

were passed. The first 10 days of May were chosen to coincide with two important milestones in Asian/Pacific American history. The arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843 and contributions of Chinese workers to the building of the transcontinental railroad, completed on May 10, 1869. In 1992, Congress expanded the observance for the entirety of May.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated with community festivals, government-sponsored activities, and educational activities for students. This year's theme is "Freedom for All—A Nation We Call Our Own."

Mr. Speaker, Asian/Pacific Americans are leaders in public service, business, government, science, law, education, athletics, the arts, and many other areas. Their love of family, community, and hard work has helped to uphold our Nation for many generations. Asian/Pacific American entrepreneurs are helping to strengthen our economy and our communities through their hard work and ingenuity, and they inspire a new generation of American innovation through their example. More than 14 million Americans of Asian or Pacific Island Heritage contribute to the vitality, success, and prosperity of our Nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ARGU

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Argu, an artist of remarkable skill who has contributed greatly to the community.

Argu, a self taught artist, was born in Mexico City, and has gained far reaching recognition for his works depicting Mexican culture and history. Argu most recent work is the Centennial Mural, titled "A Rose in the Desert", honoring Las Vegas' centennial. This mural, the only mural on a city of Las Vegas facility, is also one of the largest in the city. "A Rose in the Desert" joins more than 100 centennial murals, and serves as an icon in the community.

Argu moved to Las Vegas several years ago from New Mexico, and, in that time, has significantly contributed to the artisan community. His style is described as "hypr-realist", uses varieties of technique and has a broad range of inspirations. His unique style has earned him extensive acclaim and his works are showcased throughout Southern Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Argu for his artistic prowess and considerable contributions to the community. He is truly a master, and his works both inspire and impress his audience. I wish him continued success and look forward to seeing his future works.

RECOGNIZING JANET HENDERSON

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, Mississippi will miss a 36-year presence in our education community with the retirement of Janet Hen-

derson. Janet will conclude her role as Starkville School District assistant superintendent next month after serving in that capacity for 8 years. She has previously served as both as a teacher and a principal in Mississippi. Her legacy of teaching can be seen daily in Mississippi in the lives of her students who now have families of their own.

With a bachelor's of science degree in elementary education, a master's degree in elementary education, and a doctorate in education leadership—all from Mississippi State University—Janet is a tribute to Mississippi's educational system. She has been Teacher of the Year, has earned the Mississippi Association of Women in Educational Leadership Award, selected as Ward Fellow for the Harvard Principal Institute, inducted into the Starkville Area Chamber of Commerce Education Hall of Fame, and was named the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Mississippi Distinguished Educator.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Congress joins me in recognizing the public service of Janet Henderson. Her dedication to leadership, professional development, and teacher training will leave a strong imprint on our educators for years to come. Her colleagues and students alike will remember her and I recognize and honor her work today. Mississippi has been blessed by her work and life.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CANON FREDRICK B. WILLIAMS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of a bold moral voice in Harlem, the Rev. Frederick B. Williams. He gave his life to the cause of righteousness and justice. He ministered and worked in my Congressional district on behalf of the destitute and poor. He also spoke courageously concerning national and international social-political issues which captured the attention of the world.

Canon Williams served as Pastor Emeritus of the Episcopal Church of the Intercession in Harlem, New York. As the IXth Vicar and XIVth Rector he launched the first religious center in the United States addressing the HIV-AIDS crisis. This program provided crucial care and advocated for those inflicted with the disease through a concrete programmatic approach. He led the way in opening up dialogue to discuss and grapple with HIV-AIDS at a time when it was not popular. In 1993 Canon Williams was able to galvanize black clergy to step up to the challenge. He said, "What has changed is that all of us know, or will know in the next 12 months, someone who has died of AIDS." He helped to raise broad awareness of HIV-AIDS and initiated a movement to educate and respond decisively to the crisis.

Canon Williams was founder and chairman of Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement which developed over 2,000 units of new and rehabilitated housing in Harlem, which still stands as the largest in the history of New York City. His community efforts as chair also included 40 commercial spaces and Harlem's first large supermarket. He also opened the doors of Intercession Church to the Boys Choir of Harlem which gave them

their first home. Additionally, he led the renovation of Jackie Robinson Park at 145th Street and Bradhurst Avenue.

He was widely known for his passion for the arts. Since 1973 he served as chairman of trustee of numerous major African-American performing arts group in New York City. Among other committees, he served on the Rockefeller Foundation; member of Board of Advisors, New York City Landmarks Conservancy; Black Alumni of Pratt Institute advisory council; Trustee of the African Activists' Archive Project, Inc. and served as chair of the National Clergy Advisory Committee of Harlem Week of Prayer. He was also an advisor to Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu of South Africa.

Mr. Speaker, I am forever indebted to Rev. Canon Frederick B. Williams for his dedication and commitment to public service through ministry in my Congressional district.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CANON FREDERICK B. WILLIAMS

Canon Williams is the Pastor Emeritus of the Episcopal Church of the Intercession in Harlem, New York, where he has served 1972—2005 as the IXth Vicar and XIVth Rector. This institution is one of the first religious centers in the United States to initiate a programmatic response to the HIV-AIDS crisis.

He serves as the Chairman of the Board of the Interfaith, Ecumenical, Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, Inc. (HCCI) and is a key member of the leadership team that has developed over 2,000 units of new and rehabilitated housing in Harlem, the largest such undertaking in the history of New York City.

Recognized as a true "Patron of the Arts," Canon Williams served, since 1973, as chairman of trustee of almost every major African-American performing arts group in New York City. He is a Trustee of The Rockefeller Foundation; member of the Board of Advisors, New York City Landmarks Conservancy; Black Alumni of Pratt Institute advisory council; Trustee of the African Activists' Archive Project, Inc. and served for 10 years as Chair of the National Clergy Advisory Committee of the renowned Harlem Week of Prayer (the Balm in Gilead, Inc.). He is an advisor to Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu of South Africa whom he represents on the board of Directors of PEACEJAM, Inc. an international peace education program for youth headquartered in Denver, Colo., and sponsored by 14 Nobel Peace Prize laureates. has been a visiting professor at the Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge Massachusetts, the General Theological Seminary, New York City; and guest lecturer at several American and international institutions of higher learning. He has preached on six of the earth's seven continents and is the founder of the International Conference on Afro-Anglicanism.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ZELVIN "ZEL" LOWMAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Zelvin "Zel" Lowman, who died February 28, 2006. Mr. Lowman was a former Nevada Legislator who held office between 1967 and 1977 and served as the Majority Leader and Chairman of several committees.