

Manuel was active in the civil rights era. In 1982 he was instrumental in getting Covich County redistricted. He won the 1983 election but it was taken from him. Manuel didn't get elected until 1985 as the first black Supervisor in Covich County.

He is an active member of the Covich County NAACP, the Covich County Democratic Executive Committee, and is a Mason.

HONORING BETTY DAVIS

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for almost a half a century, Betty Davis—affectionately known as Miss Betty—has been serving the community at Queens University in Charlotte. Having been at Queens for nearly a third of the university's history, she's its longest serving employee, and everywhere you look, you can see Miss Betty's influence.

She began working at Queens in 1962 as a housekeeper in one of the residence halls. She then became a housemother, saying recently in an interview that the girls in her houses respected her because she respected them.

It's her respect for those around her that has made Miss Betty more than just a friendly face on the Queens University campus—she's someone that students, faculty and staff know they can turn to at any time.

In 1978, university President Dr. Billy O. Wireman took notice, and asked Miss Betty to be his personal assistant. She says that she became like family with Dr. Wireman. He presented her with the Honorary Alumna Award in 1988; she sat with his family at his funeral in 2005.

Close to starting her 50th year at Queens, Miss Betty has recently been named the doyenne of the Queens dining hall. When she's not caring for what she calls her "Queens children" during the school year, she's often spotted around Charlotte—whether shopping or walking around Freedom Park. She's a celebrity-type figure, and anywhere you go around town, you're sure to find someone who knows Miss Betty.

In an article recently published by the Queens University Magazine, Miss Betty recalls a piece of advice her friend and mentor Dr. Wireman once told her: "Gal, don't ever say no. Say you'll try your best." And that's exactly what Miss Betty has been doing for Queens University, her family and the Charlotte community for five decades. We appreciate her service to generations of Charlotteans, and look forward to many more years of her guiding influence.

HONORING MARY EVELYN ARNOLD OF SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, LYNN

WOOLSEY, to recognize Mary Evelyn Arnold, who has been named the City of Sonoma's 2011 Alcaldessa, or Honorary Mayor.

The title "Alcalde," or "Alcaldessa," when referring to a woman, is the Spanish word for "Mayor." During the Spanish colonial period in California, the Alcalde was the primary civil authority. In modern times in the City of Sonoma, it is an honorary title and the contemporary Alcalde or Alcaldessa presides over ceremonial events for the city.

Alcaldes and Alcaldessas are nominated by the community and are representative of individuals with a long record of volunteer work. Ms. Arnold is no exception to this rule.

At the top of the list of Ms. Arnold's volunteer passions is the library. She has served on both the Sonoma County Library Commission and as Chair of the Sonoma Valley Library Advisory Board.

She also serves as Treasurer and Chair of the Investment Committee at Vintage House, organizes the Wednesday cooking crew at Meals on Wheels, and bakes birthday cakes for the WillMar Center, which offers support and counseling for children and teens grieving the death of a loved one. Pets Lifeline (where she is the unofficial cat cuddler), Kiwanis Club of Sonoma Plaza and the AAUW Scholarship Committee round out her volunteer community activities.

Ms. Arnold is also very active in her church, serving on the Committee on Ministry of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ and serves as Vice Moderator of the First Congregational Church of Sonoma.

Ms. Arnold moved to Sonoma County in 1987 and was the co-owner of a specialty wine business and worked for the Wine Business Monthly and Wine Business Insider for several years, finishing her career with internet.com.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Evelyn Arnold is the quintessential volunteer, a dynamic and well respected member of the community. It is therefore appropriate that we acknowledge her today as the City of Sonoma's Alcaldessa for 2011.

IN MEMORY OF KATHY RADKE AND HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, along with my wife Cynthia, my sons George and Stephen, I rise today to join with the citizens of my hometown, Martinez, California, to mourn the death of our friend and neighbor Kathy Radke.

Kathy was a friend in the best sense of the word, and she was a neighbor in the largest sense of the word: she worried about us, inquired after us, and supported us as individuals and as families.

Kathy, along with her husband Ted, brought a vision of community that would be supportive of children, families, and our elderly. Hers was a vision that included environ-

mentally sound policies to make our city safer and our community a more enjoyable place to live.

Time and again she was successful in realizing this vision, as she moved through Martinez as a parent, as an elected official, as a volunteer, and as an organizer.

We were all shocked and saddened to learn of her serious illness last year and her passing last week. It's difficult to think of our town without Kathy's caring, her vision, and her drive.

Now along with Ted and her sons HT and Dylan, we will all have to work harder to maintain and grow the many gifts she left for us. We all are going to miss her and the strength of her spirit.

