

Southern Illinois University, Dr. Gibson began his career with Kentucky's Henderson Community College, where he later served as dean of instruction. Prior to returning to Henderson Community College, he was affiliated with John A. Logan College, of Illinois. In 1981, Dr. Gibson moved to Kansas, where he served as Hutchinson Community College's dean of instruction; he later took the same position at Johnson County Community College, located in my congressional district, where he worked until becoming president of Donnelly College in 1998.

Under Dr. Gibson's leadership, Donnelly College reversed a significant drop in enrollment and received over \$12 million in donations and grants, including awards from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Among the programs offered by Donnelly, the Henry W. Bloch Scholarship offers full tuition to students and is transferable to Rockhurst University or the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Donnelly also participates in Kansas Bridges to the Future, a transferable scholarship to Kansas State University.

Additionally, during Dr. Gibson's tenure, Donnelly College introduced a bachelor's degree program, began development of a licensed practical nurse joint program with Johnson County Community College, and implemented a college extension program at the Lansing Correctional Facility, establishing an opportunity for inmates to earn an associate's degree. As Dr. Gibson noted in the Kansas City Kansan, "It makes a difference for inmates' lives. Of 66 students (involved with the program), only one has gone back to prison."

Madam Speaker, Dr. Ken Gibson has been a distinguished educational leader in the Kansas City community, which is a better place due to his enlightened leadership. He has been a trusted advisor to me on matters of education policy and other concerns involving the Third Congressional District of Kansas. I commend him for his successful tenure with Donnelly College and wish him and his family many happy returns upon his well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN
WALTERSHAUSEN

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. John Waltershausen of Littleton, CO.

Mr. Waltershausen was born in Chicago, IL, and served in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II from 1944–1946. During his military service, he played a heroic role in an incredibly significant moment in history, what many historians now believe to be the end of World War II. I believe his story is most worthy of being preserved in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Five days after the bombing of Nagasaki, copilot John Waltershausen and the other nine crew members of the B-29B Super Fortress *Boomerang* flew, along with 142 other bombers, in what is now known as the "Last Mission."

Awaiting word of surrender from Japan, John and his crew were ordered on one last

assignment, to bomb an oil refinery in Akita, Japan. The Japanese did not think that the U.S. could reach Akita from Guam and, as such, did not build strong defenses there.

Even though the crew of the *Boomerang* knew they might not have enough fuel to get back, the crew proceeded in the mission to take out 67 percent of Japan's remaining oil refining capacity, as well as causing an air raid blackout alert.

Unbeknownst to them, a group of Japanese officers attempted to prolong the war by staging a coup d'état in seizing Japan's Imperial Palace and with it Emperor Hirohito. Upon the takeover of the Imperial Palace, the rebel leader Hatanaka learned that Emperor Hirohito had left the palace. Knowing that Hirohito had recorded a message of surrender that had not yet been broadcast on Japanese radio, the rebel officers hoped to sway the Japanese military into continuing the war with the U.S. However, because of the blackout caused by the U.S. bombing mission that included John Waltershausen's B-29B *Boomerang*, the rebel officers were unable to find the emperor's recording or to broadcast their own message to the Japanese people and soon lost their control of the situation. The message of surrender from Emperor Hirohito was broadcast the next morning.

The "Last Mission" was 3,800 miles and the longest mission flown up to that time. By a bizarre twist of fate, it also marked the end of World War II.

After the war, John married Sally Erwin and they had two daughters, Karen and Karoline. Today, they have 4 grandsons—Gregory, Benjamin, Jacob, and Samuel. John spent the last 45 years of his life in Colorado, with his happiest days being in the beautiful Colorado mountains.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for Mr. Waltershausen's selfless service to our Nation. His story should be preserved for posterity. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a man worthy of our honor, Mr. John Waltershausen.

TRIBUTE TO FRED LEE HARRIS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, with a heavy heart, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Richmond icon and youth football coach Fred Lee Harris who died on March 16, 2007. For 27 seasons, Fred Harris dedicated his life to the Richmond Steelers football organization, providing coaching and moral leadership to hundreds of young players who have been a part of this community institution. As Head Coach of the program, Coach Harris was honored as a valuable role model in the community, establishing a consistent winning tradition and a healthy, positive environment for youth both on and off the field.

Freddie Lee Harris, as he was known to his family, was born to the proud parents of Charles and Helen Harris on February 21, 1945, in Monroe, LA. At an early age, Fred moved with his family to Richmond, CA, and soon became the oldest of seven children. He attended school in the Richmond Unified School District and graduated from Harry Ells

High School in 1963. Mr. Harris was a successful electrician for over 35 years, and became involved with the Richmond Steelers when his own son went out for the team.

Despite raising four children and having a full-time career, Fred managed to volunteer 25 hours a week from July to December in order to coach the Steelers' most advanced team, the Midgets. Up until 2005, the Midgets won six consecutive league championships. Moreover, he was the coach and equipment coordinator for the entire program and attended as many as four football clinics a year to make sure the Steelers kept current with the latest coaching and equipment innovations. Fred's natural leadership abilities extended beyond his passion for football and coaching, and he envisioned his position as a chance to nurture life lessons and good values in his players.

The Richmond Steelers organization is not just a refuge for the youth in Richmond. The five teams, which consist of players from the ages of 6 to 14, are a valuable resource for parents who disapprove of Richmond's violent street life. Many have said that under Coach Harris' guidance, the Steelers is one of the most effective violence prevention programs in Richmond. As a coach and adviser, Fred instilled the type of pride in his players that comes from discipline, hard work, and team work, the type of pride that lasts for generations.

Fred Harris was not just a coach, but an effective mentor. Fred saw the athletic and individual potential in each child with whom he worked, and he was dedicated to helping his players reach that potential through constructive means. Many sons of Richmond would have been lost without this resource.

To Coach Harris' wife, Etta Harris, and his children: Andre, Fredda, Felicia, and Maryhelen, I extend my heartfelt condolences. His loss is shared not only by those who knew Fred personally but also by all those in Richmond who benefited from his direction and hard work over the years. We will be forever grateful for the integrity, passion and unwavering commitment with which he sought to make the legendary Richmond Steelers a safe place to foster hope.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH
BIRTHDAY OF PEARL RICHTER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Mrs. Pearl Marcus Richter of Toledo, Ohio, on the occasion of her forthcoming 90th birthday. Pearl will be celebrating this milestone event with family members, including two grandchildren, who will be gathering this weekend in the Washington, DC area where Pearl's daughter and son have each settled.

Pearl was born on April 6, 1917, in Indianapolis, Indiana, to immigrant parents (like so many other fine Americans) on that momentous day in history during which Congress declared war against Germany and the U.S. entered the conflict in Europe that became World War I. Her mother was ill during most of her childhood and Pearl was always a great help in the home. Pearl graduated from Shortridge