

COMMEMORATING THE 35TH
ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. SHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, thirty-five years ago today, the Supreme Court guaranteed American women the right to choose abortion in its landmark decision *Roe v. Wade*. In doing so, the Supreme Court brought an end to decades of State and Federal laws that outlawed or restricted abortions and put reproductive choice back in the hands of women and gave them safe, medical options.

Since that time, however, a concerted and organized campaign aimed at diminishing this momentous decision has succeeded in whittling down the original intent of the decision and now presents a very serious threat to the long-term security of *Roe* itself.

I rise today not only to commemorate this important day in American history, but also to remind the supporters of *Roe v. Wade* that it is absolutely critical that the pro-choice movement remain united and vigilant against all attempts to take away a woman's right to choose. As a member of the Pro-Choice Caucus, I promise to do my part and continue to oppose any attempts in Congress to limit, restrict or deny a woman's reproductive rights.

In conclusion, I believe that it is imperative, not only for women's rights, but for women's health as well, that the United States not return to an era in which the government gets to decide what a woman can and cannot do with her own body.

JUDGE RICHARD B. ALLSBROOK
POST OFFICE

SPEECH OF

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great leader and powerful figure in North Carolina by naming the post office located at 725 Roanoke Avenue in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina as the Judge Richard B. Allsbrook Post Office. Unfortunately, Judge Allsbrook passed away on October 26, 2007, just a few months before we were able to bestow upon him this great honor.

Judge Allsbrook was a native of Halifax County, North Carolina—one of the largest and most populated areas of my congressional district. He was born in 1929 to State Senator Julian and Mrs. Frances Allsbrook.

In his formative years, Richard Allsbrook attended Roanoke Rapids High School where he excelled academically. After graduating, Richard attended the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill where he received a bachelors of arts degree. He went on to attend law school at the prestigious University of North Carolina School of Law, and subsequently served for 4 years with the United States Navy as a second lieutenant.

Mr. Speaker, after honorably serving his country in the military, Richard returned to Ro-

anoke Rapids to practice law with his father in the firm of Allsbrook, Benton and Knott. During his 20 years as a practicing attorney, he always took time for his clients and worked diligently to ensure that they were represented to the best of his ability. His meticulous nature and even temperament served him well when he was appointed resident superior court judge for the Sixth Judicial District in 1978. Over the next 22 years, he tempered justice with mercy, earning a reputation as a fair, compassionate jurist. All those present in his courtroom—attorneys, defendants, jurors, witnesses and court personnel—consistently found him to be well-prepared, respectful, and courteous. I had the privilege of practicing law before Judge Allsbrook on many occasions prior to my election as Resident Superior Court Judge when I became his colleague.

After serving as Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for over two decades, he retired in September 2000 and worked as a mediator in the North Carolina judicial system.

Judge Allsbrook attended the Rosemary Baptist Church for over 50 years. He was a dedicated deacon, trustee and Sunday School teacher where he worked to enrich each person with whom he came into contact. He was also dedicated to improving the community through his involvement in the Kiwanis Club where he served as president, and also the Roanoke Rapids Chamber of Commerce where he also served as president. Because of his dedication and commitment to the community, Judge Allsbrook received the Jaycees' Distinguished Service Award and also received the Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award.

Mr. Speaker, sadly, Judge Allsbrook's devoted and loving wife Barbara passed away in February of last year—just 8 months before Judge Allsbrook. Judge Allsbrook and his wife Barbara reared two children, Barbara Alison who resides in Roanoke, and Richard Jr., who resides in Boston.

Judge Richard Allsbrook was indeed a pillar of the Halifax community. He was my dear friend and I am so proud to have known him. Roanoke Rapids, Halifax County, and the State of North Carolina is a better place because of Richard Allsbrook's sacrifices and contributions on behalf of so many.

This legislation—H.R. 4211—has bipartisan support and is cosponsored by the entire North Carolina Congressional Delegation. It is my hope that my colleagues here in the House will join me and my North Carolina colleagues in voting "aye" on H.R. 4211.

HONORING ISAIAS R. GOMEZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor and remember a community activist, friend, loving husband, and father—Isaias R. Gomez.

Isaias passed away on January 18, 2008 at his home in Colton, California.

He was born in Gallup, New Mexico, and was a resident of Colton, which is in my Congressional District, for almost 55 years.

While born in New Mexico, Isaias was raised in Jalostotitlan, Jalisco, Mexico. There

he met and married his wife, Jessie Gomez. He and Jessie returned to Gallup, where Isaias began to work in the coal mines. Then in 1953, he and Jessie moved to Colton, and Isaias went to work for the Santa Fe Railroad.

Isaias and Jessie's 6 children—Rosa, Eloise, Isaias Jr., Yolanda, Tommy, and Terri—where all raised in Colton. After initially working with the railroad, Isaias eventually became a successful real estate developer and builder.

I had the great privilege of knowing Isaias personally through his daughter Eloise and her husband Frank Reyes, who are both good friends of mine.

In fact, I gave Eloise Reyes a "Woman of the Year" award in 1993, when I was in the California State Legislature. She was recognized for all her great work in the community, and for being a true trailblazer as the first Hispanic, female attorney in the Inland Empire.

Isaias always let everyone know that his family was his greatest blessing. He cherished his time with them—especially the time he spent with his 9 grandchildren.

Isaias will always be remembered for his amazing work ethic and his unending dedication to friends and family. His great influence on those around him is evidenced in the outstanding character of his children and grandchildren.

In addition to his children and grandchildren, Isaias is survived by his wife Jessie; his sisters Angelita, Alfonsina, and Isabel; and his brothers Joel, Jesus, and Arturo.

Let us take the time to pay tribute to this wonderful man. Let us celebrate the life he lived and the example he led.

Although he is no longer with us, Isaias's legacy and spirit will continue to live on through the lives of everyone he has touched.

The thoughts and prayers of my wife Barbara, my family and I are with his family at this time.

HONORING MR. STU PIKEN

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Stu Piken upon his retirement from civil service in February.

For the past 10 years, Mr. Piken has served as Deputy District Engineer for Project Management in the New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He is the senior civilian responsible for more than \$650 million in projects for civil works, military, hazardous and toxic waste remediation and interagency agreements.

After my first election to the House in 2000, I have worked closely with him on a project of great importance to the 7th District that I represent, the Green Brook Flood Control Project.

In September 1999, portions of my district were devastated by Hurricane Floyd. Among the areas hardest hit were the communities of Manville and Bound Brook, New Jersey. The flooding in these communities resulted in two deaths, the evacuation of thousands of citizens, damages exceeding \$100 million, major disruption to municipal services, and disruption to the lives of thousands of my constituents.

The Green Brook Flood Control Project began in response to Floyd and other storms.