

HONORING AARON R. KLEINMEYER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 9, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron R. Kleinmeyer 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 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

MAYOR LYNDA BELL OF THE CITY OF HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 9, 2009*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable woman and friend from Florida's 25th District, Mayor Lynda Bell of the City of Homestead. She was elected Mayor in November 2007 and serves as Homestead's first woman mayor in the city's 94-year history. Prior to this accomplishment, she served four years on the city council from 2003–2007 and was Vice Mayor for two years.

Born in Hollywood, Florida, Mayor Bell was raised in South Florida and attended Miami-Dade College. She has been a resident of Homestead since 1979 and understands the needs of the diverse community she represents. She has a strong personal belief in volunteerism and service, and is completely dedicated to our community. What most stands out about Mayor Bell is the energy she puts into her work. Her positive attitude is what enables her to get things done and encourages others to join her in working towards achieving the goals she has laid out for the City of Homestead.

In 2004, Mayor Bell was chosen as the recipient of the Athena Award from the Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce and was a finalist for the Florida League of Cities' Councilperson of the Year Award in 2007.

In addition to putting the needs of our community first, Mayor Bell also makes life at a home a priority as a dedicated wife to husband Mark, and loving mother and grandmother to three children and seven grandchildren.

Mayor Lynda Bell exemplifies the true meaning of public service and does so by always prioritizing the needs of others first. As we celebrate Women's History Month, I ask you to join me in congratulating Mayor Bell for her invaluable service and contributions to our community.

HONORING ARIZONA PIONEER AND NATIONAL TREASURE MS. CELE PETERSON

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 9, 2009*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a Tucson, Arizona icon, a state of Arizona pioneer and a national treasure—Ms. Cele Peterson. Cele Peterson, a visionary and an activist, will turn 100 on March 14, 2009 and she is still busy as a catalyst for business, cultural, environmental, and children's organizations in Tucson, Arizona. She grew up in the wildest days of Bisbee, a little mining town in Arizona close to the border with Mexico. She tells stories about watching skirmishes of the Mexican Revolution from high on the hills across the valley, sitting at the knee of an old "mule skinner" listening to tales of the West, and of her brother dynamiting their backyard to build a garden for their mother. Cele maintains that her strength and persistence is due to the 365 steps she climbed up and down the steep hills of Bisbee to and from school every day.

At fifteen, she graduated from high school and began attending the University of Arizona. She went on to Sullins College in Bristol, Virginia and George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Cele worked at the Library of Congress in the manuscript division in the late 1920's. She was sent to Mexico City where she continued her work of translating old Spanish manuscripts pertaining to the history of the Southwest.

In 1931, when Cele opened a dress shop in Tucson, she began a career that integrated her love of history, creativity as a designer, business acumen and intelligence with her values and desires to improve the community. Today, Cele will still tell you that her most important priority always was her love for her husband Tom and their five children. Her love today continues to be centered on her on children, her 14 grandchildren and her 10 great grandchildren.

For the last 78 years, Cele Peterson Fashion's has grown and changed with the times, yet Cele claims she has never worked a day in her life. She loves what she does, and has adventures and honors that reflect her enthusiasm. In the 1940's she initiated a daily radio broadcast from her downtown store. In the 1950's she was selected as a young American designer to participate in the Merrimack fashion show at New York's Metropolitan Opera. Her denim tailored "Station Wagon Togs" drew international recognition. Her designs celebrated Arizona's special resources: copper, cotton, climate, and cattle.

Along the way, Cele founded what is now known as the Tucson Children's Museum, was a co-founder of the Casa de Los Niños, the first crisis nursery in the United States, and was very involved in the beginnings of the Arizona Theater Company and the Tucson Opera Company. She was the instigator of a non-profit organization that celebrates Tucson's Birthday and culture every August. Cele created the idea for Kids International Neighborhood, a non-profit organization that promotes cultural understanding, acceptance and respect among children of the world.

