

TRIBUTE TO MRS. THELMA
GIBSON

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mrs. Thelma Gibson who will celebrate her 80th birthday on December 17th with friends, families and well wishers.

Mrs. Gibson is a South Florida institution, a woman who has dedicated herself to a lifelong pursuit of education, while focusing on improving public healthcare in our community and instilling the virtues of community service and volunteerism in all people who are graced by her presence.

Mrs. Gibson is the sixth of fourteen children and was born on December 17, 1926 to Sweetlon Counts Albury Anderson and Thomas Theodore Anderson. Mrs. Gibson is the mother of 2 children, Charles Gibson and Deveniece Gibson. She has 7 sisters and brothers—Joyce, Doris, Percy, Donald, Hubert, Alvin and Herma—and has a host of loving nieces and nephews. Mrs. Gibson is a native Miamian and the widow of the late Reverend Canon Theodore Roosevelt Gibson.

Mrs. Gibson received her formative education at Coconut Grove Training School for Colored Elementary School, Coconut Grove Junior High School, and George Washington Carver High School, from which she graduated in February 1944. After graduation, Mrs. Gibson attended Saint Agnes School of Nursing at Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina and graduated in August 1947 as a Registered Nurse with a specialty in operating room techniques. She then returned home to work at Jackson Memorial Hospital in the operating room, where she had been approved for a position. Her employer, however, upon realizing that she was of Color, assigned her to work on the Colored wards.

Mrs. Gibson continued her education in nursing by taking an advanced course from Florida A & M University taught by Dr. Mary Carnegie, Dean of Nursing, in a classroom provided by Jackson Memorial Hospital. In the summers of 1954 and 1955, while preparing to work in Public Health Nursing, Mrs. Gibson took advanced courses at Catholic University in Washington, DC. During the summers of 1956 and 1957, she attended the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where she enrolled in courses on cancer and communicable disease nursing. From there, she attended courses given through the University of Miami in 1957 and 1958 out of the home of an instructor who lived in Coconut Grove at the corner of Main Highway and Lennox Avenue. A course was also provided at Booker T. Washington Senior High School. Finally, in 1959, Mrs. Gibson attended Teachers College at Columbia University, New York and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing education.

For more than 50 years, Mrs. Gibson has been a trailblazer in education, mental and physical health programs, and a community leader who served her church and family. In August of 1997, she was appointed as Interim City Commissioner and served on the City of Miami Commission through November 1997.

Mrs. Gibson holds memberships on numerous boards, committees, and panels, and has

received many honors, awards, recognitions, and certificates. The most recent accomplishment to Mrs. Gibson's credit is authoring her autobiography, *Forbearance: Thelma Vernell Anderson Gibson, The Life Story of a Coconut Grove Native* that was released in the Fall of 2000. Mrs. Gibson also sponsors the Thelma Gibson Health Initiative, housed at the Theodore R. Gibson Building, that provides free testing and assistance for HIV and AIDS infected persons. Her latest project is the Theodore and Thelma School of the Performing Arts located on Grand Avenue in Coconut Grove where the students receive academic training with a focus on the Arts.

Mr. Speaker, I know all my colleagues join me in honoring Mrs. Gibson, a truly great lady, as she celebrates her 80th birthday. We can only wonder and marvel at the achievements that are still before her.

PRESIDENT YUSCHENKO'S
EDITORIAL

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, the following is an op-ed written by President Victor Yushenko of Ukraine, which appeared in the *Washington Post* on November 29, 2006. As a strong supporter of United States-Ukrainian bilateral relations and Ukraine's further integration into the trans-Atlantic community, I believe it is imperative that the upcoming 110th Congress play a greater role in fostering cooperation between our two nations. To do so, we must be prepared to reach out to President Yushenko, Prime Minister Yanukovich and all the Ukrainian people as they take the sometimes difficult steps to further democratize. It is essential that Ukraine continues to have the support of the United States and our European allies during this period of transition, so that the ideals of freedom and democracy developed and echoed during the Orange Revolution come to bear.

The text of President Yushenko's editorial follows:

Two years ago an authoritarian regime's attempt to hijack the presidential election in Ukraine failed. As official results were announced, disbelief provoked millions of citizens to pour into the streets in protest. They took a stand against those discredited officials who hid behind law enforcement bodies in an attempt to prolong their corrupt hold on power. Those days and weeks are known as Ukraine's Orange Revolution.

In the time since, my main goal as president has been to institutionalize democracy and guarantee that it is irreversible. Many of the wrongs in my country have been corrected. We are maintaining our unwavering commitment to the principles of freedom. We agreed to shift constitutional powers from an authoritarian presidency to a coalition government formed by parliament to end the country's political impasse. And we abolished state censorship of the media, while also forbidding interference in news reporting.

