

Reverend Thompson has received countless awards for exemplary service to his community. As a testament, the Victory Baptist Church in the Bronx, New York presented Reverend Thompson with a plaque in recognition of 50 years of outstanding service in the ordained ministry and 27 years of service as pastor. He was also presented with a plaque from the Governor General of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas for outstanding service to the community in the tri-state areas of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Madam Speaker, for 51 years Reverend Thompson has been married to the former Bernice Coleman of New York City. Mrs. Thompson is a retired New York City Counselor. Reverend and Mrs. Thompson are the parents of five children: Evania Thompson, Esquire is a Law Librarian who currently teaches at the College of the Bahamas; she and her spouse, Robert Frazier have one son, Khalil Frazier; Danita Thompson, MBA, is a High School Math Teacher in the Bronx, New York and is a graduate of Hampton and Atlanta Universities; Danita is the Co-founder and CEO of Onyx Vizion Production Company; Randolph C. Thompson, Esquire, is a Private Attorney at Law in Washington, DC and New York and is a graduate of Hampton University and Catholic University Law School; Stephen Thompson who is a recent M.A. recipient in the Faculty of Social Sciences is a graduate of Connecticut's Wesleyan College, Hebrew University and is also an aspiring writer; and Ranice Adegbile, a Graduate of Brown and New York Universities is a homemaker; she and her spouse, Oluwole Adegbile have two children, Ayoka and Ayomiku.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Randolph Thompson.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARY BERGAN

#### HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my good friend Mary Bergan for over 35 years of service to the California Federation of Teachers (CFT), and for her tireless work to protect the rights of teachers and students and promote excellence in education.

From the time I was first elected to the California State Assembly and Mary was chosen Legislative Director of CTA, we have worked together on numerous legislative matters. I have enormous admiration and appreciation for her work. Over and over again in Sacramento and in Washington, I have sought Mary's advice on key educational reform and finance issues.

Mary received her Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of California at Berkeley in 1965, and upon graduation, entered the Peace Corps. She was sent to Tunku Kurshiah College in Serenban Negri Sembilan, Malaysia, to teach English and literature. Upon returning to the United States, she became an English teacher at Hillview Junior High School in Pittsburg, California. She became involved with the local American Federation of Teachers (AFTA) and was elected President. She was such an outstanding teacher and effective union leader that only 3

years later, she was offered a staff position as field organizer with the CFT.

Mary's work in the field of education advocacy is legendary. She represented CFT on various task forces and committees through both the California Department of Education and the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges. She served on the Chapter 2 Advisory Committee, the Advisory Committee on Student Assessment, and task forces on educational finance, credential requirements, school restructuring and higher education reforms. She wrote and secured passage of key legislation ensuring the rights of female students and staff in California schools and colleges. Her incredible effectiveness earned her the admiration and respect of her colleagues.

In 1990, Mary was elected a Vice President of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, and in 1991, was elected CFT President. Through the years, she has held numerous leadership positions with AFT, where she was instrumental in instituting important advances in childhood education and health care reform. Also, during the 1980s, she chaired the California Democratic Party's Labor Caucus and she was a delegate to the Democratic National Conventions in 1976, 1992, 1996, 2000 and 2004.

Madam Speaker, Distinguished Colleagues, I ask you to join me today in saluting Mary Bergan, a champion of teachers' rights and public school education. Her dedication and selflessness are an inspiration to us all.

#### COMMENDING STAFF SERGEANT JEFFREY CAMACHO AND HIS FAMILY FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE TO SERVICEMEMBERS

#### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service to our community provided by Staff Sergeant Jeffrey Camacho, his wife Erika and their children to wounded United States servicemen and women receiving medical care at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany.

The Camacho family resides on Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany and has assumed the task of welcoming the servicemen and women from Guam who are receiving medical care at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. They extend their care to the families of the injured servicemembers and have become a focal point for our Guam community's efforts to provide assistance to our men and women who have been wounded. The Camachos are volunteers at Landstuhl and at Fisher House. They also open their home to the servicemembers and their families. Many times, the families of injured soldiers need a place to feel normal, to share dinner, and to enjoy Chamorro hospitality. Sometimes it is the simplest gestures, such as making kadu or sharing a disc of the latest Chamorro songs that make recuperation easier for the soldiers and their families. The Camacho family, through their gracious hospitality, has touched the lives of so many people from Guam and we want them to know that we appreciate their efforts.

I met with Jeffrey and Erika Camacho last month during a Congressional Delegation visit to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Germany. I was honored to visit with them and to hear their story of their care and compassion for injured servicemembers and their families. Jeffrey and Erika are performing a great service for our country. Recently, they opened their home and provided comfort to the parents of a soldier who was evacuated from Iraq to Germany. I commend them for their care and concern for their fellow Guamanians.

Jeffrey Camacho was born in Agana Heights, Guam and is a 1999 graduate of George Washington High School in Mangilao. He is assigned to the Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance Division of the 603rd Air and Space Operations Center at Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany. His wife, Erika Arceo Camacho was born in Tamuning, Guam and graduated from George Washington High School in Mangilao in 1995. The Camachos have two children, Kalena Arceo Camacho, age 9, and Kaleb Camacho, age 3.

Staff Sergeant Jeffrey Camacho and his wife Erika are great Americans whose concern for their fellow citizens and their home island of Guam has led them to open their hearts and their home to the families of our wounded soldiers. The families who have been touched by their graciousness are grateful for their warm hospitality. For our families from Guam, they have provided a home away from home. I commend them for all that they have done and for the sacrifices that they make to help others. They are an inspiration to us all.

#### A TRIBUTE TO OREGON CATTLE- MEN'S ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT SHARON LIVINGSTON

#### HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2007*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with you and my colleagues the story of a remarkable woman and leader from eastern Oregon, Sharon Livingston. Sharon is the President of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and a tremendous friend to rural America. When this week draws to a close, so too will Sharon's tenure as president. Before that occurs, I want to pay tribute to Sharon for the contributions she has made to an outstanding industry.

Sharon embodies the best in rural Oregon frontier women; she loves the land, she embraces the Oregon "can do" spirit, and she values the dignity of everyone she meets. Sharon is a patriot with unflagging pride in her country. She is a great steward of the land, proud of her industry, and intent on doggedly defending the private property rights, water rights, and grazing rights of ranchers. Sharon leads her industry with assertiveness and kindness, always mindful that the American rancher raises the healthiest and highest quality beef in the world. She, like her fellow Oregon beef producers, places a very high priority on providing food of unsurpassed quality for dining room tables around the world.

Sharon's strong values were established at an early age, having grown up in the small community of Long Creek, OR, where she has lived for more than 60 years. The first three