

Captain Granholm was a caring man who put his wife Aliina and their children Robyn and Alyssa above all else. Captain Granholm's caring and compassionate spirit guided him throughout his short life and his kindnesses are lasting tributes to all he touched. Kim Granholm died doing what he loved to do, serving his community. He was a father, a husband, a friend and a firefighter. Most of all, he was a hero to all of us.

Most troubling of all is the brutal reality that Kim Granholm was killed when a motorist failed to slow his vehicle at the fire scene. I am encouraged that Esko Fire Chief Jeff Juntunen and his Minnesota fire fighter colleagues are working with the Minnesota State Legislature to enact legislation that will impose severe penalties on drivers who speed through an emergency scene. I commend Chief Juntunen for this important initiative which, when enacted, will serve as a lasting tribute to Captain Kim Granholm.

Since September 11, we have witnessed throughout the land a heightened awareness of the public service and dedication of those first responders who answer the call. All Americans should go further and demonstrate our profound appreciation of these brave men and women by exercising caution at emergency scenes to enable these fire, police and emergency workers to do their job in a less hazardous environment.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. VICTORIA
WRIGHT HAMILTON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Victoria Wright Hamilton, who will celebrate her 100th Birthday on September 12, 2002. Mrs. Hamilton, or "Grandma Vic," as many affectionately know her, is a very remarkable woman in many ways. Born on September 12, 1902, in Alvin, S.C., Mrs. Hamilton has lived as an intricate part of the same community for a century. Although she only attended school up to the third grade, as did many women of color in that era, she is a very intelligent woman whose knowledge cannot begin to be measured.

In 1920, Mrs. Hamilton married Henry Hamilton and their union produced nine children: Williemenia, Christine, Julius, Rayford, Leroy, Nathaniel, Henry Jr., Rosa Mae, and an infant who died shortly after birth. Mrs. Hamilton also raised her husband's half brother Edward Hamilton, as if he were her own son, always filling their lives with love and affection.

Mrs. Hamilton is a very strong woman—in both mind and body. She has been a faithful member of Bethlehem Baptist Church throughout her life. In addition, she is also a dedicated member of the Christian Aid Society, and has been a member of the Laurel Hill Chapter #257, Order of the Eastern Star, for more than 41 years. As a young woman, Mrs. Hamilton worked long days in the fields of South Carolina picking cotton and plowing with oxen teams and mules. Even today, at the age of 100, she is still able to work in her garden to produce delicious fruits and vegetables. And, she never allows an opportunity to visit or help her friends or family pass her by.

In her spare time, Mrs. Hamilton makes beautiful hand-sewn quilts that can be found in many homes from Jamestown, S.C. to various communities along Interstate 95 from Florida, to Maryland. Having made over 100 of these quilts as gifts to her many family members and friends, "Grandma Vic," who is a Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, and Great-Great-Grandmother, has spread and continues to spread tremendous love and affection to everyone with whom she comes in contact.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring an outstanding South Carolinian whose dedication to her family, and love for her fellow man are legendary. I wish her good luck and Godspeed, and a very Happy 100th Birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF THE
LATE PRESIDENT JOAQUIN
BALAGUER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late President of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Joaquin Balaguer.

President Balaguer passed away on July 14th in the national capital of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic.

Mr. Balaguer was a long time friend of the United States. He held the presidency of the Dominican Republic from 1966 to 1978 and again from 1986 to 1996.

Mr. Balaguer was born in Navarette in the Dominican Republic. He is the son of a Puerto Rican father of Castilian descent and Dominican mother of Spanish blood.

He wrote books, including volumes of poetry and political science. At the age of 14, he wrote a collection of poems called, "Pagan Psalms."

After graduating from law school in Santo Domingo, he became a member of the foreign service, where he served in Madrid and Paris in the 1930s.

He earned his doctorate of law from the Sorbonne in Paris. He also taught law at the University of Santo Domingo before becoming vice president in 1957 and president in 1960.

Mr. Balaguer served under dictator Rafael Trujillo as cabinet member, diplomat, vice president and President for over three decades beginning in the late 1930s.

After General Trujillo was assassinated in 1961, Mr. Balaguer was thrust into the leadership of the Dominican Republic. He quickly changed the name of the capital from Ciudad Trujillo back to Santo Domingo, the city's original name.

He fled to exile in New York City after riots and political turmoil erupted in 1962. While living in New York City, he formed his lasting right-wing political party.

He returned to the Dominican Republic only after U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson sent 20,000 U.S. Marines to the island nation to put down a leftist mutiny within the army in April 1965.

With the support of the U.S., he was elected president in 1966 in one of the Dominican Republic's first freely contested elections.

He established, in just a few years of his election victory, the first solid middle class by

implementing massive public work projects and economic reform, even though he was elected at a time when 60% of the nation was unemployed and two-thirds of its population was illiterate and its streets and towns were in ruins.

