

the legendary group La Sonora Matancera, and after several successful recordings, the group's music was in demand beyond the borders of Cuba.

When Celia left Cuba for the United States in 1960, her career blossomed and she became a household name. During her first decade in the United States, she recorded several albums with the great Tito Fuente, and together, they captured the hearts of nontraditional fans of salsa, a phenomenon known as 'the Salsa of the 70s.' Celia has also collaborated with other great Latin artists, including Johnny Pacheco, Willy Colón, and la Fania All Stars, as well as great American artists, such as Dionne (DEE-ON) Warwick, Patti Labelle, David Byrne, Gloria Estefan, and Wyclef Jean.

Celia Cruz's boundless energy transfixed generations of salsa fans and musicians. The powerful presence of music in her life could not have been expressed any better than in her own words: in an interview, she once said that she was 'born with the music inside of her.' And, by God, she expressed the music 'inside of her' until the very last day of her battle with cancer.

I was introduced to Celia Cruz's music at an early age, and enjoy her work and dance to her music now, more than ever. As the former Mayor of Union City, New Jersey, I was honored to recognize her achievements and contributions during an awards ceremony almost two decades ago.

On that day, and until her death, Celia Cruz, the Queen of Salsa, the music icon, the star, remained down-to-earth, people-oriented, and was loved by everyone for her music, her passion and her style. She was one of the few bridges that crossed cultural and racial divides.

Celia Cruz's death has left a void in the lives of so many, but her music and words live on, as she leaves behind a legacy on so many levels. I will never forget the famous lines from a recent song, 'La Vida es un Carnaval—No hay que llorar,' which means, life is a carnival, you don't have to cry. So simple and so true.

And just like Celia would end her songs with the impulsive and unique AZUCAR! or sugar, I end tonight by saying our memories of you, Ceilia, are as sweet as sugar. You will never be forgotten, and you will always be missed.

HONORING ROBERT P. "BOBBY" KOCH ON HIS PROMOTION TO PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE WINE INSTITUTE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 18, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert P. "Bobby" Koch and congratulate him on his recent promotion to the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of the Wine Institute. Bobby is no stranger to many of us. He has long been the voice of the Wine Institute here on Capitol Hill, and prior to that he was an employee of this body, serving Representatives Coelho and GEPHARDT, ending his service in this House as Mr. GEPHARDT's Chief of Staff.

It is a clear sign of Bobby's ability that the Board of Directors of the Wine Institute did not

hesitate to appoint him to replace John DeLuca as President and Chief Executive. I know that they will not be disappointed that they have put their trust in Bobby's capable hands. The wine business is a \$33 billion a year industry in California and it is a crucial part of the state's economy. An industry this large needs a clear, united voice both here in Washington and across the country, and I know that the Wine Institute will continue to provide this voice under Bobby's leadership. Bobby will always be the first person I turn to when I need to know the viewpoint of the industry.

Bobby has not limited his contributions to California's wine industry. He has been an active member of his community for many years. Bobby is a member of the USDA Agricultural Policy Committee for Trade, and also serves on the Boards of the National Commission Against Drunk Driving, the Council on American Politics at George Washington University, the Congressional Wine Foundation, and the California State Society. He has also worked tirelessly to raise millions of dollars for worthy causes, including efforts to cure Crohn's disease and colitis and the National Children's Hospital.

He has managed to accomplish all of this at the same time that he and his wonderful wife, Doro Bush Koch, have raised a family of four great children. I am sure that he considers his family to be his greatest accomplishment of all.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a pleasure for me to be able to honor the accomplishments of Bobby Koch, a great leader for the Wine Institute and a dear friend as well. I wish him many more years of success as he takes on this exciting and challenging new role.

HONORING LATE LEADER OF SOUTH LAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 18, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Howard Stockton of Clermont, Florida. The long time leader of the South Lake Chamber of Commerce in my Fifth Congressional District of Florida, Mr. Stockton passed away this weekend after a long battle with cancer.

Howard Stockton will be greatly missed by all who knew him and will be remembered as a kind, caring man with vigor and enthusiasm, and as a consensus builder with amazing ability and talent.

As many current Floridians, myself included, Mr. Stockton was not a native of Florida but made it his home. An Ohio native, a graduate of Kent State University, a former teacher and administrator, Mr. Stockton retired to Florida with his wife in 1989 to be closer to his two sons.

However, his penchant for activity and his well-known energy and zest would not allow him to simply live the tranquil life associated with retirement. He joined the local Loins Club and the South Lake Council for the Arts and then took his community activity to the next level by accepting the position of executive director of the Clermont Area Chamber of Commerce.

Under his leadership, the strength and membership of the chamber grew. He guided it from a small city group into a regional organization nearly three times its original size. The success of the South Lake Chamber of Commerce is a reflection of Mr. Stockton's charismatic personality and his remarkable ability to bring people together.

We in the State of Florida and in the South Lake Chamber are both very fortunate that Mr. Stockton was able to share his extraordinary abilities with us and at the same time very saddened by the loss of such a wonderful man.

It has been said that, "When you met Howard, you felt like you had met a friend." We will all miss our friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 18, 2003

Mr. FLETCHER of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 16, 2003, had I been present for rollcall vote No.'s 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374 and 375, I would have voted the following way: rollcall vote No. 368—"aye," rollcall vote No. 369—"aye," rollcall vote No. 370—"no," rollcall vote No. 371—"aye," rollcall vote No. 372—"aye," rollcall vote No. 373—"aye," rollcall vote No. 374—"aye," and rollcall vote No. 375—"aye."

ON REMEMBERING CELIA CRUZ

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 18, 2003

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today, the Latin music world mourns the passing of "The Queen of Salsa," "La Reina de la Salsa", Celia Cruz, who passed away 43 years and one day after she left her homeland, Cuba, for the United States. I am honored to recall how Celia Cruz, the world-renowned performer, and I crossed paths at different moments. She sang at my first victory party, celebrating my win as the first Cuban-American woman to win a seat in Congress in a special election in 1989. She accompanied me to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, when I went to visit the Cuban rafters detained on our base, to see for myself their living conditions and physical well-being. I will never forget how she kissed the ground when our plane landed and how she sang that day to the Cubans held there with the passion and love of a true native who has been presented the chance of standing on her native soil, even though poignantly, it was on our base, after so many years. She was also a friend to the Republican Party, performing at the 2000 Republican convention in Philadelphia, where President George W. Bush accepted the nomination to the presidency.

In her long career, Celia Cruz never forgot the country of her birth, evoking Cuba in every performance, but never returning to her homeland. She was a political exile who never returned to Cuba, not even when her father died, denied entry by Fidel Castro, who was