

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
NORBERT "WHITEY" PRIEBE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of my dear friend, Mr. Norbert 'Whitey' Priebe—beloved husband, father, stepfather, grandfather, brother, and friend to many. His passing marks a great loss for his family and friends, and also for the people of Slavic Village and Newburgh Heights.

Throughout his entire life, Mr. Priebe's caring heart and concern for others reflected along Fleet Avenue. He was born in Cleveland, grew up in Newburgh Heights, and graduated from St. Stanislaus High School. Although he was of Polish heritage, Mr. Priebe became an honorary son of Cleveland's Czech community. His forty year involvement with the heart and soul of Fleet Avenue, Ceska Sin Karlin Hall, served to uplift every aspect of this significant cultural organization—an organization that bridges modern life and antiquity, and connects the people of America to their traditions and customs of their Eastern European origins.

Mr. Priebe maintained an unwavering focus on family, community and country. During the Korean War, he served with honor and courage as an infantryman in the United States Army. Following his discharge, he remained an active member of the VFW From the military to his professional career, Mr. Priebe reflected an unwavering level of integrity and diligence. He worked as an auditor with the state's auditor's office, until he retired 10 years ago. Throughout his retirement, he remained an active and vital part of our community. At Karlin Hall, Mr. Priebe took on any task that needed tackling, including bartender, floor sweeper, and President.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. Norbert 'Whitey' Priebe. His caring nature, quick wit, and concern for others, framed his life and served to light the lives of countless individuals and families along Fleet Avenue and beyond. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, children, grandchildren, and to his many friends. The legacy of his life, lived with joy and energy, will live forever within the hearts of all who knew and loved him well.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
CORKY GONZALES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, one of Colorado's most influential civil rights leaders who passed away on April 12, 2005. While I did not have the pleasure of getting to know this remarkable man in person, it is impossible not to know of his extraordinary political career in Denver, Colorado.

Raised during the Great Depression, Corky Gonzales rose from poverty to become one of the founding leaders of the Chicano Civil

Rights Movement in the 1960s and in doing so he gave voice to the aspirations of millions of people, particularly in the Latino communities of the southwestern United States.

Corky Gonzales first rose to prominence as champion boxer during the late 1940's and early 1950's. His fearlessness in the ring served him well when he decided to use his voice and not his fists to champion the cause of equality.

Growing up poor in Denver shaped his sense of justice—and instilled a very deep commitment to improve the lives of so many in the so-called "Mexican-American" community of the times, and he was one of the first of his generation to call public attention to the civil rights struggle of Latino people after decades of indifference, benign neglect and outright discrimination.

Gonzales also was an accomplished poet and lover of art and literature often extolling the virtues of education and urging his followers to use their minds as a means of fighting injustice. Anita, his oldest daughter, has said that the standard bill of fare in the Gonzales household was not the latest fad or fashion, but discussions on art, literature, politics and philosophy. In this regard, Corky was a true "Renaissance man"—although I suspect he would flinch at that description.

In 1965 he founded the "Crusade for Justice" which became a Mecca for likeminded individuals committed to the cause of justice and equality for those on the margins of society. While the nation's television news covered the marches in Selma and the civil rights struggle of African-Americans throughout the South, young Corky was raising a similar voice for equality in the West.

In 1967 he wrote a celebrated epic poem "I am Joaquin" which many describe as the greatest poem to come out of the Chicano Civil Rights Movement. The poem, an odyssey of self discovery and affirmation of ethnic pride quickly became a blueprint for social action and a clarion call to an entire generation of Americans young and old alike.

He was not without his detractors, but anyone who attempts to achieve anything of lasting importance seldom is, and for people of my generation, he was a much needed voice for change. To his followers and to those who loved and respected him he was "the hurricane that rose from the barrios of Denver to lift his people into the 21st century."

This fearless warrior left an indelible imprint on our society and future generations of leaders. But for his early journey, paving the way for others, Colorado might never have witnessed Federico Pena as Mayor of Denver or Ken Salazar as a United States Senator. Corky launched the idea of Chicano Pride long before it became fashionable to celebrate Hispanic identity.

Had he been born a few decades later perhaps, the young boxer might have exchanged his gloves for a seat in this House, but his contributions to our country and to the communities of color that are so deeply a part of the mosaic of the Southwestern United States remain a testament to his memory.