Cele served on University of Arizona boards for the College of Humanities, the School of

Architecture and the Steele Memorial Children's Research Foundation. She also served on the boards of the Tucson Trade Bureau, Tucson/Mexico Sister Cities, the Tucson Local Development Corporation, the Industrial Development Authority, the Tucson Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Tucson Symphony Orchestra, Angel Charity for Children, the Tucson Community Foundation and the Tucson Downtown Alliance.

Over the years her achievements have been recognized and honored with numerous awards including: the City of Hope Woman of the Year Award, the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce Founders Award, the University of Arizona College of Agriculture Distinguished Citizen Award, the YWCA's Lifetime Achievement Award and the Ernst & Young/INC. Magazine 1995 National Socially Responsible Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Cele was named a Doña de Los Descendientes del Presidio de Tucson, the group of women responsible for maintaining Tucson's historic culture. Cele received a Crystal Apple from the Metropolitan Education Commission and was honored as one of the Four Women Who Helped Build Tucson by the Concerned Media Professionals. In 2004, the America-Israel Friendship League honored her with a Cycle of Life Award. In the same year she was named Grand Marshal of the Tucson Rodeo Parade. In 2007 the Tucson Pima Public Library designated the Cele Peterson Arizona Collection, as an ongoing resource of local history.

As of February 2009 Cele is working on a youth apprentice program for the Rodeo Parade Committee, actively recruiting additions for the Cele Peterson Collection at the library, and encouraging the exchange of cultural ideas for children through the distribution of I Love You in Many Languages, a Kids International Neighborhood book. Cele is also continuing her involvement with a coalition of environmental groups to restore and preserve native growth and wildflowers on a centrally located urban lot.

Clearly Cele Peterson is committed to finding beauty, and changing the world. She often quotes her mother, "Look into that field out there. You'll see whatever you want to see. You can see wildflowers and beauty or waste and junk." Cele has always made a clear decision to look for beauty. In the process, she became a community legend.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARWAN BURGAN

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 9, 2009*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Marwan Burgan, community activist, human rights leader, Democratic Party stalwart and dear personal friend. Marwan's long struggle with cancer has ended, but the contributions he made to Northern Virginia, particularly within the Arab American community, will continue as a lasting tribute to his life.

By his own example of civic engagement and leadership, Marwan served as a remarkable model for other first-generation Palestinian Americans. In 2008, he founded PACE

(Project for American Civic Engagement), to facilitate placement of underrepresented young people into Congress as interns and staff. His devotion to public service and efforts to politically empower young people, especially in the Arab American community, has charted a course for a next generation of engaged, enlightened and energetic leaders.

A lifelong civil servant, Marwan worked in Congress for eight years, first as a Foreign Affairs Legislative Assistant, then Legislative Director, and finally as Chief of Staff for former Congressman Mervyn Dymally. Later in his career, he dived into local government, serving as Chief Aide to Penny Gross, a member of the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County.

Ever since moving to Northern Virginia in the late 1980's, Marwan was heavily involved in local politics and the Democratic Party in Virginia. In his home county of Fairfax, he served as Vice-Chair of Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC) for Voter Registration, chaired the Local Affairs Committee for FCDC and until his death, served on the Steering Committee for the Democratic Party of Virginia.

On the night he passed away, Marwan was planning to attend a dinner with Speaker PELOSI and Northern Virginia leaders at my home. He was feeling especially weak that day and had to decline. I wish he had been able to come. Despite his pain, it would have brought a smile to his lips to hear the Speaker explain how close we are to achieving universal healthcare and economic opportunity for all Americans and the renewed hope for peace throughout the world—issues he had spent his life fighting for.

Madam Speaker, when someone dies so young, it's important that we bear in mind the real tragedy of life is not at death but what dies inside of us while we live. In that sense Marwan lived a long and fruitful life. He never lost his passion, courage or commitment for justice and human rights. Without Marwan its now up to us to stand up and speak out all the louder for what he cared about: dignity of all human beings, the end of the violence and oppression which in many parts of the world is taken for granted, and the love of each other as precious instruments of our God.

