

known as Bloody Sunday. We must not forget the courage of my esteemed colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, and others during the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in March 1965. Non-violent marchers led by LEWIS and Hosea Williams were brutally beaten, opening the eyes of the Nation to the struggle of African Americans to win the right to vote. Let us resolve to protect the voting rights for which participants of that march suffered such brutality, and honor them for their commitment to non-violence. They are an inspiration for all Americans.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 5, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 27, 2012, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 73 (on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 347).

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HONORING NORMAN L. HENRY

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 5, 2012*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Mr. Norman L. Henry, President and Executive Director of Builders of Hope CDC. Builders of Hope CDC is a Community Housing Development Corporation in Dallas that has demonstrated its commitment to revitalizing communities through the construction of energy-efficient, environmentally-friendly homes that are also accessible to low and moderate-income families.

Under Mr. Henry's leadership, Builders of Hope CDC has led the way in quality affordable housing in the Dallas area. Since accepting the position as President in 2000, Mr. Henry has overseen a fourfold increase in the output of affordable homes across several neighborhoods throughout West and South Dallas. Utilizing over 21 years of experience in the non-profit management and affordable housing field, Mr. Henry has built, remodeled, and sold over 224 affordable homes.

With the housing market collapse in 2008, countless Americans have either lost their homes entirely or now find the value of their homes to be less than the amounts they owe on a mortgage. Norman Henry, through the work that he has done with Builders of Hope CDC, has contributed to keeping the American Dream alive through the construction of these homes. Quality and affordable housing should not be out of reach for any American with the desire to purchase a home, and Mr. Henry has helped to bring the pride of home ownership to even more Americans.

Mr. Speaker, Norman Henry has helped to breathe new life into many West and South Dallas communities through his revitalization

efforts. His vision to revive otherwise decrepit areas across Dallas will benefit countless people through expanded access to housing and improved quality of life. It is with great pleasure that I honor the work of Mr. Norman Henry for his contributions.

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COMMEMORATION OF MARIA D. FERNANDES

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 5, 2012*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of Maria D. Fernandes of Sea Bright, New Jersey. Mayor Fernandes served the constituents of Sea Bright for 16 years and retired in January 2012. She passed away on Sunday, February 26, 2012 at the age of 59. Throughout her illustrious career, the Mayor continued to preserve and enhance the quality of life for Sea Bright residents. Her service is truly worthy of this body's recognition.

Maria Fernandes served as Sea Bright Borough Mayor from 2008 until 2011. She was proud to be the first Portuguese-American female Mayor in the state of New Jersey and the third in the United States. Before becoming Mayor, Ms. Fernandes was elected to the Sea Bright Borough Council in 1997 and served in this capacity through 2007. She was appointed Sea Bright Council President from 2003 through 2005 and was an active participant and member of the Sea Bright Planning and Zoning Board from 1996 through 2011. As a member of the Borough Council, she implemented a program to add the North and South Beach areas to the monthly street cleaning schedule. Sea Bright now has regularly scheduled street cleaning services once a month as a result of Mayor Fernandes' initiatives. Her leadership abilities also led to her appointment as Chair of the Sea Bright Public Works Committee in which she assisted in consolidating services and improving the accessibility and cleanliness of the local beaches. As Public Works Committee Chair, she also managed the Sea Bright Downtown Infrastructure Improvement Project (DIIP), addressing the flooding in downtown Sea Bright. Other projects during Mayor Fernandes' tenure on the Borough Council have included the implementation of the free parking system and the negotiation of multiple shared services contracts with neighboring towns.

Mayor Fernandes is predeceased by her Father Ernest Fernandes and her Maternal Grandmother, Jesuina Diaz. Surviving is her Mother, Adelina Fernandes of Sea Bright.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Maria Fernandes dedicated her life to serving the people and the town of Sea Bright New Jersey. Her actions touched the hearts and minds of countless men, women and children throughout Sea Bright and Monmouth County. Her legacy has served as an inspiration to us all and she will truly be missed.

HONORING LONG-TIME MONTEREY PARK RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY ACTIVIST: MRS. RUTH WILLNER

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**HON. JUDY CHU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 5, 2012*

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great loss to our community, Mrs. Ruth Willner, who passed away on February 28, 2012, after a lengthy and valiant battle with cancer. My heart goes out to her two children, Paul and Julia; her granddaughter, Eryn; and her many friends and family members.

Ruth was an extraordinary citizen, an advocate for her community, and a good friend and loyal supporter. I first got to know Ruth's strength and passion in the 1980s, when she was the Chairperson of the Committee for Harmony in Monterey Park, which was formed to defeat a proposed English-only and anti-immigrant ordinance in our hometown. Thanks to Ruth's tireless efforts we succeeded in defeating that ordinance.

A native of East Los Angeles, Ruth attended Roosevelt High School and earned degrees from Los Angeles Community College and TIC Berkeley. A widower, she was married to her husband Irv for 56 years and lived in Monterey Park for 52 years.

Ruth truly loved her community. She was involved in too many community groups, commissions and organizations to name here, including the city's Blue Ribbon Budget Committee, the School District Formation Committee, Friends of the Library, Concerned Citizens, and the anti-casino and anti-billboard committees, to name a few.

As a 35-year member of the Pasadena League of Women Voters, Ruth played an integral role in educating and informing our local electorate. As program chair she shed light on issues as varied as NAFTA, Environmental Justice, Immigration and Welfare Reform, and as a member of the Speakers' Bureau for 25 years she presented pro and con forums on countless ballot issues and moderated scores of candidate forums.

A true believer in the political process, Ruth was a member of the Monterey Park Democratic Club since 1967, where she served as past president and ran the club's newsletter for 20 years. She also was an elected member of the L.A. County Democratic Party for 12 years and served as corresponding secretary for the party.

She was a tireless campaigner, walking precincts and phone banking for George Brown for Assembly, serving as the San Gabriel Valley Coordinator to End the War in Vietnam, and volunteering for Hubert Humphrey and George McGovern, among many others.

I urge my House colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Ruth Willner for her record of civic activism, her indomitable spirit and her remarkable service and contributions to her community and to our nation.