

HONORING LONG BEACH
CALIFORNIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly honor the Long Beach Unified School District. While we work to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act to improve access to quality education for all of America's children, the Long Beach Unified School District shines as an example of what we hope to accomplish.

This district is California's third largest and is setting an example for districts across the nation to follow, by showing that all students, no matter their background, history, or personal obstacles, can achieve their full potential. It was a finalist for this year's Broad Prize for Urban Education, which is a great honor. That accomplishment is all the more amazing because Long Beach, which won the top prize in 2003, is the only former winner to make it back into the finals.

Under the leadership of Superintendent Chris Steinhauser, Long Beach is showing what public schools can do. Superintendent Steinhauser works with parents, teachers, board members, and other community members to create a district that has a "team feeling." The effect is a system that demands results and delivers solutions to the many problems that districts face.

The "Long Beach Way" puts into practice the best of school reform, whether homegrown or from somewhere else. Innovative programs such as Intervention Counselors, who work with high school students at risk of failing, and Algebra ABCD, which provides additional supports that allow students to achieve at high levels, are just two of the exemplary programs that Long Beach Unified provides for its 90,000 diverse students.

I commend the hard working teachers and administrators of Long Beach for their contributions and commitment. It is also important to recognize the support from parents and the community. These combined efforts have been instrumental in ensuring a quality education for all children within the district. I am proud to represent and honor Long Beach Unified School District.

NATIONAL MALL REVITALIZATION
AND DESIGNATION ACT OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Mall Revitalization and Designation Act of 2007. The National Mall is one of Washington's best known and most treasured sites, but also is the District's most neglected and undervalued. The Mall lacks everything that a majestic natural wonder deserves, from an official identity to necessary amenities. My bill (1) authorizes the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) to officially designate and expand the boundaries of the Mall and (2) requires the Secretary of the Interior to submit a plan to en-

hance visitor enjoyment and cultural experiences within 180 days of passage of the bill.

I worked closely with NCPC and other agencies in framing the bill. It would give the NCPC the responsibility and the necessary flexibility to designate the Mall area for the first time since its creation and to expand the Mall area when appropriate. The bill requires the NCPC, to accommodate future commemorative works and cultural institutions, working with key federal and local agencies, and with participation from the public and recognized national leaders in culture and development.

Frustrated at continually fighting off proposals for new monuments, museums, and memorials, on the crowded Mall space, I asked the NCPC to devise a Mall preservation plan 5 years ago. In 2003, Congress amended the Commemorative Works Act to enact the NCPC's designation of a no-build zone where no new memorials can be built. This action was helpful in quelling some but by no means all of the demand from groups and individuals for placement on what they view as the Mall. The bill spells out the needed authority to preserve the no-build zone while expanding the mall to accommodate commemorative works.

The NCPC and the Commission on Fine Arts (FAC) are working on the National Capital Framework Plan and already have shown they can identify sites near the existing Mall which are suitable for new memorials, including East Potomac Park, a part of the Mall area that is seldom viewed as integral to the more familiar space between the Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial; Banneker Overlook, the grounds around RFK Stadium, the Kennedy Center Plaza site and the new South Capitol gateways. Five new prestigious memorials are scheduled for such sites, including the Eisenhower Memorial and the U.S. Air Force Memorial.

I appreciate that NCPC and the FAC work closely with the District of Columbia in designating off-Mall sites for new monuments. The District welcomes the expanded Mall into appropriate neighborhoods, enhancing the work of the District of Columbia government and local organizations such as Cultural Tourism that offer historic tours of District neighborhoods in developing the tourism that is vital to the city's economy. Additional Mall sites for various monuments also complement the creation of entire new neighborhoods now underway near the Mall particularly the District's redevelopment of the Southwest waterfront and my own work on the Southeast Federal Center, now known as The Yards, that is to becoming a mixed use public-private development and waterfront park.

A second and important goal of the bill is to make the Mall a living, breathing, active place where things happen and visitors can be comfortable. The bill seeks to achieve this vibrancy by requiring the Secretary of the Interior to submit a plan, in consultation with the appropriate Federal agencies, and leaders in culture and development and the public, to "enhance visitor enjoyment, amenities, cultural experiences in and the vitality of (the National Mall)." Bordered by world class cultural institutions, the Mall itself has been reduced to a lawn with a only a few—too few ordinary benches and a couple of fast food restaurants. The Mall lacks the most basic amenities appropriate to such an area including restrooms, shelter and informal places to gather and interesting places to eat. When it rains, there

are no places to stay dry on the Mall and when the humidity reaches sky high, there are few places to rest and have a cold drink. Nevertheless, in writing this bill I was compelled to recognize today's reality that funds to make the Mall the 21st century destination it deserves to become are simply not available, and will not become available in the near future until the deficit and other priorities make room. Yet, the Mall needs a total makeover for the 21st century to be worthy of L'Enfant's vision for the city he planned and the MacMillan Plan that is largely responsible for the space between the Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial that is known today as the Mall. However, we must move now to begin to do all we can to rescue this space from its present dull and uninviting condition, damaged by heavy use and often used as no more than a pass-through, despite its magnificent potential. With the necessary imagination, a plan to make Mall a welcoming place with cultural and other amenities envisioned by the bill is achievable now.

The Mall Designation and Revitalization Act is the first step in an effort to begin to give the Mall its due after decades of neglect and indifference. The bill begins at the beginning, defining for the first time what we mean by the Mall, allowing for expansion of its natural contours, and taking the first steps to breathe life into a space that is meant for people to enjoy.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING 70TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
POMERENE HOSPITAL IN
MILLERSBURG, OHIO

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Pomerene Hospital celebrates the 70th anniversary with great joy; and

Whereas, Pomerene Hospital cares for the community's health through communication and trust; and

Whereas, the Hospital has grown from a staff of 10 physicians and continues to grow while serving Holmes County; be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate you on your 70th Anniversary. With great appreciation and respect, we recognize the tremendous impact this hospital has had in the community and in the lives of those people you have touched.

TRIBUTE TO LILLIE MAE WHITE
JOHNSON

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today not only as a Member of Congress, but as Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, to pay tribute to an outstanding Texan and human being, Mrs. Lillie Mae White Johnson, who passed away on Monday, October 15, 2007. Mrs. Johnson was a woman of