

of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I extend my sincere appreciation to Andy Wambsganss and wish him the very best of luck in the future.

THE PASSING OF MS. KOKO TAYLOR, THE "QUEEN OF THE BLUES" JUNE 4, 2009

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of one of my most prestigious constituents, from Country Club Hills, Ms. Koko Taylor the "Queen of the Blues". Ms. Taylor passed away yesterday afternoon at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

For more than 40 years, Koko Taylor's powerhouse vocals have thrilled audiences, from little bars in Chicago's South Side to giant international festivals. Ms. Taylor has been described by Rolling Stone as "the great female blues singer of her generation."

She's been in movies, on television, on radio and in print all over the world and has received just about every award the blues world has to offer, including 29 Blues Music Awards, and a Grammy Award in 1984. I personally had the privilege of presenting the National Endowment of the Arts National Fellowship Award to Ms. Taylor in 2004.

Undoubtedly, Ms. Taylor's contributions to the music world have been innumerable. I am deeply saddened by her passing and I rise today to honor her many achievements and offer my condolences to her family, friends, and fans across the country.

ALEXANDRIA HAFKEY-HAIGHT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alexandria Hafkey-Haight who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alexandria Hafkey-Haight is an 8th grader at Faith Christian Academy and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alexandria Hafkey-Haight is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Alexandria Hafkey-Haight for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING LORRAINE BERGMAN ON BEING RECOGNIZED AS THE BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR BY THE TEMPE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lorraine Bergman, who was recently named Business Woman of the Year by the Tempe Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Bergman is currently the President and CEO of Caliente Construction, a company originally started by her late husband Thomas Bergman. After his passing in 2005, Lorraine stepped up and rebuilt the company herself. Under her leadership, Caliente Construction has more than doubled in its percentage of growth and in number of employees. The success of this local business was previously recognized by the Tempe Chamber of Commerce when Lorraine received the Business Excellence Award in 2008.

In addition to the success of her own company, Lorraine has made many contributions to the surrounding business community. She is a founding member of Advancing Women in Construction, as well as the East Valley Branch of Fresh Start, a program that assists women whose lives have been impacted by traumatic events. Lorraine is a graduate of both the Gilbert and Tempe Leadership programs whose experience, dedication and body of work truly deserve to be honored.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Lorraine Bergman's many contributions to our community.

THE DEDICATION OF THE SAN BENITO MEMORIAL PARK AND MEMORIAL FREDDY FENDER

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of the San Benito Memorial Park on Saturday, June 6 where a memorial honoring the life of Freddy Fender stands.

Born Baldemar Garza Huerta on June 4, 1937, in San Benito, Texas, Freddy Fender was the son of Serapio and Margarita Garza Huerta, a laborer and migrant farm worker. He was the eldest of nine children.

The love of music came early to young Balde, as everyone called him then. He was only five years old when he acquired an old three-string backless guitar which he quickly learned to play. He may have come from a very poor upbringing, but his optimism was undeniable, using music as a means to make life happier. "Music always made it better," as he would say.

The family would follow the seasonal crops for harvesting. They traveled north to work beets in Michigan, bale hay and pick tomatoes in Indiana, harvest cucumbers in Michigan and onions in New Mexico. Then, it was back home to San Benito for the winter where he spent time entering and winning talent contests.

Baldemar Huerta's professional career was ignited in November 6, 1956, as El Bebop Kid, when he originally recorded Spanish-language versions of Don't Be Cruel and Holy One, hits in Texas, Mexico and South America, that reflected his unique fusion of love songs and rock 'n roll. For a short time he also recorded under the names of Scotty Wayne and Eddie Medina.

He signed with Imperial Records in 1959 after taking the name Fender from the neck of his Fender guitar and Freddy because it sounded good. He first recorded his mega-hit, Wasted Days and Wasted Nights in 1959.

Fender is credited with being the first American Hispanic Rock & Roll recording artist in Anglo Latino music history. He was also the first Mexican-American artist to cross over into mainstream pop and country music, and with introducing Tex-Mex music into the American and world music scene.

Freddy Fender was more than just an artist; he was my dear friend who I had the honor of knowing and working with for many years. Through this dedication, we pay tribute to a man who traveled around the world singing songs that brought smiles and joy to the lives of many, including myself. Freddy never forgot where he was from—his roots and upbringings remained intact throughout his professional career as a singer.

Today, we remember him through his songs, his spirit and his love for the Rio Grande Valley, especially San Benito.

On October 14, 2006, we all lost a dear friend, companion, singer, and San Benito native, when Freddy went to be with the Lord. Before his passing, he asked his beloved wife, Vangie, that he wanted to return to San Benito to be buried. His wish was carried out and that is why we stand here today in honor of a man that encompasses the true meaning of success through hard work, dedication and determination.

Most recently, the San Benito Economic Development Corporation funded this project, budgeting about \$250,000 for the construction of the monument in honor of Freddy. The San Benito Memorial Park will be home to 300 resting souls, including Freddy, who was the first one to be buried there.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating the dedication of the San Benito Memorial Park and the memorial honoring the life of Freddy Fender.

A TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF SID CAUSEY

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to New Hanover County Sheriff Sid Causey. As Sheriff Causey prepares to retire on July 1, 2009, I ask that you join me in recognizing his long and honorable career of service.

Sheriff Causey began his career in 1970 with the Carolina Beach Police Department, and then moved to the sheriff's office in 1973. In 1978, he moved to the county Alcoholic Beverage Control board, then returned to the sheriff's office in 1986. For seventeen years, he effectively commanded the office's vice