

POEM BY DULCE MURILLA OF SAN LEANDRO HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2003*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the wisdom of a student in my district. At one of my recent town meetings while we were discussing people's concerns with the President's war with Iraq, teacher Karen Green rose to read a poem by ninth grader Dulce Murilla of San Leandro High School.

Sometimes we need to pause and listen to our children—who often have meaningful insights into even the world's largest problems. I commend this poem to your attention.

It's all 'bout the war in Iraq  
what are these dumb fools on crack?!

Don't you see all the lives that have been  
taken

and how many souls have been taken

I hate these moments in history

Like they say life before your eyes

And that our government is full of lies

And ask myself why

why why Why

why all the pain

why all the tears

all these fears that haunt us behind each corner

this is all so complicated

Did you hear that missile

and did you hear that bomb

Imagine all the lives that have been taken

and all those children without their parents

can't we have some peace

and just stop the damn tease

Doesn't it break your heart

'cause i feel my heart falling apart

after each child that dies

and each woman that is burned

I wish the soldiers would've thought and

turned

turned back to their homeland to the USA

But hey what's there for me to say

HONORING DR. KENNETH E.  
MITCHEM

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2003*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Kenneth Mitchem, who is one of the Central Valley's most outstanding citizen leaders. As a doctor he has dedicated himself to increasing the availability of medical services to his community and as such he has touched many lives. As his friends and family gather to celebrate Dr. Mitchem's numerous achievements, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting his most accomplished career.

After Dr. Mitchem graduated from the University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine he opened his practice in Mokane, Missouri. In 1957 he moved his practice to Camdenton, Missouri. There in the midst of the Ozark Mountains he was the only full time doctor. With the nearest hospital 65 miles away he opened his practice as a clinic, two-bed emergency hospital, and birthing center. This clinic was complete with a laboratory,

X-ray capabilities, and pharmacy. In his clinic he treated everything from broken bones and car accidents to delivering babies.

In 1969 he moved to Turlock, California where he joined the office of Drs. Stanley Todd and Hugh Washburn. As a general physician and surgeon, Dr. Mitchem was able to provide medical care for thousands of patients in the Central Valley at a time when there were few doctors in this area.

Not only is Dr. Mitchem widely respected as a very important and competent physician but he is also widely respected in the community for all of his public service. In the past Dr. Mitchem has served as a board member to the Stanislaus County Medical Society. Currently he serves as a member of the Board of Directors to the Stanislaus Foundation for Medical Care. Not only has he displayed an incredible amount of integrity and dedication to his colleagues, but he has worked to increase the availability of medical services to patients throughout our community.

As a Medical Advisor to the Elness Convalescent Hospital, the Bel Air Lodge, and the Hale Aloha Convalescent Hospital, he has demonstrated his commitment to seniors and the important medical care they need.

Dr. Mitchem also serves his community as a Board Member of the Creative Alternatives Board. As a member of this board he helps run three separate programs in our community. These programs include a foster family agency, a residential care program, and non public schools. This board was established in 1976, and with Dr. Mitchem's assistance, has helped hundreds in our community. His dedication to children, families, and seniors is astounding. Dr. Mitchem is truly an invaluable member of our community.

Mr. Speaker, on May 29th, as Dr. Kenneth E. Mitchem's friends and family gathered to honor his years of incredible service to the medical community and his patients, he was honored as the recipient of the John Darroch Memorial Award by the Stanislaus Medical Society. His successes are considerable, and it is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his contributions. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing Dr. Kenneth E. Mitchem continued success in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING MR. ABDEL SALEM

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2003*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to honor Mr. Abdel Salem on the occasion of his retirement as City Manager of El Centro, California in my Congressional District. Abdel was honored by his friends and colleagues at a Farewell Dinner on May 30, 2003.

A native of Facous, Egypt, near the Suez Canal, Abdel was born into a farming family, along with two brothers and two sisters. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Alexandria University in Alexandria, Egypt in 1965. Influenced by an uncle who had earned his Doctorate Degree from the University of California at Berkeley, Abdel came to North America in the early 1970s—first to Toronto and then to New York City. He

has furthered his education through post-graduate courses in Public Administration at San Diego State University.