In the Chicano and Mexican-American communities in my part of the country there is a deep sense of pride in being called to service. Corky Gonzales was like all great heroes, a human being who contributed to the great tradition of being involved in something greater than his own self-interest. In that great tradi-

tion it is my pleasure to declare . . . Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, Presente!

IN SUPPORT OF A BILL FOR THE
FURTHER STUDY OF DYSTONIA

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill I introduced expressing the need for further study of the neurological disorder dystonia. Dystonia is characterized by powerful and painful muscle spasms that cause the body to pull into distorted postures. It is the third most common movement disorder after Parkinson's disease and Tremor. Dystonia affects more people than better known and more thoroughly researched diseases such as Huntington's disease, muscular dystrophy and Lou Gehrig's disease. Three hundred thousand Americans suffer from dystonia, and it affects all ages, genders and ethnic backgrounds.

Currently there is no cure for dystonia, which means only the symptoms can be treated. Led by the National Institutes of Health which recently announced a program entitled "Studies into the Causes and Mechanisms of Dystonia", I ask that Congress act to support increased funding and research for this debilitating disease.

To personalize the importance of research pertaining to dystonia, let me tell a short story about Art Kessler, a man from the 7th District of Illinois, who was diagnosed at age 12 with early-onset dystonia. He and his wife, Wendy, decided to remain childless to prevent another life from being burdened with dystonia. However, due to recent technological advances and a ground breaking procedure called preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD), Mr. Kessler and his wife are the proud parents of a dystonia-free child. Benjamin is the first child ever to be born using PGD.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to bring increased public awareness about dystonia and to encourage future research into the causes and possible cures. The efforts put forth by agencies such as the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders have been very valuable, but more needs to be done. Let us strive to make success stories like that of Mr. Kessler everyday occurrences. This is the path we hope to take by supporting and eventually passing this resolution.

HONORING THE TOWN OF
SUMMERDALE, ALABAMA, ON
THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the community of Summerdale, Alabama, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of its founding.

The Town of Summerdale was founded by Eli Summer on October 4, 1904, was incorporated in 1929, and was initially intended to

serve as a major tobacco production center. During the first years of its existence, Summerdale saw the creation of numerous businesses including the Cloverdon Store, a turpentine business, a canning factory, and a sawmill. Additionally, community leaders also oversaw the building of a movie theater and the opening of the town's first newspaper, The Summerdale Record. The earliest school in Summerdale held classes in the old Masonic Hall and consisted of just five students and one teacher. A second school building was constructed in 1915, and the most recent of three buildings used for the school continues to be used to this day.

The town's first post office was established in 1905, one year after the formation of the town. Within one year, employees of the post office were delivering mail to residents living along two rural routes in and around the Summerdale area. Tobacco continued to be a major product of the Summerdale area, with one of the leading tobacco manufacturing businesses, the Summerdale Tobacco Warehouse, having been constructed between 1909 and 1910. The Summerdale Tobacco Company continued to operate until the late 1920s when a variety of factors, including the effects of the Great Depression, increasing land prices, and marketing and labor difficulties, effectively brought an end to the production of tobacco products in that area.

Despite the difficulties experienced in the early part of the Twentieth Century, Summerdale today remains one of the most attractive communities anywhere in Baldwin County. The home of Baldwin Electric Management Cooperative (EMC), Summerdale is nestled in the midst of the rapidly growing southern half of the county, just minutes from several of the First District's largest population centers.

Mr. Speaker, the 754 residents of Summerdale, Alabama, are firmly rooted in their proud past, and at the same time are keeping a careful and optimistic eye on the road ahead. The vision displayed by their community leaders during the past 100 years has led to the creation of a stable community and one of the anchors for all of Baldwin County, and I have no doubt that the continued inspired leadership and vision of today's residents and leaders will lead to even greater successes in the years ahead.

It is my hope the Town of Summerdale continues its story of success for another one hundred years.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, as we join them in celebrating 100 years of outstanding service in advocating for the legal rights of our most vulnerable citizens, our poor. The Legal Aid Society was formed in May 1905, as a beacon of protection and hope in assisting low-income individuals in matters of legal concern. Isador Grossman was its sole attorney until 1912. He

served thousands of immigrants in desperate need of a trusted legal advocate.