HONORING BENJAMIN P. CARR

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 9, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin P. Carr 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 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

IN HONOR OF MAREYJOYCE  
GREEN

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 9, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mareyjoyce Green, a profoundly respected and influential member of the Greater Cleveland Community, and in recognition of her dedication to civic engagement, education and the advancement of women.

Dr. Mareyjoyce Green earned her undergraduate degree from Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, where she double majored in Education and Sociology. Prior to continuing her education in dance on a scholarship from the University of Wyoming at Laramie, she married her college sweetheart, Charles Green, and began her career as a teacher in local schools. The couple later moved to Cleveland where Dr. Green taught dance and earned her PhD from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), with a focus on the sociology of poverty. Dr. Green has taught at a number of local universities including the Ashtabula Branch of Kent State University and Tri-C. Her ability to create unique curricula earned her an appointment by the Chair of CRWUs Sociology Department to head Ohio State University's (OSU) Sociology Department in Lakewood in 1962. Four years later, she became the first woman to head Cleveland State University's (CSU) Sociology Department.

During her tenure at CSU, Mareyjoyce established a number of groundbreaking programs that had a profound effect on both the students of CSU and the residents of the Greater Cleveland Community. Her commitment to social issues manifested in the establishment of Push to Achievement, a program she developed with a fellow professor, Roberta Steinbacher. The program was formed as a partnership between the Cuyahoga County Department of Human Services and the Urban Affairs College of CSU and enabled residents who were receiving public assistance to earn college degrees. Additionally, she co-founded WomensSpace; and has served as Director of the CSU Women's Comprehensive Program for twenty years—the only such program in Northeast Ohio that offers Women's Studies as a major. Dr. Green has tirelessly dedicated her personal and professional time in order to ensure that women obtain the necessary resources to earn advanced degrees and emerge as leaders in their communities.

Dr. Mareyjoyce Green's ability to mobilize the community and to advocate for the social welfare of others has been manifested in the various leadership roles she has played and has served as an undeniable source of inspiration to all those working for social justice. Upon the occasion of her retirement earlier this year as Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the Women's Comprehensive Program, the Department of Sociology at CSU is establishing the annual Mareyjoyce Green Graduate Assistantship.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the leadership and outstanding achievements of Dr. Mareyjoyce Green for her work in both the Greater Cleveland Community and at Cleveland State University.

HONORING JUSTIN RICHARD  
WHEELER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 9, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Justin Richard Wheeler 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 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

HONORING THE FLIGHT CREW OF  
DELTA CONNECTION FLIGHT 5202

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 9, 2009*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. On February 12, 2009, in the heart of Black History Month, four African-American women accomplished a feat which has never before been performed. They were the first all-female, African-American flight crew to operate a flight in the United States. These women truly are an inspiration to all of us, and I am so honored and pleased to recognize the crew of Delta Connection Flight 5202: Captain Rachele Jones, First Officer Stephanie Grant, and flight attendants Diana Galloway and Robin Rogers.

When these women operated a flight from Atlanta, Georgia, to Nashville, Tennessee, and the return flight back to Atlanta, they had no idea that they would be making history. Captain Jones is one of only a handful of female African-American pilots in the country, and after her first-officer became sick and was replaced with First Officer Grant, Captain Jones knew that this flight was going to be special. Together these women have positively challenged our ideas of what it means to be in aviation in modern America.

It is important to realize, however, that this feat is merely the extension of a legacy of black female pilots which began with Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman. Born in Atlanta, Texas, to a poor background, Bessie Coleman overcame numerous obstacles to show the world that a Black woman can indeed be a pilot. After realizing that no American flight school would train her, she studied French and went to Europe to train at a foreign institute. In June of 1961, she became the first African-American woman in the world to obtain a pilot's license.

Let us applaud the efforts of these heroes who have paved the way for African-American women in aviation. From Bessie Coleman to the modern day flight crew of Delta Connection Flight 5202, barriers are being broken to