His first term was viewed as "pseudo" dictatorial in that he led with a firm grip and used the country's military to rule the country at the same time he made weekly visits through the nation's small villages, visiting residents and passing out medicine to the sick and toys to children and listening to the desires of all.

Mr. Balaguer was defeated in presidential elections in 1978 after serving three terms. He remained leader of the political party he founded in the 1960's, now called the Social Christian Reform Party, and in 1986 won another bid to power.

He won elections in 1990 and 1994. In 1996, under increasing pressure from the U.S. and international bodies due to suspected election irregularities, he agreed to resign.

Mr. Balaguer remained an important figure in the political party he created until his death. Some herald him as the most influential Dominican.

[From the Washington Post, NewsBank NewsFile Collection, July 15, 2002]

JOAQUIN BALAGUER DIES AT 95, LONGTIME DOMINICAN LEADER
(By Richard Pearson)

Joaquin Balaguer, 95, the authoritative and paternalistic president of the Dominican Republic for more than 20 years between 1961 and 1996, died July 14 in the national capital of Santo Domingo. He had been hospitalized since July 4 for bleeding ulcers. He served briefly as president in the early 1960s, then held the office again from 1966 to 1978 and a third time from 1986 to 1996.

President Balaguer, who has been called one of Latin America's caudillos, hardly projected the image of a strongman. An award-winning poet, he had been a career diplomat and law professor before entering the political arena. He was a little over five feet tall, was lame and nearly deaf, and wore thick glasses before going blind with glaucoma in the 1980s.

His mentor was the notorious military dictator Rafael Trujillo, who ruled the country with an iron hand from 1930 to 1961. The future president held a variety of posts under Trujillo, dealing largely with education, foreign affairs and administration, before being elected vice president on a ticket headed by Trujillo's brother, Hector, in 1956. In 1960, the brother stepped down, and President Balaguer took office.

Real power remained with Rafael Trujillo until his assassination in 1961. After that, President Balaguer began liberalizing the government with such changes as legalizing political activities, promoting health and education improvements and instituting modest land reforms. But without the army backing of Trujillo, President Balaguer was too closely identified with the late dictator's unpopular actions to continue in office.

He was forced into exile in New York. Juan Bosch, a leftist, became president until overthrown by a military coup. In 1965, Bosch's supporters took to the streets to restore him to power. Chaos seemed to erupt in the nation of 8 million people, which shares its Caribbean island with Haiti.

The United States, fearing that a left-leaning Bosch might help turn his nation into another Cuba, dispatched U.S. Marines to the Dominican Republic, supposedly to protect U.S. lives. Those who had begun protesting U.S. involvement in Vietnam added

this action to the list of mistakes made by the Johnson administration.

The Marines were replaced by an Organization of American States presence, order was restored and President Balaguer returned to his native land. He and his Social Christian Reform Party won the 1966 presidential race, despite charges of fraud, and went on to win two more consecutive terms.

Newsweek, which characterized President Balaguer as "slight, ascetic and sad-eyed," reported in 1965 that he was "neither an orator, nor a schemer," adding that many Dominicans considered him "an honest, kindly reformer."

President Balaguer lost the 1978 and 1982 presidential races, then was again victorious in 1986. He won reelection in 1996 (defeating Bosch) and in 1994. Two years later, after increasing criticism for vote fraud in the 1994 election, he resigned. He was unsuccessful in a 2000 bid to return to the presidency.

President Balaguer received mixed marks as head of his country. Soon after he took office the first time, critics were stifled, many going into exile while others were imprisoned or disappeared. Vote fraud and corruption seemed constants in the Dominican Republic, regardless of who was president.

He instituted large-scale public works, including the enormous 1992 Christopher Columbus Lighthouse. President Balaguer also brought about modest reforms and made a weekly habit of walking through his nation's small villages, visiting residents and passing out toys to children and medicine to the sick and listening to the desires of all.

Through it all, he managed to largely keep in the good graces of the United States, with the Dominican Republic becoming a huge recipient of U.S. foreign aid.

President Balaguer, whose only interests were collies and antique cars, never married and had no children. He wrote books, including volumes of poetry and political science. He was fluent in English and French as well as Spanish.

But politics became his life. He was head of his political party until his death, continuing to broker political deals and to counsel not only his party colleagues but other high figures, including presidents, as well.

In the 1980s, when foes tried to use his blindness against him during a presidential run, he said, "I will not be asked to thread needles when in office."

Joaquin Balaguer Ricardo was born in the small town of Villa Bisono, the only son of eight children. His father was born in Puerto Rico of Castilian descent. His mother was a Dominican of Spanish blood.

