

In 1984, she moved from activist to public servant. She ran for and won a seat on the Coweta County school board. As a board member for 12 years, Barbara saw the “big picture,” said former Superintendent Bobby Welch, adding that she had a passion for improving opportunities for students, faculty and staff.

In Barbara’s heart, politics had to share space with her love of art. She indulged this interest later in life, her husband said, as she found she had more free time. She became a big supporter of the Newnan-Coweta Art Association. In fact, she was attending a reception for an exhibition opening at the Centre for the Performing and Visual Arts on the night that she died. “She died, if you have to go, under perfect circumstances, doing the thing she loved so much,” her husband told the Newnan Times-Herald.

Barbara Scruggs gave her all for her community. She’ll be missed in Grantville and throughout Coweta County, but I consider this a personal loss as well. Throughout my career in elected office, I could always count on Barbara’s support. My wife Joan and I have kept the Scruggs family in our thoughts and prayers this summer.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns over the continuing human rights violations perpetrated by the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) stationed in San Salvador, El Salvador. We cannot expect to promote stable democratic institutions in El Salvador by funneling military aid through ILEA to support local police forces engaging in repressive tactics.

Since President Clinton called for the establishment of the ILEA in 1995, the United States and participating nations have founded ILEAs in Hungary, Thailand, Botswana, El Salvador, and the United States. Through ILEA, the U.S. has continued to provide military aid, training, and arms sales to participating countries, which threatens to aggravate regional conflicts and sideline programs designed to halt human rights abuses.

The use of excessive force by police and security forces in El Salvador when targeting activists and their failure to protect workers rights to organize and bargain collectively has been at worse exacerbated and at best unchecked by ILEA’s presence in the country. Furthermore, the government’s failure to investigate human rights abuses calls into question the need for ILEA to provide security forces with more tools that can be used to repress those working toward a truly representative democracy in El Salvador.

Madam Speaker, the Congress must take a hard and serious look at whether we should continue funding ILEA. We should not support programs that claim to fight public corruption and provide opportunities for the global law enforcement community to share their expertise and training when, in fact, they further the oppression of social and labor activists and do nothing to end a country’s human rights violations.

A TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY WASHINGTON

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. McINTYRE. Madam Speaker, Mary McLeod Bethune once said, “We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends.” As one of the most influential African-American educators of our time, Mary McLeod Bethune knew this better than most, dedicating her life to the principle that learning is a lifelong process and as a result, knows no bounds in the difference it can make.

Another woman who dedicated her life to this principal was Dorothy Washington of Lumberton, North Carolina, who recently passed away.

Ms. Washington entered graduate school in 1947, a time when many African-American women were prohibited from attending universities and segregation in public schools was widespread. Despite these intimidating barriers, Ms. Washington remained steadfastly determined to pursue her dream of a higher education and became a role model for those in her community. She instilled this very same determination in every life she touched.

My wife recently attended Ms. Washington’s funeral and was impressed by the number of people who expressed how Ms. Washington had touched their lives. Ms. Washington had touched my family’s life during her retirement years, when she was kind enough to care for our two sons (who were toddlers at the time) so that we could participate in a weekly Bible study luncheon. She was always gracious, kind, patient, and understanding—ever ready to help. We were blessed by her kindness.

During her four decades teaching in Robeson County, Ms. Washington cared deeply for her students, sharing with them her passion for Greek and Roman mythological literature, often buying textbooks with money out of her own pocket. She had a genuine appreciation for the arts and humanities, serving as choir director and school librarian. Ms. Washington was determined to educate her students on the adventures that could be found outside the municipal lines of a small, rural town, while simultaneously cultivating an appreciation for the treasures that could be found in their own backyards.

She received her undergraduate degree from Saint Augustine College in Raleigh, North Carolina, and went on to earn her master’s at the University of Michigan.

Madam Speaker, what an amazing place the world would be if we all had the influence of a Dorothy Washington in our lives! This small-town educator has left behind a deep legacy that spans generations and will surely continue for many years to come.

May God bless to our memories the work of Dorothy Washington and the lives she touched.

COMMENDING DAVID RAY RITCHESON AND RECOGNIZING HIS EFFORTS IN PROMOTING FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO COMBAT HATE CRIMES

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 535, Commending David Ray Ritcheson and his efforts in promoting legislation to combat hate crime.

David Ray Ritcheson was the victim of a horrific hate crime in Houston by white supremacists in April of 2006 because of his Mexican heritage.

He was brutally attacked with a metal pipe, burnt with cigarettes, had bleach poured on him, and was kicked with steel toed boots. His injuries from the attack were so severe that he underwent 30 surgeries and was scheduled for even more surgeries.

Miraculously, David was recovering from his injuries and eventually returned to school.

David wanted to move past his horrific experience, but he bravely came to Washington in April to testify before the House Judiciary Committee in support of H.R. 1592, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007.

David’s case was never tried as a hate crime. Due to Federal statutes and under Texas criminal law, first-degree felonies are exempt from hate crimes provisions.

In his testimony, David called upon the Congress to give local authorities the ability to federally prosecute hate crimes. He said “if these crimes cannot be prevented, the federal government must have the authority to support state and local bias crime prosecutions.”

I strongly agree with David and his testimony helped the House pass H.R. 1592, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007.

Unfortunately, earlier this month, David took his own life.

David deserves to be remembered for the hero that he was and honored for his hard work to combat hate crimes.

I support this bill which will honor David Ray Ritcheson and urge my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, due to my return from a trip on official business yesterday, July 23, 2007, I was not present to cast my votes on rollcall votes 687, 688, 689, and 690. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall 687, yea on rollcall 688, “yea” on rollcall 689, and “no” on rollcall 690.