

The Kaiser Singers. The Kaiser Singers have become a household name for many. Their music has stirred the spirits and hearts of music lovers both young and old.

The group was formed in 1968 by Mrs. Beatrice Kaiser and her daughters, Annie, Hattie and Estella. They had no idea that this would be the beginning of a lifelong inspiration. The group's early years of singing was done mostly in churches around their hometown of Yazoo City, Mississippi. During those years they sang a cappella, learning to make sweet harmony with their voices.

After their first year of singing, the group was joined by Mrs. Kaiser's sister, Francine, and then later by her youngest daughter, Linda. In the early 70's, Ms. Diane Jones and Ms. Christine Burns joined the Kaiser Singers for a short while and Ms. Jones became the group's first musician. Several years later Mrs. Kaiser's son, Mr. Walter Ross, and a friend, Mr. Jamel Barley, joined the group as their musicians for a few months.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Kaiser Singers.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT  
OF LINDA SCHIMMEL

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2012*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement after nearly 36 years of federal service, I would like to recognize a member of the staff of the Congressional Budget Office: Linda Schimmel. Her last day with the agency will be this Friday, October 19. Linda Schimmel has spent almost all of her federal career as the Publications Coordinator at CBO, working for all eight of its directors as well as the several acting directors in between. In that role, she has provided exemplary and faithful service in distributing CBO analyses, making certain to get them into the hands of Members of Congress, Congressional and agency staff, and members of the public in a timely way. Her knowledge and hard work have meant that CBO's publications office has provided customer service to an extraordinary degree over the years, service that goes well beyond what is necessary and expected—to show real devotion to helping customers. For all that she has done, she has earned the admiration and affection of her colleagues at CBO and the gratitude of the U.S. Congress. I am wishing her well in her retirement.

THE DEATH OF MERVYN  
DYMALLY

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my regrettable duty to report the death of a personal hero and a great American, former Congressman Mervyn Dymally. Mr. Dymally died Sunday, October 7, 2012. He was 86. I was deeply saddened to learn about the passing of my dear friend Mervyn, known to his

friends as Merv. I will remember him most for his tremendous work helping African Americans in California succeed in politics at all levels of government.

Merv served as a California assemblyman, state senator, and lieutenant governor and as a Member of Congress for over a decade. However, I will remember him for the role he played in providing leadership, political representation, and for his efforts to increase accessibility to health care in African American communities. He also was a champion for education, social justice, economic opportunity, and an enlightened U.S. policy toward Africa and the Caribbean. He was instrumental in establishing the nursing school at Charles Drew University, which is named after him.

In 2006, I had the great honor of serving with Merv in the California State Assembly. He was a trailblazer who opened doors and mentored the next generation of political leaders, myself included. Merv had the foresight to see the possibility of increasing African American representation in elective offices all around the country. Merv legitimized our efforts and succeeded by establishing the largest Legislative Black Caucus in California history, coined the "Divine Nine."

Just five short months into my first term as a state assemblywoman, Merv was one of the mentors who encouraged me to run for the seat vacated by the untimely passing of the late Congresswoman Juanita Millender McDonald. Merv and I often shared many conversations about how to best serve the people of the 37th Congressional District.

Merv was by my side again this year, working to educate the community on the importance of voting and preserving African American representation. Merv has been a steady guide throughout my political career and for that I am blessed for having known him and learned from him.

Merv was a great leader, mentor and friend and he will be sorely missed. I extend my prayers to his family, offer my willingness to assist, and say thank you for sharing life's most precious treasures: time, life and love of a political father to us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in memory of Mervyn Dymally.

HONORING MS. KAREN DAVIS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable gospel singer, Karen Davis. M. Davis was raised in a musical home in Mound Bayou, Mississippi by her parents Ms. Betsy Jackson and the late Joseph Jackson. Her mother a pianist has a gospel group called the Jackson Starlets formerly known as the Jackson Starters. At the age of 3 years old, Ms. Davis began singing in Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church choir and also at rehearsals with her mother's group. Ms. Davis was active in music classes in junior high and high school where she played the piano and sang with the school choir.

After marrying Mr. Terry Davis and moving to Shelby, Mississippi, she expanded her gospel singing and piano expertise by becoming

Choir Director at Mount Layton Missionary Baptist Church in Ruleville, Mississippi, and Mount Moriah Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Clarksdale, Mississippi. Ms. Davis has been a pianist for various churches and receives many invitations to sing at numerous Christian and civic events.

Ms. Davis' family lineage includes renowned blues legend Nellie "Tiger" Travis. Her ten siblings, Jorgen, Clinton, Patricia, Audrey, Debra, Metra, Glynis, Almata, Sonya and Bethina all sing and play the piano.

Ms. Davis believes gospel music is a ministry because it ministers to the soul of people. She has received many accolades from congregations and people who are fortunate to hear her sing. Her daughters, Sharita, Sharlette and Simone have developed a love for gospel music. Sharita sings alongside her mother at events and sings as a soloist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Karen Davis as an inspirational gospel singer.

CONGRATULATING VETERINARY  
SERVICE INC. (VSI)

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2012*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Veterinary Service Inc., VSI, which will be inducted as a member of the Stanislaus County Ag Hall of Fame "Legends in Agriculture" during a ceremony in Modesto, California, on November 8, 2012.

VSI is a success story some fifty-two years in the making. Headquartered in Modesto, VSI provides a diverse supply of animal health products. The company was founded in the late 1950's when Frank Sweetman, a local sales representative for a chemical supply company, invited two veterinarians, Dr. Willis Woodward and Dr. Donald Rosenberg, to join him in establishing an animal health and nutrition distributorship. John Pugliese then teamed up with Sweetman to form the new company's sales team. These four leaders' decision to band together would forever change their lives.

Poultry was a major focus for the company during its first 20 years. Dr. Woodward became a renowned poultry pathologist, spending much of his time developing innovative products for the poultry industry. The company gradually expanded its offerings from poultry nutrition, to feed additives, to sanitation products and more. As the company continued to succeed, it explored ways to expand the business to meet the needs of more agricultural industries. In 1979, John Scheuber was hired to be the General Manager for the company—which by this point, included locations in Modesto, Fresno, Perris and Petaluma. Soon thereafter, VSI expanded to the retail feed store business.

In the 1990's, the company set out on an ambitious expansion plan that included establishing a distribution center in Oregon. In 1995, VSI ventured in to dairy sales in the southern San Joaquin Valley; and four years later, it purchased Merced Dairy Supply to improve sales to dairies throughout Central California. Over the years, the dairy market has provided the company with great growth and