

received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and is a proud graduate of the University of Mississippi's School of Banking. After 30 years of service Senator Thomas retired as Vice President of AmSouth Bank.

In 1977, Senator Thomas received the Jackson State University Business Award and was selected by the Mississippi Economic Council as one of 50 outstanding young men under the age of 35 in the state of Mississippi. In that same year, he was also the recipient of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education Award in Washington D.C. A lover of history, Senator Thomas has served as Chairman of the Oakes African-American Culture Center since its start in 1992, earning him recognition as one of the most prominent Afro-American historians in the state of Mississippi.

Senator Thomas is a lifelong public servant. He served as National Treasurer and Executive Vice President of the Friends of Amistad, a national organization in support of the Amistad Research Center in New Orleans, Louisiana. He served on the Jackson State University National Development Foundation Board of Directors, served as Chairman of the Management Team of the Yazoo County Fair and Civic League, Inc., and was president of the League Management Team Corporation, whose purpose is to provide housing for the elderly and handicapped.

In 1984 Senator Thomas was appointed to the Yazoo City Public Service Commission, where he served as Vice Chairman from 1986 to 1995, and was elected Chairman in April 2000. He also headed the Policy Council and on the Board of Directors of the American Public Power Association, a national organization representing about 2,000 not-for-profit community owned electric utilities. Senator Thomas has also served as President of the Yazoo City Municipal School Board as well as Vice Chairman of the Mississippi Real Estate Appraisal Board.

In 2003, his lists of public service accomplishments were increased when he was elected as State Senator in Mississippi's 21st District. During his terms in office, he served on the Economic Development & Tourism, Education, Finance, Insurance, Judiciary, Division B and Public Health & Welfare Committees. In addition to his work in the State Legislature, Mr. Thomas has served on the National Conference of State Legislatures Health Committee and the Southern Conference of State Legislatures Education Committee.

Senator Thomas is married to the former Elizabeth Wilburn of Benton, Mississippi, and they are the parents of three children, Joseph, Jr., Kirk, and Whitney. They also have two grandchildren, Tytianna and Kameron.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing former State Senator Joseph C. Thomas for his unyielding dedication and service to Yazoo City, Mississippi and the entire state of Mississippi.

NATIONAL ESSENTIAL TREMOR
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, today, I express my support and recognize March as National

Essential Tremor Awareness Month. Essential Tremor, commonly known as ET, is a progressive neurological condition that impacts the lives of up to 10 million Americans. Every day those afflicted with this disorder face a rhythmic trembling of the hands, head, voice, legs or trunk. Daily activities that many of us take for granted, such as eating, drinking and writing, may become unbearable or even impossible.

Unfortunately, there is no medical test to easily diagnose this condition and it is often confused with Parkinson's disease and dystonia. In addition, due to stereotypes, embarrassment and a general lack of awareness, many people with ET never seek medical care or treatment. This can lead to more medical issues such as depression or isolation.

For these reasons, I appreciate the efforts of my predecessor, Rep. Dennis Moore, who recognized the importance of early awareness of this condition and in 2010 introduced legislation to declare the month of March as National Essential Tremor Awareness month.

Today, on the second anniversary of the passage of this legislation, I am happy to do my part to help increase awareness of this debilitating condition. I am honored to represent the home of the International Essential Tremor Foundation in Lenexa, Kansas. The IETF has served as an invaluable resource for thousands of its members since 1988, providing global educational information, services and support.

Most of all, the IETF provides hope. Staff, board members and volunteers work tirelessly to empower those with ET in Kansas and across the nation to regain control of their lives by providing educational opportunities, treatment options and coping skills necessary to minimize the impact of ET and improve the quality of life for those who suffer. I commend them for their outstanding efforts and look forward to working together to raise awareness and eventually, find a cure.

TRIBUTE TO MS. BERNIE WONG,
PRESIDENT OF THE CHINESE
AMERICAN SERVICE LEAGUE ON
HER RECEIPT OF PRESIDENT
OBAMA'S CHAMPION OF CHANGE
AWARD AT THE WHITE HOUSE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I consider Ms. Bernie Wong to be among the very best of Social Workers in the United States of America or any place else in the world today. Bernie is being cited by President Obama for her outstanding leadership and development of the Chinese American Service League in Chicago. The Champion of the "Change Award," recognizes a small select group of Americans who embody, innovate, educate and build. The Award ceremony is held at the White House to honor those who exemplify Cesar Chavez's core values including service to other, knowledge, innovation, acceptance of all people, and respect for life and the environment. Bernie Wong is being recognized for her tireless efforts on behalf of Chinese Chicagoans. Ms. Wong is one of ten individuals nationwide to receive this prestigious honor.

Bernie Wong was the youngest of seven children and grew up poor, but never realized it. A product of a catholic school upbringing, Bernie learned early in life the meaning of generosity and compassion for others. Bernie's mother was always available to help others in need and would take Bernie and her siblings to visit the sick every week and provide food for people. Experiences in Bernie early years set the stage for her mission driven approach to serving others with dignity and respect. At eighteen, Bernie left Hong Kong for Sioux City, Iowa where she earned a four year scholarship to pursue a Bachelors' Degree in Sociology from Briar Cliff College. She went on to earn a Masters' Degree in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Bernie truly understand what poor new immigrants face when confronted by completely different culture and language. This realization gave her the courage to gather a few friends and begin the task of building the Chinese American Service League from the ground up.

Founded in 1978, with a desk and chairs, the Chinese American Service League is now the largest and most comprehensive social service agency in the Midwest dedicated to the needs of Asian Americans. Housed in the award winning Kam L. Liu Building, and supported by an annual budget of \$12 million, CASL's program reach over 17,000 clients each year. CASL services everyone in need, but primarily focuses on serving Chinese American immigrants in the metropolitan Chicago area. CASL's clients are low-income and a significant portion served is newly arrived immigrants. These individuals often have little formal education and possess a few transferable skills. Since 90% of CASL's clients speak little to no English, they find themselves unable to access needed social services. CASL provides a critical safety-net by employing over 400 multilingual professionals and support staff. CASL serves a vital niche in the community, often taking referrals from other social service agencies, neighborhood organizations, and government institutions in order to serve clients with specific language or other special needs. Bernie is a true she-roe and leader in her community. She is indeed a champion of change and I salute President Obama for recognizing it. She deserves every accolade that we can shower upon her.

HONORING CLAUDIA PUIG

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month, I rise today to honor Ms. Claudia Puig, a highly recognized national broadcast executive with over 26 years of experience in the U.S. Hispanic media market.

Ms. Puig was born in Cuba but was forced into exile after her father, a Cuban hero, was taken from her side by the tyrannical Castro regime. Since that time, Ms. Puig has worked hard and established herself as one of Miami's premier broadcast executives. She began her career in advertising/sales at AT&T BellSouth; having a strong work ethic, she quickly achieved Elite Club status, making her one of