

IN HONOR OF CAROL HARTUNIAN
GIRVETZ

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Carol Hartunian Girvetz of Santa Cruz, California. Carol Hartunian Girvetz passed away on July 4th, 2010. Carol will be remembered always as a loving mother, loyal wife, and dedicated citizen committed to her community.

Carol Hartunian Girvetz was born in Hollywood in 1946 to Armenian immigrant parents. She spent her early years as a young adult studying Art and English at UC Santa Barbara. After college, she began her career as a teacher and quickly changed paths upon taking a job with Pan American as a flight attendant. During this time, she worked on many R&R flights tending to soldiers from the Vietnam War as they traveled to meet their loved ones back at home, and then returning them back to the battlefield.

After her days of traveling with Pan American, Carol returned to California to begin her new life as a wife and mother. Carol and her husband George raised their two children, Evan and Shyla in the small town of Freedom in Santa Cruz County. Her connection with the community was immediate as she became enmeshed in the community's needs. She served on the Women's Commission and along with several women, started the first shelter for female victims of domestic violence. This achievement would be the first of many in her thirty years of service to Santa Cruz County. Carol most recently retired from the position of Assistant County Administrative Officer, where I had worked with her for years. Carol was known by her colleagues for her strong work ethic, great sense of humor, and devotion to public service. She was an extraordinary person and public employee who will always be remembered and missed by her colleagues.

In addition to her work in public service, Carol was also heavily involved in local fine arts in Santa Cruz. She played a large role in the development of the McPherson Center for Art and History. She also served as a board member for such organizations as United Way of Santa Cruz County and Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, among others. Her hard work has given the community and future generations the opportunity to be immersed in fine arts. Her life is a testament to how the commitment of public service can leave a lasting impact on a community.

Madam Speaker, I ask members of the House to join me in honoring the life of Carol Hartunian Girvetz, and extend our nation's deepest gratitude to her thirty years of service to her community. Carol lived sixty-four years of life filled with the love of her family, passion for public service and the arts, and will be greatly missed.

ON THE BIRTH OF CAMERON ROSE
DONAHUE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Brian Donahue and his wife Julie on the birth of their new daughter Cameron Rose Donahue. Cameron was born on Monday, July 26, 2010, at 3:34 in the afternoon at Arlington, Virginia, with a full head of gorgeous red hair.

Cameron Rose Donahue is 6 pounds of pride and joy to her grandparents, R. Scott and Claudia Horner of New Jersey and Marilyn and Francis Donahue of Florida and New Jersey.

I am so excited for this new blessing to the Donahue family and wish them all the best.

HONORING GEORGE B. VASHON

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor George B. Vashon, a 19th century Pennsylvanian who distinguished himself as an African-American educator, abolitionist, poet, and activist, and who earlier this year was posthumously admitted to the bar 163 years after he first tried to break this barrier. Vashon was born in Carlisle, PA in 1824 and raised in Pittsburgh, the son of John B. Vashon, a leading anti-slavery crusader, businessman, and veteran of the War of 1812. Both John and George Vashon were active in the western Pennsylvania abolitionist efforts of the time, helping escaped slaves on the Underground Railroad and organizing Pittsburgh's black community in several anti-slavery gatherings. Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, and Martin Delany were among the Vashons' closest associates and family friends.

Growing up as a student of the abolitionist crusade, George B. Vashon became the first black American to graduate from Oberlin College and soon turned his focus toward the law as the means by which he would effect change. In 1847, after studying under the Honorable Judge Walter Forward, later a U.S. Treasury Secretary, George Vashon applied for admission to the Pennsylvania bar but was denied because of his race. In 1838, a revision of Pennsylvania's constitution restricted the practice of law to white men. Shortly after he was turned down in Pennsylvania, Vashon applied for and passed the New York bar and became the first black lawyer in that state, where he later went on to become the first black person to run for office in New York. Vashon would later also be admitted to the bar of the U.S. Supreme Court. After he gained this achievement, he again sought admission to the Pennsylvania bar, but was denied for a second time.

George B. Vashon's career was mostly spent in education: as one of the first black college professors in this country, an official in Pittsburgh's public school system, a founder and the first black professor at Howard Univer-

sity, and the President of Avery College in Pennsylvania. He helped lead many anti-slavery conventions, was active in the lobbying efforts to pass the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution, and was a contributor to Frederick Douglass' newspaper, *The North Star*.

Madam Speaker, George Vashon's life was dedicated to bringing equality to African Americans and he broke many barriers in trying to do so. Not surprisingly, however, he also faced significant discrimination and his being denied admission to the Pennsylvania bar thwarted his hopes of practicing law in his home state. His many accomplishments and lifework are inspiring and continue to stand as impressive for a person of any color.

In an attempt to remedy what was denied George B. Vashon in his lifetime, his great grandson Nolan Atkinson, a prominent Philadelphia attorney and constituent of mine, was joined by his nephew and Vashon's great, great grandson, Paul Thornell, in petitioning the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on behalf of their ancestor. On May 4, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court righted a wrong in the history books when it posthumously admitted Vashon to the Pennsylvania bar. In doing so, the Court issued the following order: "In acknowledgement of Mr. Vashon's credentials and achievements, this Court hereby admits George B. Vashon to the practice of law in the Courts of this Commonwealth posthumously."

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to share this notable achievement of an outstanding, if lesser-known American—George B. Vashon. It is also a privilege to recognize the important efforts that resulted in his becoming the first African American to gain admission to legal practice in Pennsylvania.

**HONORING THE CROSS PLAINS
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Cross Plains Fire Department.

Since 1910, the Cross Plains area has been under the responsive and watchful eye of the Cross Plains Fire Department. Fire departments play an essential role in any community, and the Cross Plains Fire Department is no exception. Their steadfast vigilance of the area is a reflection of the tight-knit community which they safeguard and the outstanding bravery of the men and women of the Cross Plains Fire Department over the last 100 years is praiseworthy.

The establishment of the Cross Plains Fire Department in 1910 actually predates the incorporation of the Village of Cross Plains. Today, Fire Chief Dale Lochner and his staff operate out of a single fire station, protecting over 41 square miles and almost 4,000 residents. In addition to providing service to the Village of Cross Plains, the station also serves the Townships of Cross Plains and Berry. Whether it is fighting fires, search and rescue, or saving lives as first responders, firefighters are essential to our communities.

Volunteer firefighters risk their lives everyday for the people of their communities and