

being presented with the "International Leadership Award on the Advancement of Education and Capacity Development in Niger Delta Ijaw Communities."

IN REMEMBRANCE OF PAUL DUNCAN, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH FOR THE LONG BEACH COMMUNITY BUSINESS NETWORK

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to rise to pay tribute to the late Paul Duncan, the Director of Outreach for the Long Beach Community Business Network, LBCBN, and one of the leading and influential figures in the LGBT community of Long Beach, California.

Paul Duncan died on August 6, from an aneurysm in Las Vegas where he was representing the LBCBN at the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce's weeklong conference in Las Vegas. He was 72 years old.

Paul Duncan was born November 18, 1937, in Pueblo, Colo. A short time later, he and his family relocated to Los Angeles. He began his professional life in banking and later opened his own insurance and property management company and published equine magazines. He later lived in Australia, where he managed a horse ranch and deer farm for many years, before returning to the United States and settling in Long Beach.

Those who knew and worked with Paul describe him as a figure larger than life, and not just because of his imposing 6-foot-3-inch frame and fondness for cowboy hats and boots, but because of the bigger impact he had on people. Wherever he went, whomever he met, Paul made you feel that you were his "mate."

According to Stacey O'Byrne, president of the LBCBN, "Paul created a vision that crossed cultural, political and generational boundaries. He was full of cheer and endless dedication to helping new and existing gay and gay-friendly businesses create lifelong bonds with other members of the community."

Paul Duncan spent the last ten years of his life working tirelessly to connect LBCBN, known informally as the Long Beach Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce to business organizations from Hawaii to Washington, DC. Mr. Speaker, the untimely death of Paul Duncan is a great loss to his family and to countless persons who counted him as a friend. He leaves giant shoes to fill but I am confident that the work he began and advanced will be continued by all of us who have been inspired by his example.

I would like to request a moment of silence in his honor and memory.

HONORING J VINEYARDS AND WINERY OF HEALDSBURG, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, LYNN WOOLSEY, to recognize and honor J Vineyards and Winery of Healdsburg, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

J was conceived and developed by Judy Jordan, an exuberant, fiercely independent 25-year-old who saw an opening in Sonoma County's wine landscape for a high quality, all-American sparkling wine brand. It was a lofty goal for a product that was first made in an old, ramshackle prune processing barn that routinely flooded when the nearby Russian River overflowed.

From those humble beginnings, J sparkling wines have become some of the finest in the world. The winery's J Vintage Brut is a fixture on high profile wine lists and top hotels around the world. Queen Elizabeth sipped J at the White House. Mikhail Gorbachev spoke of world peace with a glass of J in his hand, and J sparkling wines were the official celebratory bubbles of the Academy Awards Governors Ball for 4 consecutive years.

To produce this remarkable wine, Ms. Jordan and her team rely on ten distinctive vineyard estate properties located throughout the Russian River Valley Appellation. These vineyards have at least 20 different soil profiles, with each vineyard displaying a different soil type and distinctive microclimate. This diversity allows J winemakers to coax the best flavor characteristics from each vineyard.

Ms. Jordan also came to the realization that her vineyards would also be ideal for producing site-specific, cool-climate Russian River Valley varietal wines such as Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Pinot Gris in addition to her sparkling wines. These wines were added to the portfolio and have become immensely popular products.

J's ten estate wines will be "Certified Sustainable" in 2012 by the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance. After a number of energy savings initiatives were implemented throughout the winery, J was named a "Green Winery" in 2010.

One of the first wineries to offer food and wine pairings to visitors in the "Bubble Room," J was also named "Best Winery Tasting Room" by Sunset Magazine in 2009.

Mr. Speaker, from its humble beginnings, J Vineyards and Winery has become an international success story and one of the linchpins of the Sonoma County wine industry. It is therefore appropriate that we honor them today on their Silver Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE WEALTH GAP AMONG RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, although our economy is gradually improving, we can-

not ignore the fact that the economic crisis remains a daily reality for millions of Americans, nor can we ignore the fact that the crisis unevenly affects certain groups of citizens, such as racial and ethnic minority groups.

A study by the Pew Research Center released last month demonstrates starkly the wealth gap among racial and ethnic minorities in this Nation. Although all racial and ethnic groups experienced loss of wealth during this economic crisis, the wealth of African American and Latino households dropped dramatically. For example, the median net worth of a white family now stands at 20 times that of a black family and 18 times that of a Hispanic family, roughly twice the gap that existed before the economic crisis. Even more startling, this is the largest wealth gap since data started being collected in 1984. Other findings of note that reflect the uneven economic difficulties among groups of citizens include the fact that approximately 35 percent of Black households and 31 percent of Latino households had zero or negative net worth in 2009, compared to only 15 percent of white households. The Pew findings echo those of a recent study by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) that found that the Great Recession has decimated the black middle class. This study found that the median wealth of black households dropped 84 percent from 2004 to 2009, essentially wiping out the economic gains that black Americans made since the early 90s.

There are multiple factors that contribute to the wealth gap—disproportionate investment patterns, experience of unemployment, and education debt are a few. The Pew study highlighted the fact that white families are typically able to diversify their investments in housing as well as stocks and bonds, whereas minorities usually invest heavily in housing. The housing crisis then contributed to wealth disparities because minority families lost everything and had few (if any) other investments on which to fall back.

African Americans and Latino Americans disproportionately experience both unemployment and long-term unemployment, which further contributes to the wealth gap. African Americans stand at the highest unemployment levels since 1984. Most recently, the black unemployment rate averaged 16.1 percent in April, May, and June 2011, compared to an average of 7.9 percent for whites during the same periods. The unemployment rates for recent high school graduates who were white were 9.5 percent and 21.4 percent in 2007 and 2010, respectively. In contrast, the unemployment rates for recent high school graduates who were black were 20.3 percent and 31.3 percent, respectively. Thus, the unemployment rate of 21.4 percent in the middle of the recession for white high school graduates was about the same level of unemployment for black high school graduates at the beginning of the recession. Similarly, recent black college graduates have the highest unemployment rate among college graduates. With regard to long-term unemployment, researchers at the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment at the University of California at Berkeley recently found that African Americans represent only 11 percent of the labor force, but 22 percent of the long-term unemployed. Thus, African Americans are twice as likely to experience long-term unemployment compared to their representation in the labor force. Similarly, Latino Americans