Choosing to move to sunny Imperial Valley of California, Abdel became Assistant Finance Director of El Centro in 1973 and was promoted to Finance Director four years later. Then came an appointment in 1980 to Acting City Manager and to City Manager in 1981. He has also served as Executive Director of the city's Redevelopment Agency and Executive Director of the Community Development Commission.

He has been involved in many roles in the organizations and activities of Imperial Valley. He is past chairman of the Imperial Valley Emergency Communications Authority, past chairman of the Imperial Valley City/County Managers Association, and a founding board member of the Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation. He served as secretary/treasurer and president of the Optimist Club and is past chairman of the Oratorical Contest of Optimist International/Southern California District.

Abdel is also a member of the International City Managers Association, the California City Managers Executive Committee, the Community Redevelopment Agencies Association, and the League of Cities Fiscal Reform Committee, as well as the League of California Cities Committee on Diversity.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Abdel Salem for these many fine contributions to our community. Upon his retirement, he leaves the City of El Centro a far better place. He is joined in celebrating his accomplishments by his wife, Samia, a teacher at Southwest High School, and his children, Sherif and Omneya, Salma, and Kareem. Sherif received his Bachelors' Degree in Biology in 1998 from USD and is currently employed at a biotech company in Irvine as a microbiologist. Omneya, his wife, is an architect, and they reside in San Diego. In 2001, Salma received her Masters' Degree in Human Development and Psychology from Harvard University. Kareem is Vice President of the Class of 2003 and an honor student at Southwest High School.

My best wishes go to Abdel Salem and his family upon his completion of a fruitful and noteworthy term as El Centro's City Manager. He will be missed!

IN RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW  
BRONFMAN

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2003*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Matthew Bronfman for his numerous achievements during his years of service to the 92nd Street Y. A dedicated and passionate philanthropist, Mr. Bronfman has long been a guiding force behind the Y, one of New York City's premier cultural institutions.

The 92nd Street Y is a New York City landmark, having been in operation for nearly 130 years. Founded in 1874, the Y has become a center for people of all races, ethnic backgrounds and religions to meet and participate in activities ranging from concerts at the Tisch

Center to pottery classes for children. Inspiring New Yorkers of all ages with its varied programs and classes, the 92nd Street Y has played a crucial role in maintaining the vitality of the city.

A successful businessman and philanthropist for many years, Matthew Bronfman joined the 92nd Street Y Board of Directors in September of 1991 and was elected its 42nd President in May of 2000. His strong leadership and vision have had an energizing influence in strengthening the 92nd Street Y.

The Bronfman family has also played a major role in the life of the Y by endowing, in 1992, the Bronfman Center for Jewish Life. The Bronfman Center has become the focus of the Y's many programs involved with Jewish education, outreach, family and holiday planning. The Center sponsors lectures, religious services, classes and workshops, all designed to help the community explore Jewish heritage and culture. Recent guest speakers include Elie Wiesel and Yitzhak Rabin.

A devoted father of six, Matthew Bronfman is managing director of a private investment company, ACI Capital, and chairman of the Investment Committee of the Challenge Fund, L.P. Mr. Bronfman is also a board member of many organizations including Tweeter Home Entertainment Group, Earnest Partners, Visiosonic, Palace Candles, The Canadian Center for Architecture, and the Cardigan Mountain School.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements and leadership, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Matthew Bronfman, an accomplished businessman and a cultural leader.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2003*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington yesterday. Three recorded votes were taken by the House; if I were here, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 227: a motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 159, a resolution Expressing Profound Sorrow on the Occasion of the Death of Irma Rangel. I would have voted "yea";

Rollcall No. 228: a motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 195, a resolution congratulating Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs for Hitting 500 Major League Home Runs. I would have voted "yea";

Rollcall No. 229: a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1465, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4832 East Highway 27 in Iron Station, North Carolina, as the "General Charles Gabriel Post Office". I would have voted "yea".

