

the first Serbian uprising against the Ottoman Empire in 1804. On this day over 200 years ago, Serbians began the arduous effort to gain independence after nearly 300 years of Ottoman rule.

Finally, this year marks 125 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Serbia. A strong democratic Serbia is crucial to the future of the former Yugoslav republics, the Balkans, and the rest of eastern Europe. Strong ties with the United States are necessary as Serbia looks to encourage international investment, expand its economy and move forward into the future.

Madam Speaker, please join me, Serbian-Americans and the citizens of Serbia in remembering such an important date in their history.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MR. SIDNEY
SHELDON

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mrs. BONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay special tribute to a great American playwright, television visionary and literary artist whose stories and characters have entertained and impacted the lives of generations of Americans, Mr. Sidney Sheldon.

For more than 20 years Sidney Sheldon was a prominent and respected force in television who created such popular programs as *I Dream of Jeannie* (1965–70), *Hart to Hart* (1979–84), and *The Patty Duke Show* (1965–70). These sitcoms helped propel the careers of some of our most beloved actors on stage and screen including Barbara Eden, Larry Hagman, Stephanie Powers, Robert Wagner, and Patty Duke.

As a legendary writer, Sidney Sheldon won numerous awards that spanned three careers—a Broadway playwright, a Hollywood TV and movie screenwriter, and a bestselling novelist.

At the age of 50, Sidney Sheldon focused on creating best-selling novels that included *Master of the Game* (1982), *The Other Side of Midnight* (1973) and *Rage of Angels* (1980). Although those were his most famous literary works, Sidney Sheldon also published a total of 18 novels.

When expressing his passion for composing novels, Sidney Sheldon stated, "I love writing books. Movies are a collaborative medium, and everyone is second-guessing you. When you do a novel you're on your own. It's a freedom that doesn't exist in any other medium."

Sidney Sheldon was a proud American Veteran, who upon his return from service during World War II, focused his attention on writing plays for Broadway. In recognizing Sheldon's unquestionable talent as a playwright, Sidney Sheldon won a Tony award for his work on the play *Redhead* in 1959.

Over the decades, Sheldon accrued numerous awards and recognition for his commitment to television, film, and stage, including winning an Academy Award for Writing Original Screenplay (1947) for *The Bachelor* and the *Bobby-Soxer*; and an Emmy Award for his work on *I Dream of Jeannie*, which aired on NBC.

Although Sidney Sheldon was born in Chicago, Illinois, he remained a life-long resident of the Coachella Valley. I was deeply fortunate to call the legendary Sidney Sheldon a friend.

I extend my deepest sympathy to the entire Sheldon family for their loss; a loss we all share. The passionate works of Sidney Sheldon that defined a generation will continue to live in the hearts of countless future generations of Americans. We celebrate his memory and our Nation is better for his service.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE CHARLIE NORWOOD,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF GEORGIA

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this week our country lost a fine American with the death of Congressman CHARLIE NORWOOD. Congressmen NORWOOD was a tireless advocate for his district and the State of Georgia and an icon in the field of health care. His dogged determination to improve life for the average family and improving health care in this country for the patient that confronted overwhelming bureaucracy, increasing costs, and diminishing access was a hallmark of this great man's career of public service.

Before I was elected to Congress and during one trip to Washington I met with my Chamber of Commerce as a private physician, I was asked which Member of Congress I would most like to meet. I responded that I would most like to meet with CHARLIE NORWOOD. To my surprise, they were able to set up a meeting for me with Congressman Norwood. Now at the time, I was a constituent of Majority Leader Dick Army who represented the 26th District before he retired and I succeeded him here in the House of Representatives. At that time, the Majority Leader was basically playing traffic cop to one of CHARLIE's many bold health care initiatives. Unfortunately, when Congressman NORWOOD figured out I wasn't visiting him as an emissary of Congressman Army he listened to my gushing praise and then quickly exited the meeting graciously. It was 6 years later that I would have the chance to meet again with Congressman NORWOOD, this time as a freshman member of the U.S. House of Representatives. The first question he asked me then was, "are you with me or against me," then referring to his long battle for the Patient's Bill of Rights.

Well, I've been with CHARLIE ever since. During my early tenure in office, he was a gracious mentor and even more so when I joined him as member of the Energy and Commerce Committee during the 109th Congress. CHARLIE's strong defense of medical providers and patients, his tough stances on border security and national security, defined a man dedicated to his country. Even during his failing health, Congressman NORWOOD was as persistent as he ever was.

My thoughts and prayers are with Gloria and his family. America lost a great man. I lost a friend and a mentor. CHARLIE, we won't forget you.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RAY LEE
HUNT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the life of humanitarian Ray Lee Hunt in honor of his 2007 Linz Award. Mr. Hunt is not only being recognized for his humanitarian effort and his longtime dedication to community services but for his exemplary leadership in supporting the revitalizing of downtown Dallas and his strong commitment to the community's health and medical care system.

For over more than a decade, Mr. Hunt has provided health care to Dallas's impoverished population through Dallas Medical Resources. As a chairman he has sought to secure Federal funding for Parkland Memorial Hospital. Mr. Hunt has not only improved the health care system in Dallas, but he has also helped promote the city as a medical center.

The Linz Award that Mr. Hunt will receive on April 4, 2007, it's an award that is given annually to a Dallas County resident for his civic or humanitarian efforts. He is the 78th recipient of the award created in 1924 by Simon Linz, one of the founders of Linz Jewelers.

Mr. Hunt is one of those people who give so much to the community without asking any praise or interpretation. Mr. Hunt has helped raise millions of dollars to improve poor health care in Dallas County. Mr. Hunt has been chairman of Dallas Medical Resource since it was founded in the late 1980s. Mr. Hunt has also been a major benefactor to the Austin Street Shelter, the Genesis Women's Shelter and UT Southwestern Medical Center.

He has also served our government in various ways. In 2001, President George W. Bush appointed him to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. He has also served as chairman of the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Hunt is a man who not only represents the spirit of Dallas but of our Nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ETHICS
REFORM ACT OF 2007

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Ethics Reform Act of 2007 with Congressman GREG WALDEN. This legislation would abolish the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and establish an Independent Ethics Commission.

Recent legislation and current proposals attempt to reform the ethics process; however, they do not address the core issue at hand, Congress's ability to govern its own ethical behavior. Members of Congress and their personal relationships can skew the evaluation process and create the potential for decisions being made upon a personal or political basis. This legislation would rectify these issues by replacing the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct with a panel made up of former