I know that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Kathy Radke, and expressing our condolences to her family and her many friends. I want to draw my colleagues' attention to an article in the Martinez News-Gazette about Kathy and her great legacy, and I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

[From the Martinez News-Gazette, Feb. 10, 2011]

KATHY RADKE: ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION,
CIVIC LEADER, CHERISHED FRIEND TO MANY

(By Greta Mart)

The woman largely responsible for protecting Mt. Wanda from development, conserving the Franklin Hills as open space and galvanizing community support for Alhambra Creek died this week: Kathy Radke passed away on Monday from pancreatic cancer. She was 71.

During her two terms on the Martinez City Council, Radke focused on water quality issues and worked to bring cleaner water to Martinez residents. Later, the geriatric peer-counseling program she created became a model for others around the state. Another late career change saw her becoming licensed as a conservator, managing financial and health matters for elderly patients.

On Wednesday, her son Dylan Radke, currently the chair of the Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission, spoke about his mother's life and touched on the many roles Kathy played in the civic life of Martinez.

Born in December of 1939 and raised in Chicago, Kathy was the middle of three sisters. Her father Otto ran a family beer distributing business, said Dylan, and she attended the Chicago Commercial High School, graduating at age 16.

For a few years Radke worked for the American Medical Association in Chicago and then New York City as an executive secretary until she volunteered for the newly-established Peace Corps.

The Peace Corps took her to rural Guatemala, where she taught nutrition and trade skills. When her stint was up, she moved to San Francisco and enrolled at San Francisco State to earn a B.A.

There she met Ted Radke, who was a fellow student and served as a teaching assistant for one of Kathy's classes.

The two were married and she dropped out when the pair moved to Martinez and had their first child, Harold Theodore III in 1969.

Asked the reason his parents chose Martinez, Dylan said it was a combination of his paternal grandparents living here and his father securing a job at what was then

called the Abandoned and Abused Children's Center, across from the County's Juvenile Hall.

Dylan was born in 1971, at a time when Ted was mounting his first political campaign. Kathy was the key staffer on Ted's campaign for City Council, which he won. Ted served for one term on the Martinez City Council before being elected to the Board of the East Bay Regional Park District in 1977, a position he still holds.

"During that same time, both my parents helped found the Contra Costa Ecology Action," said Dylan. "They were trying to draw attention to environmental issues; how pollution, poor air and water quality affect health. It was an environmental advocacy group."

Ted left county social services for a teaching position at Contra Costa College while Kathy worked as a secretary for the Martinez Unified School District and subsequently the local electrician's union.

Ted's campaign had apparently inspired Kathy to public service, as she was elected to the City Council in 1982 and served for two terms. She ran for Mayor in 1984, but lost to Mike Menesini.

"Although the office is non-partisan, my mother would not be ashamed to be identified as a Democrat. She was really into water quality; it was a hot issue then due to the proposal of the Peripheral Canal idea. She was also dedicated to maintaining Martinez's small town character," said Dylan. "Mom was active in trying to protect the Franklin Hills [from development] and same with Mt. Wanda. She worked with George Miller to get Mt. Wanda to become part of the John Muir National Historic Site."

Former Council member Peter Langley said this week that he and Kathy were very close friends when they served together on the Council.

"We were both on the water subcommittee and what we were trying to do was get better water quality for Martinez," said Langley. "Kathy was very much an environmentalist. One of the issues was a development in the Alhambra Hills, which is still before the City Council and we turned down several proposals for the Franklin Hills. South of Highway 4 where Alhambra Valley Road shoots off from Alhambra, there is a place where there is a sort of natural entrance to the hills, a canyon, and there was a guy who wanted to put a development there," which Radke opposed.

Langley said that one couldn't dislike Kathy Radke.

"She had a very sunny personality, very warm," he said.

Dylan Radke said after his mother left the Council, she returned to finish her Bachelor's degree at Cal State Hayward. She went on to earn a Master's in Human Development and started working on a second Master's in Public Health when she was recruited by Contra Costa County to do geriatric social work.

When he was on the Board of Supervisors, now-Senator Mark DeSaulnier proposed creating a senior peer counseling program and asked Kathy Radke to head it up.

"The program was very successful and became a model for others," said Dylan.

"She set up a fabulous peer counseling program that's been copied elsewhere," said Radke's friend Harriett Burt.

In the mid-90s, Radke was appointed to the John Muir Health Board of Directors and ran for Board of Supervisors, but was defeated by Gail Uilkema.

After retiring from her County position a few years ago, Radke started a new career by

obtaining her license as a fiduciary conservator.

"Conservators are people who manage the care for people who are unable to do it, older adults who no longer have the capacity to manage their financial affairs," said Dylan. "Conservators are court-appointed and Mom would essentially make sure they are being seen by doctors and bills are being paid, it enabled them to continue to live longer in a home environment."

