

school by getting more people involved in cleaning up our campus and helping to prevent trash from being thrown everywhere so often. Then I decided to volunteer at Spring Creek Gardens, an assisted living home and memory care facility. I volunteered with the memory care patients, playing bingo, singing songs, helping a children's choir, reading, doing a bible study and mostly chatting with the patient's whom did not have many visitors because of their Alzheimer's disease. I was excited to see the growing smiles on their faces as I chatted and heard stories of their kids and their long lives. I decided to continue volunteering each Sunday and helping out as much as possible. Not only did this project help me to make a difference in my community, it made a difference in me as well.

—*Caitlyn Woolum*

TRIBUTE TO DR. LEROY DAVIS

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2011*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of South Carolina's outstanding academic leaders as he is honored by his alma mater. On April 28, 2011, South Carolina State University is dedicating Leroy Davis Sr. Hall, a science and research complex, in honor of the former student who returned to S. C. State as a professor and went on to serve as its eighth President. I can think of no one more deserving of this honor.

Leroy Davis was born in Garden City, South Carolina, and is a graduate of the old Wilkinson High School in Orangeburg. He attended South Carolina State College (now University) and graduated in 1971 with a B.S. degree in Biology. The following year, he earned a master's degree in Microbiology from Purdue University. In 1979, Dr. Davis received his Ph.D. in Molecular Biology.

After earning his academic credentials, Dr. Davis returned to his roots and took a position as an assistant professor of biology at South Carolina State. He went on to become a full professor, and published numerous articles and papers in general and technical journals.

Dr. Davis continued to climb the professional ladder at South Carolina State, successively holding positions as Program Director for Talented and Gifted Workshops; Director of Academic Counseling and Tutorial Programs; Director of the Office of Institutional Self Studies; Vice Provost for Academic Administration; Vice President for Student Services; and Interim President.

On April 10, 1996, Dr. Davis became President of South Carolina State University by a unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees. He took over during a troubled time at the college, becoming the second president in just 3 years.

During his career at South Carolina State he accrued a number of honors, including Outstanding Young Men of America 1978, 1979 and 1980; "Teacher of the Year" in 1985 and South Carolina Business Visions Top 25 Influencers for 1997.

After 6 years as President, Dr. Davis retired from South Carolina State on June 30, 2002. The highlights of his tenure include securing \$10 million in federal funds for the James E. Clyburn Transportation Center, renovations to Lowman Hall, expansions of the Whittaker Li-

brary and Hodge Hall, improving Internet accessibility on campus and allowing students to register for classes by computer. He successfully completed construction of the 1890 building that had been mired in contractual disputes for years.

In addition, he secured \$9.5 million for a fine arts center, oversaw enhancements to the Smith-Hammond-Middleton Monument, and erected an SHM historical marker for the three students killed in the Orangeburg Massacre. He also led the effort to establish the Nuclear Engineering program at S. C. State, the first degree program of its kind at a historically black college.

Today, Dr. Davis serves as Executive Director of the Center of Excellence in Rural and Minority Health and Distinguished Professor of Biology at Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina. He is also a leading consultant with the Southern Education Foundation's Center to Serve HBCU Leadership Project.

He is also very active with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, SACS, and has chaired many visiting committees, presented workshops and symposia, and served on special committees. In 2002 he was awarded the SACS Distinguished Service Award for his long-term service and commitment to SACS.

Dr. Davis holds membership in numerous professional and civic organizations, including the American Council on Education, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, the New York Academy of Science, and Rotary International.

He also sits on a number of boards and commissions including the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics Board of Trustees, the Jessie Ball Dupont Fund Board of Trustees, the Southeastern Council of Foundations Board of Trustees, the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Board of Trustees (Chairman) and the Purdue University College of Science Advisory Board. He previously served on the boards of the National Collegiate Athletics Association, NCAA, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, SACS, the South Carolina Aquarium, and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, NAFEO.

Dr. Davis is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including South Carolina's highest civilian award—the Order of the Palmetto—and honorary degrees from Tuskegee University, Francis Marion University, South Carolina State University, and Purdue University.

Dr. Davis is married to the former Christine McGill of Kingstree, South Carolina and they have two adult children—Tonya and Leroy, Jr.—and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Leroy Davis on an extraordinarily distinguished career in academia. It is fitting that he is being recognized for his lifetime of contributions to South Carolina State University. I add my voice to those celebrating his commitment to his Alma Mater. It has been my honor to work closely with Dr. Davis, and I look forward to his continued contributions to academia and society as a whole.

HONORING ELIZABETH OKERSTROM MURGUIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth Okerstrom Murguia of Eureka, California on the occasion of her retirement after more than 35 years of extraordinary public service for the people of California's North Coast.

Born and raised in beautiful rural Mendocino County, Liz's parents, Merle and Astrid Okerstrom, instilled in her a deep appreciation for the important things in life: family, community, and civic engagement. From age 10 and on, Liz was raising "Dollars for Democrats" and serving in student government, paving the way for a long career in public service.

Early visits to the Bookmobile growing up nurtured Liz's lifelong passion for books and reading. Graduating from Sonoma State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature in 1972, Liz quickly became a committed and dynamic library advocate. She served on the Humboldt County Library Construction Advisory Committee from 1979 through 1995, playing a central role in raising the funds to construct a new Main Library for the Humboldt County Public Library system. In 1991, she was appointed as a California Delegate to the White House Conference on Libraries in Washington, DC. As Co-Founder and President of the Humboldt Library Foundation since 1996, Liz was the recipient of its distinguished Helen Everett Award in 2006 in recognition of 25 years of tireless work on behalf of public libraries. In 2008, Liz was also appointed to serve on the Library of California Board to ensure that all Californians have access to library resources and services for lifelong learning and enrichment.

Following her graduation from college, Liz worked for Zero Population Growth in Washington DC., after which she returned to California and began working for former State Senator and Assemblyman Barry Keene in 1975, where she remained for 18 years.

In 1993, I was honored that Liz joined my State Senate staff as District Representative and then my Congressional staff in 1998, serving as my representative for Humboldt and Del Norte Counties in the United States Congress. Throughout the past 18 years, Liz has proven herself to be an invaluable asset, trusted adviser, and cherished friend. She is a creative and effective problem solver with a breadth of knowledge of public policy and local issues relating to health care, education, community development, and working with Native American Tribes. Liz also has a developed expertise in understanding and solving the North Coast's wide range of natural resource issues, including public land management, timber, salmon restoration, and ocean resources.

Liz is a masterful writer and fundraiser, well known and deeply respected by the community. Her impact has been far-reaching through her service on many boards and committees such as the Open Door Community Health Clinics Board, Keep Eureka Beautiful Board, St. Joseph's Hospital Advocacy Committee,