

HONORING JUDGE JOSEPH P.
CRONIN JR.

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great American, legal scholar and friend—Judge Joseph P. Cronin, Jr. Judge Cronin has shown a lifelong commitment to public service and to Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Judge Cronin first served his nation as a Marine and following law school he joined the District Attorney's Office in Delaware County where he prosecuted cases in the Juvenile Court. Following his service as a prosecutor, he went on to become Partner at the law firm of Cronin, Emuryan and Breen. Although in private practice at the time, Judge Cronin still remained dedicated to the community by serving his township as commissioner.

On November 5, 1991 Judge Cronin was elected to his first 10-year term to the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas. During these years as a trial Judge he earned a reputation as a fair-minded and wise jurist. Judge Cronin was retained for a second term and in January 2008 he was elected President Judge by the 19-member Board of Judges to serve a five-year term. In that role, Judge Cronin showed tremendous skill in leading a busy Court System with significant responsibilities. Recently, Judge Cronin was instrumental in helping Delaware County establish a veteran's treatment court to aid those heroes who now suffer from substance abuse and mental illness. Judge Cronin will retire from his position on the Court of Common Pleas on August 31, 2012.

Judge Joseph Cronin's service to Delaware County has been invaluable and he has our enduring gratitude. I join the citizens of Delaware County and the 7th Congressional District in wishing him and his family the best for the future.

RECOGNIZING MARK JOHNSON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mark Johnson, the first African-American in history to capture both a World Flyweight and Super Flyweight championship twice in his career. Also known as "Too Sharp," Mr. Johnson was a top pound-for-pound fighter during his sixteen-year career from 1990 to 2006. He perfected finesse, power, and speed. Attesting to his athleticism, his perseverance, and his well-developed skills, Johnson attained twenty-one knockouts before his matches made it to the fourth round.

Mr. Johnson had more than execution; he had an array of intangibles that set him apart from the rest of his profession. In his pursuits, Mr. Johnson left his natural division to take a Super Flyweight title and then go on to chal-

lenge bantamweights. While Mr. Johnson did not reach significant popularity due to his weight class and lack of defining fights, he went on to become one of the top pound-for-pound fighters in boxing for several years.

During his career, Mr. Johnson won forty-four professional boxing matches and lost only five. He had twenty-eight knockouts. During Mr. Johnson's amateur career, he won 125 boxing matches and lost only six. He won the first Junior World PentaContinental title in 1993. He held the International Boxing Federation Flyweight title from May 1996 to September 1998, the International Boxing Federation Super Flyweight title from April 1999 to November 1990, and the World Boxing Organization Junior Bantamweight title from August 2003 to September 2004. Mr. Johnson was the first African-American in history to capture both a World Flyweight and Super Flyweight boxing championship, and he did that not once, but twice.

Since 2008, after retiring from professional boxing in 2008, Mr. Johnson, along with his father and lifelong trainer, Abraham "Ham" Johnson, has been training underprivileged boys and girls in their gym located in Southeast Washington, D.C. Today, Mark Johnson is employed as a Roving Leader within the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation, and in that capacity, he conducts home and school visits, and teaches at-risk children to read and write. He also is heavily involved in gang violence prevention. Mr. Johnson serves as a positive and accomplished role-model for troubled youth within the Washington, D.C. area.

Mr. Speaker, on June 10, 2012, Mark "Too Sharp" Johnson was the first Boxer from Washington, D.C. to be inducted into the Boxing Hall of Fame, and, at 40 years old, he is the youngest ever to have received such an honor. "I have known Mark since he was 6; he deserves it and he's the best bantamweight ever," former world-champion Sugar Ray Leonard said of Mark Johnson's induction into the Hall of Fame. I ask the House to join me in commending Mark Johnson for his outstanding accomplishments as a boxing champion and his ongoing commitment to the youth of the District of Columbia.

TRIBUTE TO MERCERDESE CLARK

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. On behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida, I rise now to offer heartfelt condolences and pay tribute to the life of an extraordinary accomplished woman, Mrs. Mercedes Clark, a humanitarian, healer, life activist, and friend.

We are moved and encouraged when recalling the life achievements and service of Mrs. Clark as a nurse, community leader, and social activist. She has been an advocate for social service, health awareness and a role model and mentor to youth and entrepreneurs in the Central Florida community for many years. An Orlando native who received her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Hampton

University in Virginia, Mrs. Clark served as a nurse at Orange Memorial Hospital and Winter Park Memorial Hospital. Shortly after, she became the first African-American female to be the Director of the Orange County Health Department in Orlando, Florida. At the time of her retirement, she worked as a Nursing Care Coordinator at Orlando Veteran Administration Outpatient Clinic.

As a community activist, she gave of herself and her talents to benefit both the individuals and the many organizations she served. Mrs. Clark became chairwoman of the Parramore Heritage Renovation project which was responsible for assessing the needs and defining solutions for existing conditions within this historic neighborhood. She worked tirelessly to maintain the goal of the agency to preserve, develop and improve the economics of the area; improve the educational level of the residents; and preserve the cultural heritage of the community. She took special pride in the area because she had close ties to the community having grown up there as well as her own personal and historical connection her family had to the neighborhood. Mrs. Clark's parents, Leroy E. Richardson and Rosa James Richardson, her paternal grandmother, Adeline Richardson, and other family members were among Orlando's earliest residents in Central Florida. Mrs. Clark could recall the early days of the founding Orlando community where needs of families were often provided from the surplus of another. It was those memories that inspired and motivated her to become president of the Parramore Heritage Foundation, president of the Carter Street Neighborhood Association, and Board Director for the Orlando Neighborhood Improvement Corporation. She also became a business owner in the area to contribute to the economic development of the vicinity by opening a women's boutique, Clarks' Ladies Fashion. Mrs. Clark had a very successful career and received numerous awards through her continuous involvement of various community, social and civic groups in Central Florida including the Orlando Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated where she was recognized for 15 years of outstanding service and commitment.

A virtuous woman and mother of two, we embrace her children and her family. She was a loving and caring mother who nurtured not only her children, but the community. We honor Mrs. Clark for the many contributions and the impact she had on the lives of many. She was truly an invaluable member of our community and an outstanding servant. The life of Mercedes Clark was one of accomplishment, excellence and service. In her passing, we pay tribute to a consummate professional woman for her life of service and we pray that by her example each of us become the bearers of her spirit and humanitarian legacy of passion for service and excellence. We come now to join in prayer for, son, Kenneth Clark and daughter Kim G. Clark and a host of loving relatives, Sorority Sisters, and friends whose lives have been forever changed by this woman of God. We thank Our Heavenly Father for allowing us to be blessed with the time spent with Mrs. Mercedes Clark.