

Burgess, was a contemporary of Dr. Moten. While it is interesting to think about how these men practiced before the advent of anesthesia and antibiotics, it is also inspiring to think of the courage that someone like Dr. Moten would have had to practice in such inhospitable conditions both personally and professionally. His perseverance during these harsh conditions is remarkable.

Madam Speaker, today I commend people like Dr. Edwin Moten for their inspiration and proudly rise to recognize the culturally rich addition of this important museum to Denton and the entire north Texas area. I also call on north Texans and all Americans to reflect and recall the courage, perseverance, and spirit of those honored in the new Denton County African American Museum. It is an honor to represent the 26th Congressional District of Texas and to commemorate this historical occasion.

HONORING HELEN LODGE, DR.
JOREA MARPLE, SARAH
STEBBINS, AND JENNIFER BAI-
LEY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor four outstanding women in my district who are being honored for their commitment to their communities and for serving as role models to countless young women, empowering them to succeed. The Young Women's Christian Association of Charleston, WV named Helen Lodge, Dr. Jorea Marple, Sarah Stebbins, and Jennifer Bailey as the 2008 Women of Achievement Honorees.

Helen has spent her career as a dynamic leader and advocate for health and nutrition in West Virginia. Early in her career, she was integral in the West Virginia State Legislature passing legislation to require early detection testing for newborns for phenylketonuria, PKU, a simple test that can prevent mental deficiency in newborns. She has received numerous recognitions throughout her career and currently chairs the West Virginia Board of Licensed Dietitians. As active leader in her Charleston community, Helen assists with the fundraising efforts of the West Virginia Symphony League and Youth Symphony and the American Heart Association.

Dr. Jorea Marple represents one of the most noble professions, educating our young people. Her 30-year career includes stints as a teacher, reading specialist, graduate and undergraduate instructor, and a former superintendent of Kanawha County schools. Her most noteworthy achievement is authoring the book, *An Insider's Guide to Making School Systems Work*. Dr. Marple currently serves as Assistant State Superintendent of the West Virginia Department of Education overseeing curriculum and instruction.

Sarah Stebbins is a pioneer among women in the development of information technology in the aeronautics and astronautics industries. A graduate of WVU, she began her career in the development of early computers and later worked as an aerospace research analyst for the Air Force and as a project leader in the Naval Research Lab in the Space Systems

Development Department. Her most notable achievement is helping with the software development of the Global Positioning System, a technology that has revolutionized the way we view and navigate our world and beyond. Sarah retired in her hometown of Charleston, WV with her husband and family.

Finally, I would like to honor Jennifer Bailey, the recipient of the YWCA Women of Achievement Empowerment Award. Jennifer stands as a success story among the mission of the YWCA and is an inspiration to women in all walks of life for her ability to persevere and overcome numerous obstacles. The YWCA was there for Jennifer every step of the way in helping her overcome numerous personal obstacles. Jennifer now enjoys spending time with her son, working in retail, and maintaining a 4.0 G.P.A. in her classes.

Again, I congratulate Helen Lodge, Dr. Jorea Marple, Sarah Stebbins, and Jennifer Bailey, who will be honored February 21, 2008. It is an honor to represent such distinguished and inspiring women in West Virginia's Second Congressional District.

HONORING ST. LOUIS PARK FOR
AWARD WINNING YOUTH PRO-
GRAMS

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today honor the great city of St. Louis Park, Minnesota for winning the America's Promise Alliance's 100 Best Communities for Young People competition for the third year in a row. St. Louis Park is one of the cities in the Fifth Congressional District of Minnesota.

St. Louis Park is an amazing community for young people because residents engage youth with meaningful artistic, cultural and civic opportunities. One such opportunity is the Friends of the Arts program, which pairs youth with donated musical instruments and offers creative writing classes for teens. A local church, the Lutheran Church of the Reformation, offers young artists the ability to improve their artistic skills and a platform to perform or display their work.

Residents of St. Louis Park's Lake Forest Neighborhood organize a program called "Arts Crawl" which sponsors family art programs and raises scholarship funds for youth. Additionally, the city government makes an effort to invite young people to community events and meetings.

The City of St. Louis Park and its residents are committed to a brighter future for their city, their state and their country. I applaud Mayor Jeff Jacobs, the residents of St. Louis Park and especially the young people for their hard work and dedication to improving their communities.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE
RUSSELL HAMMER

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Rusty Ham-

mer, a dedicated leader and advocate on behalf of the Los Angeles business community and a dear friend, who passed away recently after a long battle with cancer.

I had the privilege of working with Rusty during his 5 years as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

At the chamber's helm, Rusty dedicated himself to improving the quality of life and economic prosperity of the Los Angeles Chamber's 1,500 members and their more than 600,000 employees throughout the Los Angeles region.

Under Rusty's dedicated leadership, the Los Angeles Chamber successfully built partnerships between business, community, labor and civic organizations. Today, these partnerships have reestablished the Chamber as the Los Angeles region's premier business advocacy organization.

Rusty's talents, innovative strategic thinking and willingness to work with stakeholders on all sides of the political spectrum played an integral role in the Los Angeles area's economic growth. I observed this first hand during the chamber's annual trips to Washington, DC, which became immensely productive and influential under Rusty's leadership.

While we all deeply miss Rusty, I know his work and many contributions will continue to benefit the Los Angeles business community for many years to come. My thoughts and prayers are with Rusty's special wife, Pam, and their family during this difficult time.

Madam Speaker, in honor of Rusty's life, I would like to submit for the RECORD his obituary that appeared in the Los Angeles Times on January 30. It provides more insight into Rusty's full and accomplished life.

RUSSELL HAMMER, 54; HEAD OF L.A. BUSINESS GROUP

(By Elaine Woo)

Russell J. "Rusty" Hammer, former president and chief executive of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, died Monday at a hospice in San Jose. He was 54.

The cause was leukemia, according to a chamber spokeswoman.

Hammer was credited with revitalizing the Los Angeles business group, which he led for five years until 2006, when he stepped down because of his illness. During his tenure, chamber membership grew from 1,200 to 1,600 companies, and new initiatives helped to refocus the organization on local, state and national policy issues.

"He had a substantial impact on the chamber and also on the people he worked with," said George Kieffer, a Los Angeles attorney who was chairman of the chamber during the first few years of Hammer's presidency. "The chamber has an extraordinary legacy but . . . had become less active in the business community and the greater civic community. Rusty played a very big part in turning that around."

Born on May 12, 1953, in Orleans, France, Hammer grew up in San Jose. He received a bachelor's degree in political science at the University of Santa Clara in 1975 and a master's in public administration from San Jose State University in 1979.

He entered politics at an early age, organizing high school students for Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's presidential campaign in 1968. Hammer ran for office himself in 1972, becoming at 18 the youngest person elected to the Campbell, Calif., City Council. At 21, he became mayor and made headlines as the nation's youngest mayor.

After two terms as mayor, he entered business and served in a variety of management