The future president, who won a poetry award as a teenager, graduated with a degree in philosophy and letters from the Normal School in Santiago and was a 1929 graduate of the University of Santo Domingo law school. He was a state attorney in the land court before entering the foreign service in 1932. He served in Madrid and then in Paris, where he received a doctorate in law and political economy from the University of Paris in 1934.

In 1936, he was named undersecretary of state for the presidency. In the 1940s, he served as ambassador to Colombia and Venezuela. He entered the cabinet as secretary of education and culture in 1949 and became secretary of foreign affairs in 1954. He also taught law at the University of Santo Domingo before becoming vice president in 1957 and president in 1960.

He defended the Trujillo years as a time when a strong hand was needed to rule a backward nation not yet ready for democracy.

Yet in his 1988 autobiography, President Balaguer admitted that his first presidency, when he was the figurehead chief of state for

the brutal and bloody Trujillo, was "the saddest and most humiliating" time in his political life.

President Balaguer also had at times deplored the "unavoidable excesses" of his own security forces and deplored corruption, though stoutly maintaining that corruption stopped at his door.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH
ANNIVERSARY OF LA-Z-BOY, INC.

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to La-Z-Boy, Incorporated, which was founded and remains headquartered in my Congressional District in Monroe, Michigan. La-Z-Boy is celebrating 75 years of bringing comfort, quality and style into homes and offices worldwide through its extensive selection of furniture.

The La-Z-Boy story is the story of the American dream. On March 24, 1927, in Monroe, Michigan, two young entrepreneurs and cousins, Edward M. Knabusch and Edwin J. Shoemaker, left the security of their jobs to take a leap of faith and begin manufacturing a unique and innovative product. A porch chair wrapped in fabric was the prototype for the La-Z-Boy recliner, a moniker that has become a worldwide household term. Using money from Edwin's mortgaged family farm and donations from relatives, the cousins built their first factory by hand, brick by brick. After introducing the revolutionary chair that both rocked and reclined, La-Z-Boy sales skyrocketed. La-Z-Boy evolved from a small business to having a place on the New York Stock Exchange.

La-Z-Boy has grown immensely in its 75 years of operation. The company has added many new products and features over the years, which have enabled it to remain competitive in the furniture industry since its founding. La-Z-Boy has grown from "two guys in a garage" to nearly 19,000 employees worldwide. Today, La-Z-Boy generates annual sales in excess of \$2 billion, making it the largest manufacturer of upholstered furniture and the world's leading producer of reclining chairs.

La-Z-Boy is a great success and consistently shares its good fortune with the community of Monroe. Its philanthropy is rooted in small town values that prevailed when Mr. Knabusch and Mr. Shoemaker first launched the company. During World War II, La-Z-News kept the community informed about overseas news, and the company rented out garages to build the most comfortable tank seats and crash pads in the country. La-Z-Boy continues being very much involved in the city of Monroe and is a major asset to Michigan's 16th Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I would like you to join me in commending the La-Z-Boy corporation and its employees for their leadership in both their industry and in their community, as we celebrate their 75th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent March 12 through 14 for medical reasons. Had I been here, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 53-54, 56-61, 63-64 and "no" on rollcall votes 55 and 62.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT MICHAEL THOMAS FLETCHER, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement, it is my pleasure to recognize an exceptional United States Marine, Master Gunnery Sergeant Michael Thomas Fletcher. Master Gunnery Sergeant Fletcher has served our Nation with distinction for over three decades in the United States Marine Corps, rising from Private to Master Gunnery Sergeant. He has served in times of both war and peace and has gone from patrolling the jungles of Vietnam to walking the halls of Congress. During the Vietnam War, he was awarded: the Combat Action Ribbon; the Vietnam Service Medal with one star; the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal; and the Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation of the Gallantry Cross. His personal awards have included two Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medals, a Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and he has been recently recommended for the Legion of Merit.

During Master Gunnery Sergeant Fletcher's last six years of service, he has been the Administration Chief in the United States Marine Corps' Office of Legislative Affairs. That office supports Members of Congress and Congressional committees in matters of legislation, protocol, and logistics for Congressional travel. Master Gunnery Sergeant Fletcher brought a wealth of managerial expertise and leadership to this office and contributed significantly to the successful accomplishment of its mission.

During these six years, Master Gunnery Sergeant Fletcher has helped carry the Corp's message to the Congress. He has enabled the Marine Corps' Office of Legislative Affairs to provide consistent and timely responses to the United States Congress, and in doing so, has made a lasting contribution in the containment of today's readiness and shape of tomorrow's Marine Corps. Particularly noteworthy have been his efforts in directing, organizing, and escorting Members of Congress and their staffs around the world. His attention to detail in making these important trips logistically successful is yet another indication of this Marine's talent and professionalism.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Fletcher has made immeasurable contributions to both today's Marine Corps' and to the Corps of the 21st Century. His superior performance of duties highlights the culmination of more than 30 years of honorable and dedicated Marine Corps service. By his exemplary competence,