Over the past century, the Legal Aid Society has grown and evolved, yet its core mission has remained constant and unwavering—to provide compassionate support to those unable to afford legal representation, and also to advocate on behalf of critical issues facing our community. The work of the Legal Aid counselors is far-reaching. During the early part of the nineteenth century, Legal Aid attorneys helped establish the Cleveland Municipal Court and Small Claims Court that served to replace corrupted judicial officials. In 1966, C. Lyonel Jones was appointed the Legal Aid Society's executive director, a position he has today. His passion for social justice and compassion for the people of our community is reflected throughout his tenure. Mr. Jones has led his legal team with integrity, heart, conviction and an unwavering focus on numerous human rights issues, from advocating for the restoration of the Hough neighborhood in the 60's, winning cases to improve the lives of those living in psychiatric facilities and nursing homes, advocating on behalf of battered women, and forcing Republic Steel to comply with the EPA's Clean Air Act.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of every staff member and volunteer of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, whose individual and collective work over the past century has offered solutions, hope and peace for countless individuals and families. For the past four decades, the outstanding work of the entire staff, led by Executive Director, C. Lyonel Jones, has served to offer many people hope and has brought critical social issues into the light of day. Their advocacy continues to strengthen the foundation of humanity throughout our entire community, one phone call at a time.

HONORING DR. MARIE V.
MCDERMOND

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Marie V. McDemmond, who is retiring from her role as President of Norfolk State University (NSU).

During her inspiring career in higher education, Dr. McDemmond has served more than 35 years as an extraordinary leader and educator. Dr. McDemmond has worked tirelessly to ensure fair access to higher education for minority and underserved populations throughout the country. Her steadfast commitment to this principle is well documented through her testimony before Congress and her service on numerous national boards and commissions.

As a member of President Bush's Board of Advisors for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Dr. McDemmond's service has brought national recognition to the issue of equity in funding and support for minority-serving institutions throughout these United States.

Dr. McDemmond is the first woman to lead Norfolk State University and the first African-American woman to serve as President of a four-year college in Virginia. Her success has established the financial and academic credi-

bility for her institution that exemplifies NSU's creed: "Achieving with Excellence."

In recognition of Dr. McDemmond's unwavering integrity, wisdom and dedicated service to others, members of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Congressional delegation offer the following:

Our Commonwealth owes Dr. McDemmond a debt of gratitude for her outstanding commitment to higher education. Her leadership has helped Norfolk State to gain the financial resources and infrastructure necessary for prominence in science and technology. The success of her efforts has earned the accolades of government officials and legislators throughout Virginia, and her insights have been sought on several occasions by President George W. Bush. I join with the other members of Virginia's Congressional Delegation in commending Dr. McDemmond for a lifetime of exceptional work.—Senator John Warner (R-VA)

Dr. McDemmond has been one of our Commonwealth's outstanding educational and technological leaders. Her tireless work to secure the financial resources necessary to lead Norfolk State University to the forefront in science and technology has helped close the so-called opportunity divide. For her efforts, she has received wide recognition and much deserved praise and admiration. She is a leader who will be sorely missed, but I am confident she will continue to have a great influence on Norfolk State's bright future.—Senator George Allen (R-VA)

Dr. Marie V. McDemmond has been an invaluable asset to Norfolk State University and to higher education in Virginia. Norfolk State University has truly benefited from her innovative and visionary style, which has positioned the university to excel in the 21st century. It has been a distinct pleasure of mine to work with Dr. McDemmond specifically in bridging the digital divide between Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other universities. She will be very much missed at Norfolk State University and within the entire collegiate community.—Congressman Randy Forbes (R-VA)

Dr. McDemmond is everything a leader should be: full of energy, dedicated to her students and determined to do the very best for NSU. She has tremendous courage, and she is always willing to tackle big challenges. Often such people can be intimidating, but to the contrary, Dr. McDemmond is so easy to work with. I consider her a great friend, and my prayers are with her as she retires from her service.—Congresswoman Thelma Drake (R-VA)

Under the leadership of Dr. Marie McDemmond, Norfolk State University (NSU) has developed into a vibrant institution with cutting edge programs and operations. Dr. McDemmond has positioned NSU as a regional leader in information technologies and other fields in the southeastern U.S. and a national leader among minority serving institutions. While Dr. McDemmond's leadership of NSU will be sorely missed, we are gratified to know that she has chosen to continue to serve NSU and the greater higher education community by teaching at NSU. The lives of all she has touched through her dedication and service have been made richer and we are grateful to her for her important contributions.—Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (R-VA)

On the occasion of her retirement, it gives me great pleasure to recognize and commend Dr. McDemmond for her service and dedication to the cause of higher education in Virginia.