This year free and fair elections were held at national, regional and local levels. Overseeing the peaceful and democratic transition of power was my unique test, as it brought back to office my former political opponents.

But along with our national successes and economic achievements under two "orange" prime ministers, there have been disappointments and miscalculations. Infighting among my political allies has been the biggest disappointment. Some "orange" politicians have ignored their fundamental duty to deliver results for the public good. Instead, gaining political power and seeking the limelight have become their goal. As our country's democracy continues to mature, I am convinced that a young cadre of leaders will rise through the ranks of Ukraine's democratic parties to create a political renewal.

On my watch, the corruption that has historically emanated from the president's office ceased. Thousands of election officials, tax collectors, foot patrols, road police and customs agents were brought to justice for petty corruption. Yet the biggest abusers of public office remain at large because of unreformed prosecutors and corruption in the courts. I have recently initiated a number of anti-corruption bills to reform the criminal justice system and the courts, and I will continue to press parliament for speedy action.

Because we were preoccupied with domestic political reforms this year, we failed to communicate effectively with our international partners. I want to explain where Ukraine stands and where we are heading. Democracy and stability—two interdependent principles—form the basis of my agenda. To this end, I will continue constitutional reforms that facilitate the effective work of government and prevent a return to authoritarianism or the usurpation of power.

Today there is a balance of political power between two directly elected democratic bodies: the president and parliament. The prime minister, although not directly elected, represents a majority of the parliamentarians. Bills specifying the role of the governing coalition and the opposition have yet to be passed. But let there be no mistake: Together we share responsibility for shaping, executing and controlling laws and state policies.

Second, constitutional reforms are incomplete, and as a result there is a political asymmetry. We will continue refining a reliable system of checks and balances between the presidency, parliament and coalition government to expedite policy decision making. To meet these objectives, I have commissioned a group of constitutional experts to recommend amendments to strengthen our nascent democratic institutions.

Third, our law on national security promotes participation and membership in pan-European and regional systems of collective security. Membership in the European Union and NATO, as well as good relations and strategic partnerships with Russia and other countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States, are not romantic ideas of the Orange Revolution—they are founded in Ukrainian law. The president, coalition government and parliament determine the speed with which these goals are reached.

Most important, the democratic debates in Kiev's halls of power are now centered on ideas about competing economic theories, values and worldviews. Our current system of checks and balances requires policy coordination, party coexistence and political compromise for us to move forward. Not everyone likes the new rules of the game, and some are having trouble playing in this new reality—but Ukraine's democracy is here to stay.

As president, my historic mission is to guarantee that Ukraine's national goals are reached not through political dictates but through an institutionalized democratic

process that brings together governing bodies and citizen groups. I am convinced an inclusive democracy is one of the most significant and lasting achievements of the Orange Revolution.

TRIBUTE TO SYDNEY TALLY HICKEY—MILITARY FAMILY ADVOCATE, NATIONAL MILITARY FAMILY ASSOCIATION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sydney Tally Hickey, military family advocate and member of the Board of Governors of the National Military Family Association (NMFA)—in recognition of her distinguished service to her country. From 1983, when she joined the NMFA Government Relations staff, until her death on December 1, 2006, she taught an entire generation of NMFA members to be consummate advocates and better the lives of hundreds of thousands of active duty, National Guard, Reserve and retired service members, their families, and survivors. She did this by being smart, detailed, and persistent—armed with the facts, an unblinking perseverance, and a luminous passion.

I had the honor of knowing Ms. Hickey personally. She was a military family member all her life as an Air Force daughter and Navy spouse. She was married to Capt. Dennis J. Hickey IV, who is retired from the U.S. Navy, and has her two daughters and a grandson.

In 1983, she joined the NMFA Government Relations staff and served as the Vice President of the Department from 1987 to 1990. On January 1, 1990, she was selected to become the Association's first paid professional staff member and served as Director of Government Relations until her retirement in October 1999. Mrs. Hickey continued her work with the Government Relations Department as a volunteer consultant on health care issues. She also served on the NMFA's Board of Governors.

Over the years, military families everywhere benefited from Sydney's hard work and foresight. She was the driving force behind the set of transition benefits Congress put in place for service members and families during the drawdown following the first Gulf War. Recognizing that military families overseas deserved the same access to federal safety net programs as those living in the United States, Sydney and NMFA worked aggressively for several years to secure the legislation creating the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program overseas. Thanks to her work, military families stationed overseas also became eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit and Supplemental Security Income.

Frequently invited to provide testimony before Congressional Committees on issues facing military families, she also helped guide the development of many of today's family readiness programs. Thanks in part to her foresight in anticipating the needs of families and her skill in articulating these needs, Congress and the Department of Defense established many vital enhancements to the quality of life of military families.