In the late '80s, Kathy and Ted Radke helped found the Friends of the Alhambra Creek organization.

"There was concern over the accumulation of debris and trash in the creek and with more development in [Alhambra Valley], also watershed issues. [The founders] were primarily trying to restore the creek to a natural flow and making sure it was healthy for fish, turtles, and of course, beavers," said Dylan Radke. "[Kathy], along with Igor Skaredoff and Jane Moore, those three would organize creek cleanups because they saw the creek as vital to the downtown and [Alhambra] valley ecosystem."

"The first time I met [Kathy], Shirley [his wife] and I went to a slide show by the Friends of Alhambra Creek. Several members had hiked to the source, in Briones, and took pictures. That's when we joined FAC, circa 1990," Skaredoff said Wednesday in a telephone interview. "We hit it off and started doing things together like surveys and creek cleanup. Kathy and I designed a little brochure [about the creek]. Kathy also created a creek protection ordinance for the City of Martinez that is still in the General Plan. It's a great legacy from her; it's actually written into the General Plan how to protect [the creek]."

Turning to the more personal attributes of Radke, Skaredoff described Kathy as possessing a great sense of humor.

"Always she could find something to laugh about, something positive. Whenever you were around her you always felt better, she had that way about her," said Skaredoff. "She was a vital force. I'm very happy I met her and our community was so much better off with her in it."

Jane Moore also became close to Radke after joining the Friends of Alhambra Creek, and later worked on Radke's campaign for the County Board of Supervisors.

"I've been meaning to look up the definition of this word, although it's usually used in a negative way, because Kathy always comes to mind when I hear it: instigator. She was an instigator in the best sense of the word, in the way she got ideas going, got people interested in ideas, instrumental in showing people how to use their best potential," said Moore. "I wouldn't be doing the work I'm doing without her, she inspired me to get my degree. The loss of Kathy Radke is a huge loss to Martinez and Contra Costa County. She was pivotal in so many people's lives, programs and services. She was an incredibly important person, giving and generous."

Another friend who had known Radke for many years, Sheila Grilli, said described her death as "such a loss."

"We were political cohorts: I ran for City Council when she ran for Mayor. She was fair and well liked, and a happy person. We traveled together a couple of times a year to Mexico and Hawaii—and she was easy to get along with, energetic and open to suggestions. It's hard to imagine that someone as dynamic and interesting is gone," said Grilli.

Dylan said traveling the world was one of his mother's passions.

"She couldn't do it enough, she been all over the world," said Dylan Radke. "She

also loved to camp, especially with the family, and she loved to garden."

Anyone who has visited the Radke home was witness to Kathy Radke's passion for gardening. When he was young, Dylan said his parents maintained huge planters for kitchen garden crops; about 15 years ago, Kathy transformed the back yard into an Asian-themed wonderland.

Besides raising their two biological children, Kathy and Ted Radke served as foster parents to three children.

Trying to remember all of his mother's accomplishments, Dylan added that Kathy was also a licensed social worker on top of all her other achievements.

"She passed the social work exam right after I passed the bar," to practice law, said Dylan.

Dylan's wife Deidre Seguenza said Wednesday afternoon the family had set a date for Kathy's funeral; it will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 16 at St. Catherine's in Martinez.

"She will be greatly missed," said Seguenza with heartbreak in her voice.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUTH CORPS ACT OF 2011

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Youth Corps Act of 2011 to help increase opportunities for youth in Hawaii and nationwide.

In the worst recession since the Great Depression, 2010 marked the highest unemployment rate for youth ages 16–24 since the Labor Department began tracking the figure in World War II. Nearly 1 in 5 youth were unemployed in 2010.

Youth Corps can help. Modeled after President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps, today's Corps Network includes 143 programs in 44 states and the District of Columbia. Youth Corps programs have helped 600,000 youth gain critical education, civic engagement, and job training skills.

A shining example of a Youth Corps leader is my constituent Mari Takemoto-Chock, who is one of six 2011 Corps Member of the Year. Mai grew up on Hawaii Island and thrived at excellent public schools. Once she attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa, she became aware of the daunting opportunity gap between young people of different socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds.

Last spring and summer, Mari served as a UH Fellow in my Washington office, where she was one of the most effective employees I have ever had. Wanting to do more on-the-ground service, Mari became an AmeriCorps VISTA intern for Kupu, the Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps. There she helped develop and implement Kupu's new Urban Corps program.

In 2011, Kupu itself is honored with a Project of the Year award. Kupu in Hawaiian means "to sprout, grow, germinate, or increase" and like the Kupukupu fern that grows after a lava flow, Kupu brings life back to the people, the land, and the ocean. Kupu used Recovery Act funding to create a Recovery