

Your Life of Service" dinner and award ceremony. This year the ceremony will be held at the Radisson Hotel Conference Center in Fresno, California, on Friday, October 24th.

Dr. Mallard-Warren grew up in the projects of Oakland, California. Both of her parents were educators and realized the importance of their children obtaining a higher education. Her family moved to East Oakland, but she was bussed to Skyline High School; a school that provided the academic courses that she would need to get into college. Upon graduating from Skyline, Dr. Mallard-Warren attended the University of California, Riverside, where she earned her degree in biology. In 1979, she earned her medical doctorate from the School of Medicine at University of California, Davis.

After graduating from medical school, Dr. Mallard-Warren moved to Fresno, California, and received her training in obstetrics/gynecology at Valley Medical Center. In 1983 she opened her first private practice and today has multiple offices in Fresno. In addition to her private practice, she has made a habit of serving uninsured and underinsured OB/GYN patients over the span of her career. She has worked with Black Infant Health, an organization that provides health education, health promotion, social support and service coordination to pregnant and parenting African-American adult women. Through this program she has diligently worked toward lowering the instances of infant mortality in the most impoverished areas of Fresno and assisted in contributing to the well-being of this underserved community. She also participates in the Liga Doctors of Mercy, a nonprofit organization that has been providing free health care and education to the people of Sinaloa, Mexico, since 1934.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. Mallard-Warren upon being awarded the "Community Health Champions Award". I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Mallard-Warren many years of continued success.

INTRODUCING THE CRITICAL
ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE
ACT OF 2008

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Critical Election Infrastructure Act of 2008.

This legislation is a necessary and vital investment in the future of our democracy. This bill authorizes \$1 billion over the next four years for states and local governments to upgrade existing election equipment and to purchase new polling equipment to meet the needs of our growing electorate. Funding could also be used to hire and train additional poll workers.

Madam Speaker, roughly 130 million votes were cast in this past election. This is an astounding number and emblematic of increased participation in our election system, particularly by minorities and young people. But while increased turnout is for democracy, in some parts of the country it caused undue difficulties.

For example, throughout south Florida and other parts of the country, hundreds of thousands of voters found themselves waiting in interminable lines, sometimes for over five hours. Five hours! Forced to stand in the heat and during Florida's famous afternoon thunderstorms with little food and water, voters are to be commended for their commitment to exercising their right to vote. But voting should not be this hard.

Election officials simply do not have enough equipment and trained personnel on the ground to speedily and effectively handle such large numbers of voters. Even though early voting in Florida took place over a 10-day period, these five-hour-long lines persisted throughout the state virtually every day. Clearly, what is needed is more: more polling booths, more trained workers, more equipment, even more polling locations and facilities to handle increasing numbers of voters. This bill authorizes the funding to upgrade existing technology, provide more polling booths, and hire and train more poll workers, reducing long lines and facilitating greater speed and efficiency for voters.

Madam Speaker, voting should not be a right granted only to those who can stand in line the longest or can go the longest without food or a bathroom break. Voting is the sacred right of all eligible citizens. We have a solemn responsibility to ensure the greatest possible access to exercise that right. Authorizing funding for the necessary equipment and personnel is an essential first step in that process. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN MEMORY OF GENERAL ROBERT
H. BARROW

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of a true gentleman, General Robert H. Barrow, United States Marine Corps, Retired—the 27th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

General Barrow was born in 1922 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He graduated high school in 1939 and enrolled at Louisiana State University. In March 1942, he enlisted in the Platoon Leader's Class Program. He left school in the fall of 1942 and went to boot camp in San Diego, staying on after graduation as a drill instructor. Selected for Officer Candidate School, he left San Diego for Quantico in March 1943; and in May 1943, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marines.

After officer training, he was assigned to Marine Barracks, Naval Ammunition Depot, New Orleans. He was reassigned in February 1944 to the 51st Replacement Battalion in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. During the last seven months of World War II, he led an American team serving with Chinese guerrilla forces in Japanese occupied Central China. He was awarded the Bronze Star.

After World War II, he served as Aide de Camp to the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic. He completed Amphibious Warfare School, Junior Course in June 1949,

and was transferred to the 2d Marine Division at Camp Lejeune. He was given command of Company A, 1st Battalion, 2d Marines.

At the beginning of the Korean War, his company was transferred to Camp Pendleton and redesignated Company A, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division. He led Able Company ashore at Inchon in September 1950. For his leadership in the fighting on the outskirts of Seoul, he received the Silver Star. During the Chosin Reservoir Campaign, he was awarded the Navy Cross for the seizure and defense of Hill 1081 from 9–10 December 1950.

After the Korean War, he was reassigned as Officer-in-Charge, Infantry Desk, Enlisted Assignments, Headquarters Marine Corps. From there he was detailed out and sent on a classified assignment to the Far East, north of Taiwan. He returned to Headquarters Marine Corps, this time to the G-3.

In February 1956, he returned to Camp Lejeune, where he served first as operations officer and then executive officer of 2d Battalion, 6th Marines. He joined the NROTC unit at Tulane University in 1957, and served as Marine Officer Instructor for three years. Returning to Quantico, he completed a tour with the Landing Force Development Center and attended the Officer's Senior Course in 1963. He left for another tour in the Pacific, where he served as G-3, III Marine Expeditionary Force, then G-3 Plans Officer at Fleet Marine Force Pacific in Hawaii.

Attendance at the National War College followed, and upon graduation in 1968, he arrived in South Vietnam to take command of 9th Marines, 3d Marine Division. The regiment conducted a series of highly successful operations south of the western part of the Demilitarized Zone and in the Khe Sanh and Ba Long Valley areas. For his valor during Operation Dewey Canyon from 22 January to 18 March 1969, he received the Distinguished Service Cross.

He was promoted to brigadier general in August 1969 by General Leonard F. Chapman, 24th Commandant of the Marine Corps. General Barrow's first tour as a general officer was Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Butler, Okinawa, where he served for three years. He then served as Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina for 32 months.

In July 1975, he was assigned as Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Headquarters Marine Corps. The following year, he became Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia. He was Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps from July 1978 until a year later when he assumed the office as Commandant. Befitting his reputation and stature, when General Barrow stepped down as 27th Commandant of the Marine Corps in June 1983, President Ronald Reagan presided over the ceremony at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. General Barrow returned to Louisiana, where he lived in retirement.

General Barrow's medals and decorations include the Navy Cross, Defense Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Department of the Army Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, three Legions of Merit, two Bronze Stars, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Madam Speaker, General Barrow was an outstanding Marine and an exceptional American leader. I know the members of the House