

Vlangas became Royce at his agent's request and with his parents' blessing, thus following the show business practice of the time. He changed his name, but never forgot who he was. Even at the height of his career in the late 40s and 50s the Nicholas Royce dancers stood for all good things and wowed 'em with Nat King Cole's "Calypso Blues", and a modern dance number based on "Harlem Nocturn". They performed in all the top supper clubs, niterys and TV shows; Ed Sullivan, Milton Berle, Kate Smith, etc.

From his new home in California, starting in 1957, Nicholas Royce has exercised his rights as a layman of the Orthodox faith. He launched a vigorous letter writing campaign to mass media, Government officials, private and public agencies, industry and individuals, and he has succeeded in broadening the public's understanding and recognition of the Orthodox faith. Because "exclusion of Orthodoxy is a form of discrimination and prejudice", Nicholas has made these efforts, so Orthodoxy would be an integral part of American life along with other major faiths.

Retired since 1994, Royce now resides in Valley Village, California. Retirement has given him more time to fight for AIDS victims, the homeless, and abused women and children. He broke the stereotype by joining the Hollywood Women's Press Club, Women in Film, and American Women in Radio and TV. In 1996, the University of Minnesota's Immigration history Research Center was pleased to announce the addition of "the Nicholas Royce papers" to their archival library.

Never one to rest on his laurels, he continues to accept new challenges.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, I regret that on January 28, 2008, due to travel complications, I was unable to vote on H.R. 4140 and S. 2110. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING DR. ASA G. HILLIARD
III

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Dr. Asa G. Hilliard III (Baffour Amankwatia II). A devoted father, husband, mentor, and world-renowned humanitarian who worked tirelessly and inspired us all, Dr. Hilliard will be sorely missed by us all. Asa passed away on August 13, 2007.

An accomplished academic and devoted professor, Dr. Hilliard affected the lives of thousands of students. He was not only a mentor in his community, but a hero in the African Diaspora Movement. Dr. Hilliard began his academic career in Denver, where he earned a B.A. in Education Psychology, an M.A. in counseling, and a Ed.D in Education Psychology at the University of Denver.

Dr. Hilliard launched his professional career at the University of Denver, teaching at the College of Education and in Philosophy colloquium of the Centennial Scholars Honor Program. After moving with his family to California, Dr. Hilliard dedicated 18 years of his life to San Francisco State University. During this time, he served as Department Chair for two years, Dean of Education for eight years while also working as a consultant for the Peace Corps. Dr. Hilliard's influence and reach was truly global. As he mentored and taught students in the United States, he also made constant visits to Africa, serving as the Superintendent of Schools in Monrovia, Liberia for two years.

Dr. Hilliard was a founding member of the association for the study of Classical African Civilization, serving as its first Vice President. He was co-developer of a popular educational television series *Free Your Mind, Return to the Source: African Origins* and produced many videotapes and educational materials on African-American History through his production company, *Weset Education Productions*. Dr. Hilliard was so groundbreaking and forward-thinking in his approach to education that several of his methods have become national models in the field.

Dr. Hilliard was a purposeful man with an unquenchable passion for education and the preservation of his culture's history and traditions. Without reservation, Dr. Asa Hilliard significantly changed the world with his dedication to the preservation, study, and spiritual understanding of Africa, African Americans, and Africans in Diaspora throughout the world.

One of my long standing desires was to travel to Egypt with Dr. Hilliard on one of his study tours. Each time I saw him I mentioned this and we both were very excited about the prospect. Due to my hectic schedule, this never happened. As God will have it, I was in Ghana, West Africa, at the Cape Coast Slave Castle when I learned from Reverend Jeremiah Wright through Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. that Asa had passed the day before in Egypt. Like many, I was devastated and saddened, yet thankful to his family and to God for his amazing life. I reflected upon his death in Egypt in a prayerful manner, and took pause to commemorate this great soul.

His loving wife, Mrs. Patsy Jo Hilliard, has quoted Asa as repeatedly saying, "It is not enough for us to be bright and competent. We must also have purpose and direction. It is not enough for us to 'make it' on our own—to save ourselves. As Abena says in Armah's novel, *Two Thousand Seasons*, 'There is no self to save without the rest of us.'" In this way, Dr. Hilliard touched and influenced the lives of all who were privileged to come into contact with him.

On behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, we salute and honor a great human being, our beloved Asa G. Hilliard III. We extend my deepest condolences to Asa's family, and our deepest gratitude to them for sharing this great spirit with us. May his soul rest in peace, and may we continue to benefit from the positive impact he left on the world.

RECOGNIZING NICHOLAS B. HANSER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas B. Hanser, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nicholas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nicholas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nicholas B. Hanser for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO EGGERTSVILLE HOSE COMPANY

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Eggertsville Hose Company of Amherst, New York. For a century the members of the Eggertsville Hose have been volunteering to protect their neighbors.

The Eggertsville Hose began in 1906 in a corner meat packing store after a series of household fires could not be extinguished. The two home blazes were unable to be controlled by the bucket brigade, the fire fighting team at the time. Residents of Eggertsville then banded together to form an organization that would provide better fire protection to the community.

This fire company was incorporated in May 1908. The Eggertsville Hose was the first fire company in the town of Amherst outside of the Village of Williamsville. Fighting to protect the members of their community is the main priority of this 100 percent volunteer fire district. No matter what it takes these volunteers rise to the call of duty.

The Eggertsville Hose is an indispensable part of the Amherst Community, the members of the Hose have dedicated countless hours of service to assist their neighbors. As the population in the district grows the Eggertsville Hose advances along with the rising need for their service. In 1995 the fire station was moved to the center of the district which allows the Hose to respond to emergencies in all areas in a shortened period of time. The new station location along with new equipment and technology makes it possible for the volunteer fire fighters to be increasingly effective in their firefighting capabilities.

The citizens of Eggertsville know that they will be protected by the brave firefighters of the Eggertsville Hose whenever disasters occur or fires flare up. Madam Speaker, in