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO GERALD THYGERSON

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct privilege to stand before this body to pay

tribute to a true public servant. Gerald Thygeron of Grand Junction, Colorado has spent 38 years improving the lives of ranchers and their livestock in the West. To commemorate his retirement from the Bureau of Land Management, I would like to recognize his efforts here today.

Gerald joined the BLM after graduating with a Bachelor of Range Science Degree from New Mexico State University in 1966. He worked in the Range Management Program his entire career—first in Las Cruces, New Mexico and then in Grand Junction, Colorado beginning in 1973. After taking control of the nascent Little Brookcliffs Wild Horse Range in 1981, Gerald greatly expanded the size, genetic diversity, and overall quality of the herd while simultaneously cutting costs. His success and ability to forge strong partnerships has brought him and the Little Brookcliffs Horse Range national attention.

Mr. Speaker, Gerald Thygeron has been responsible for numerous improvements that have enhanced both the quality of livestock and public rangelands in the West. He has been an outstanding steward of our nation's resources, and I thank him for his service to the BLM. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARGARET AND ANDREW WYATT

### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2003*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Margaret and Andrew Wyatt as they celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary. On May 17, 2003 the pair renewed their vows at Greater Abyssinian Baptist Church in my hometown of Newark, New Jersey.

Marrying at a very young age, Margaret and Andrew have grown together over these past fifty years, enjoying times of great joy and happiness. Finding a special person and friend to share your life with is one of the great joys of life. The Wyatt's have found that special bond and continue to grow and change together.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me today in congratulating Margaret and Andrew on this wonderful occasion and in wishing them many more wonderful years together.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2003*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield in Illinois in honor of their Sesquicentennial Celebration.

The Springfield Diocese is home to approximately 170,000 Catholics in 164 parishes. The diocese is also home to 145 diocesan priests. There are eight Catholic hospitals, one religious seminary, one Catholic university, one

Catholic college, seven Catholic high schools, and 54 Catholic elementary schools in the diocese.

Today, I would like to send my blessings to Bishop Lucas and the entire Catholic Diocese of Springfield in Illinois for a joyous celebration of their Sesquicentennial.

The Diocese will celebrate their year of Jubilee with a free fun-filled day on Saturday, June 28, 2003 with a community mass that evening. The day will include activities for children, families, and seniors at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. The day will conclude with a concert from Aaron Neville. I would like to commend the sponsors of the event who are making this day possible for the hundreds of Catholic families in the Diocese.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the Diocese on their Jubilee 2003 Celebration and wish them much success with their events. I know every one who attends will feel renewed in their faith and ready to begin the next 150 years with thanksgiving for all we have been given. God bless.

#### CONCENTRATION OF OWNERSHIP IN MEDIA

SPEECH OF

### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 2, 2003*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Communications Commission voted along party lines to put more power in the hands of a few corporate giants at the expense of the American people.

If the FCC's goal was to line the pockets of Disney, General Electric, AOL-Time Warner, Viacom, and News Corp. then I say to them "congratulations!" because they have succeeded.

By allowing these corporate interests to own more newspapers, more TV stations, more radio stations, and more of our public airwaves, we are taking this country down a dangerous path.

We all learned at a young age that knowledge is power. But now, the flow of knowledge will be controlled by a handful of media giants.

They will have almost total control of our news, information, and entertainment.

They will determine what we get and when we get it.

They will determine what we see, read, and hear. That is unacceptable!

And why have they done this?

They say that the rise of cable TV and the internet made the former rules obsolete.

That's the kind of conclusion you reach when the only people you listen to are media moguls.

Who is listening to the American people?

We have been shut out of the process.

In its haste to protect these company's financial interests, the FCC has failed to defend the public interest.

We must take action to right this wrong.

If we do not, our media will have less local content, less diversity of opinion, and fewer opportunities for minority ownership.

It is time for the American people to stand up and be counted. It is time for those who represent the American people to do the same.