

While with the California Senate, Mr. Morshed was responsible for the development and enactment of a wide range of transportation laws, policies and programs. He helped guide the creation of the State's principal transportation institutions including the High Speed Rail Authority, the California Transportation Commission and various local and regional commissions, transportation districts and other agencies.

Educated at the University of Washington, Seattle, as a civil engineer, he received a master's degree in transportation engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Mehdi Morshed for his efforts and dedication to the transportation systems in California.

HONORING LAVERA ETHRIDGE-
WILLIAMS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate LaVera Ethridge-Williams upon being honored with the "Trail Blazers Award" by the African American Museum in Fresno, California.

Mrs. LaVera Ethridge-Williams was born in Boley, Oklahoma in 1927 to John and Alberta Ethridge. She was raised in Wewoke, Oklahoma where she received her early education. As a child, she cared for her younger siblings while her parents worked. In 1945, Mrs. Ethridge-Williams moved to Fresno, California and attended Fresno City College and California State University, Fresno.

In 1968, Mrs. Ethridge-Williams began the process of opening a child care center in West Fresno. She recognized that a child care center would be a great asset to a community that was largely underserved. She faced many adversities; including obtaining a bank loan and attending many hearings with the state board for the Department of Health and Welfare. After four years of perseverance, Mrs. Ethridge-Williams was able to open her first private child care center. The center was designed specifically for infants and licensed by the California State Department of Social Welfare.

Mrs. Ethridge-Williams quickly began working on the goal of opening a chain of child care centers. She began designing the centers to be innovative and functional for the education of young children. These centers provided valuable early education, emphasizing the importance of school, health, vaccinations, nutrition, as well as employment opportunities for the West Fresno residents.

Mrs. Ethridge-Williams' love for her community and profession was evident throughout her life. She is one of the founding members of the Sickle Cell Support Group through her membership with the Fresno Chapter of The Links, Inc. For her service, Mrs. Ethridge-Williams has been recognized and honored with many awards; including being named the "Outstanding Black Woman of the Year" by Gamma Eta Chapter of the Iota Lambda Society, "Minority Business Enterprise Award" by the City of Fresno, "Portrait of Success Award" from the local NBC affiliate, KSEE 24,

"Woman of the Year" for the 16th Senate District by former State Senator Jim Costa, "Martin Luther King, Jr. Award" and was recognized by the Fresno Unified School District for being a leader in education for the children in the community.

Mrs. Ethridge-Williams is married to Lonzell Williams and together they raised three children. They have five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate LaVera Ethridge-Williams upon being honored with the "Trail Blazers Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Ethridge-Williams many years of continued success.

HONORING DR. HERBERT RHODES

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, today I rise during Black History Month to remember the important contributions African Americans have made to our nation. I want to especially honor the extraordinary people who continue to help shape our community and our great nation. I have the privilege of representing thousands of successful and talented African Americans in the second congressional district of Nebraska, and among those is a special individual. I would like to pay tribute to Dr. Herbert Rhodes.

Dr. Rhodes has been a lifelong member of the Omaha business community. He was featured in a 1975 issue of Ebony Magazine, which highlighted successful African Americans who were leading the way in business. During his 36-year tenure at AT&T, he served as a senior manager specializing in risk management for worldwide commercial metals. He is the founder and president of American Harvest Company, which was established in 1979. He continues to be a role model for success as a senior trader for AHT Capital Management Hedge Fund. Dr. Rhodes is a member of the Copper Club and the American Copper Association. He also serves as secretary for the St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church, president of the men's social club Work in Progress, and is a member of the NAACP. He has been a member of the Nebraska Cattlemen Association since 2008 and now serves as the director of marketing and commerce. He is the proud father of four children and two grandchildren.

Thank you Dr. Herbert Rhodes for your contributions. Your work in our community has made a difference many Nebraskans from all walks of life.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF AFRICAN AMERICANS TO THE
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRA-
STRUCTURE OF THE UNITED
STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1085, which sup-

ports the goals and ideals of National African American History Month, celebrates the contributions that African Americans have made to the transportation and infrastructure of the United States, and urges the American people to join the House of Representatives in celebrating these vital contributions. H. Res. 1085 is an important measure that pays tribute to African Americans' crucial role in building our nation, innovating new technologies, and helping create long-lasting economic growth and prosperity.

I thank Chairman OBERSTAR for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank the author of this legislation, Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN, for chronicling the crucial, and often overlooked contributions of African Americans to our nation's growth and progress.

Madam Speaker, African Americans have made significant and far-reaching contributions to our nation's transportation systems and critical infrastructure. Thousands of African Americans overcame racial discrimination, harsh environmental conditions, and frequently physical danger, to build critical portions of our nation's highways, bridges, and transit systems. Many African Americans founded aeronautics schools that trained pilots who went on to serve in the military or fly commercial airliners. Further, African Americans were the source of innovative designs that helped make our transportation and infrastructure systems modern, efficient, and safe. For example, Garrett A. Morgan developed the traffic signal, which has proven indispensable to our transportation system. Elijah McCoy's "lubricating cup" automatically oiled steam engines, making the railroad system dramatically more efficient. Elbert R. Robinson invented the electric railway trolley, which was adopted by cities across the country. Humphrey Reynolds produced the safety gate on bridges, a development that has made transportation significantly safer. These are only a few examples of the vital contributions of African Americans to transportation and infrastructure in the United States.

It is perhaps even less well known that during the Civil Rights Movement, countless African Americans devoted themselves to tireless activism that led to the desegregation of our nation's transportation systems and improved working conditions for transportation workers of all races across the country. These invaluable efforts not only improved our roads, bridges, and transit systems, but also led to significant national progress in achieving racial equality and reconciliation. It is entirely fitting that we take this opportunity to honor African Americans' contributions to our transportation and infrastructure and appreciate the innumerable benefits that these efforts yielded for our nation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1085.

IN MEMORY OF FORMER
PLEASANTON MAYOR BEN
TARVER III

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, today Congressman PETE STARK and I ask our colleagues to join in honoring the life of Ben