

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
MARGARET BENJAMIN

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Margaret Benjamin, who died on August 15, 2007 at the age of 93.

Living a life that spanned most of the 20th century, Margaret Montgomery was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, to Robert Montgomery, a veteran of the Spanish-American War, and his wife, Agnes Stern Montgomery. But her parents did not live to see her and her younger sister, Roberta, grow up, as they passed away when Margaret was only 13. Being orphans in the years leading up to the Stock Market Crash of 1929 was hard enough, but in the Depression that followed, it could have been ruinous were it not for the girls' father having supported the Junior OUAM National Orphans Home in Tiffin, Ohio, where they were sent to live.

Growing up without parents and feeling responsible for her younger sister gave Margaret a mission in life based on community service and caring for others without ever feeling sorry for herself. Reaching her prime in an era when women did not generally work outside the home, Margaret took on numerous volunteer activities. Not the glamorous, fundraising kind, but the ones where she saw a need and stepped in to fill it. These included helping to organize a volunteer ambulance corps in the town where she lived but where the nearest hospital was far away. Later, she volunteered at a nearby state mental hospital, working one-on-one with patients struggling to overcome addiction to drugs and alcohol.

Her volunteer activities also included helping her husband, Roy, in his successful political career. She loved the heat of battle in campaigns, seething with passion underneath the veneer of cool professionalism. By the time he was ready to retire from politics, she had become so good at identifying issues, communicating with constituents, driving change, and embodying commitment to public service, that she was asked to run for office in her own right. And she won. Even in retirement, Margaret stayed active in politics. At the age of 86, she managed her son-in-law's successful campaign for local office, showing up at the polls and chasing down voters with the assistance of her walker. Despite old age and failing health, she loved Election Day and treasured the freedom that the privilege to vote entailed.

Until the last year of her life, Margaret was active in volunteer activities related to her lifelong passion for music. She sang in the Woodlands Sweethearts chorus, making appearances at local events and nursing homes so that others could be touched by the music that was a constant source of inspiration and comfort in her life.

Indeed, she passed peacefully from this earth while listening to the music of J.S. Bach that she always found so calming and inspiring.

I had the privilege to know Margaret in her retirement years when she moved to Texas to be closer to her daughter. One of her last endeavors was helping my staff to organize a Social Security workshop at the senior citizens

housing complex where she lived. To the end of her life, Margaret encouraged people to participate in government, to let officials like me know their thoughts, and to be accountable. We could do worse than to follow her motto formed in the crucible of politics, "just be gracious, no matter what."

Madam Speaker, it is the dedication, faith, and commitment of individuals such as Margaret Benjamin who make our country strong and who bring out the best in our communities. Thank you for the opportunity to recall her spirit and her service.

HONORING THE HOME OF THE
INNOCENTS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Home of the Innocents, an innovative nursing facility and children's village for vulnerable children and at-risk families located in Louisville, Kentucky.

For 128 years, Home of the Innocents has provided loving and therapeutic care to children who are victims of abuse, neglect, and abandonment, as well as treatment services for medically fragile, and special needs children, and youth diagnosed with autism. The Home serves approximately 300 children a day and more than 2,220 children and at-risk families per year throughout Kentucky and southern Indiana.

Home of the Innocents is operated by a team of dedicated professionals deeply invested in the health, security, and advocacy for children and families in crisis. Through its two service divisions, the Kosair Charities Pediatric Convalescent Center and the Childkind Center, the home offers a wide range of specialized residential, medical, and community-based services to improve the lives of children.

It is my great privilege to recognize the exceptional staff of Home of the Innocents today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for all that they do to promote health, stability, and hope among vulnerable children and their families. The objectives and collective achievements of this special organization are worthy of our honor and respect.

IN SUPPORT OF THE MEMBERS OF
THE INTERNATIONAL LONG
SHORE AND WAREHOUSE UNION

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, who exercised their first amendment right to voice opposition to the ongoing war in Iraq by stopping work at 29 West Coast ports on Thursday, May 1, 2008. Although the union leadership was not involved in this action, a Longshore Caucus resolution called on all locals to honor May 1 by taking action to end the war and bring troops home safely from Iraq.

I add my voice to those of the workers who attended rallies along the coast, demanding that the American presence in Iraq could come to an end. It is my understanding that the ILWU employers, the Pacific Maritime Association, were able to easily schedule changes with little or no disruption and therefore, these voluntary actions did not pose any hardship to the industry. Yet, the action sent a strong and important message to Washington, DC, indicating the ILWU members' opposition to the war.

The ILWU has a long history of activism in the pursuit of social and international justice, including the refusal to load vessels bound for apartheid-era South Africa and El Salvador in the midst of a civil war. On May 1, ILWU members used their voices at work to express their frustration—shared by the overwhelming majority of Americans—that politicians have failed to bring troops home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, on June 3, 2008, I was absent for three rollcall votes. If I had been here, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall vote 367; "yea" on rollcall vote 368; and "yea" on rollcall vote 369.

HONORING CODY BARTHOLOME

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cody Bartholome of Kansas City, Missouri. Cody is 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, Troop 1460, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cody has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Cody 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 Cody Bartholome for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on June 3, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 367, 368, and 369.