia who passed away this week, Mr. Bob de Lorenzi.

Mr. de Lorenzi was a pillar of the Northern Virginia community. As President and Chief Executive Officer of the Patriot Computer Group, Inc. and its subsidiary PatriotNet, Inc., Mr. de Lorenzi was widely admired as a businessman, receiving the 2001 Businessman of the Year Award from the Chamber of Commerce. But even more importantly, he was admired for his love and devotion to his Northern Virginia community.

Mr. de Lorenzi served as Vice Chairman of Technology, and Chief Information Officer, for the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce. This is the first instance in the nation that a Chamber of Commerce appointed a Board-level CIO. He was chairman of the Central

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