Sydney Hickey helped to take the voice of the military family from a whisper to a giant

roar, forevermore to hold a significant place in any pertinent discussion. She brought stories of military families' everyday experiences to the policy makers and now military family members are routinely represented on Congressionally-mandated advisory panels and DoD working groups and councils that develop and oversee programs and benefits applicable to them. She was one of the pioneers who taught and encouraged family members to get involved in the representative process, by sitting on boards and councils and teaching them how to work with legislators. She helped military family members become their own best advocates.

Sydney's work brought her many awards and recognitions, including the 1992 National Citizenship Award from the Military Chaplains Association, the 1993 Defense Transition Services Award from the University of Central Florida, the 1998 "Champion for Children" award from the Military Impacted Schools Association, and the 1999 Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

In that same year, NMFA established an award for exceptional service to uniformed service families, presented it to Mrs. Hickey, and named it in her honor. She also received the Military Coalition's Award of Merit and recognition by the Defense Commissary Agency for her work as a "legendary champion for the causes of military life."

Sydney Hickey's legacy is greater than a list of awards. Her legacy is seen every day in the dedication and accomplishments of the people she mentored over the years: NMFA volunteers and employees, military family members, leaders of military associations, and countless others. It is in the increased awareness of military families that Members of Congress, their staffs, DoD civilians, contractors, and others gained, thanks to their interactions with Mrs. Hickey. Military families who may never know the name of Sydney Tally Hickey have benefited from her body of work and have an enhanced quality of life due to her efforts. Today, we honor the memory of this tireless advocate, whose life was a tribute to the military families she served.

IN TRIBUTE TO SAM ROWLAND

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to a good friend, great Texan, and wonderful individual, Sam Rowland, who passed away recently, leaving a legacy of accomplishments and good will that will last for generations to come. Sam was devoted to God, his family, friends, and the Law, and he applied the principles of his faith to his career and his many civic and humanitarian affiliations.

Sam came from a family of educators. He graduated from Highland Park High School in Dallas, attended Texas A&M University on a baseball scholarship, earned an accounting degree from Texas A&M in 1955, and graduated from SMU School of Law in 1960. Sam had a long and interesting business career. He began his corporate experience at Texas Instruments in Dallas and went on to form a publicly held company in the early days of microchips.

In 1972 Sam opened his own law firm in Houston. He loved the practice of law and was a member of the Texas Bar for 46 years. He was the senior partner of Rowland and Keirn for 18 years, and in 1990 opened his own firm in Bryan/College Station, where he practiced until his death. At the same time, he taught a course at Texas A&M College of Business, where he shared his wealth of corporate experience and knowledge teaching young Aggies about starting their own business.

Sam was a member of the Corp of Cadets at Texas A&M, the 12th Man Foundation Executive Board, and Past President of the A&M Letterman's Association. He was a member of the Bryan Rotary Club, the Silver Haired Supper Club of Highland Park, and the Texas A&M Past Presidents Club of Houston and San Antonio. He was a member of the Houston Bar Association and the Brazos County Bar Association. Sam's faith was premiere in his life, and he was a member of the First Baptist Church in Bryan for 20 years and a member of the Little River Baptist Church in Jones Prairie.

Sam will be greatly missed by his family, his wife of 25 years, Betsy Kay Rowland of Bryan, daughters Melinda Rowland of Lafayette, LA, and Michele Hanlon of San Antonio, sons Stuart Rowland of Arlington and Sean Ryan and wife Glenda of Tyler, brother-in-law Bill Vorlop of Dallas, two nephews and their families, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son, Scott, his parents, Wordna Reed Rowland and Ray Davis Rowland, and his sister, Wanda Vorlop.

Sam Rowland was a friend, mentor, and role model for so many whose lives he touched and influenced, and his memory will be kept alive in the hearts of those who loved and admired him. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in memory of this outstanding American—Sam E. Rowland.

TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the staff members of the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) who were named recipients of the Governor's Minnesota Government Reaching Environmental Achievements Together (MnGREAT) Award for superior environmental achievement by Minnesota's public agencies. The award represents the highest level of environmental achievement within the State of Minnesota.

The five UMD staff members who received the environmental achievement award are Erik Larson (UMD Facilities Management, Engineer/Project Manager), Wade Lawrence (Director of Glensheen), and Peggy Dahlberg, Sheryl Lind, and Dan McClelland (UMD Facilities Management Grounds Department).

The award recognizes the low impact development and shoreline bank stabilization projects constructed at the Glensheen Historic Estate in Duluth. The goals of the projects were: to improve water quality of storm water from Glensheen's parking lots into Lake Superior; to stabilize the clay bank in order to reduce wave, rain, and surface flow erosion during large storms; and to provide a location