

work into this position as he has his family's business. I am honored to help celebrate my friend Chuck's appointment as chair, and Joan and I wish him the very best as he leads the National Lumber and Building Material Dealer Association to great things.

TRIBUTE TO PHILLIP JAMES
CLINE

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Mr. McCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, alongside my colleague, Congressman DEVIN NUNES, we rise today to honor Phillip James Cline, District Attorney of Tulare County, on the occasion of his retirement.

Mr. Cline is a Tulare County native, having graduated from Exeter Union High School, College of the Sequoias, California State University Fresno, and San Joaquin College of Law. He also served in the United States Air Force as a Staff Sergeant.

After joining the bar and working briefly in private practice, Mr. Cline joined the District Attorney's Office in 1978. He served as a prosecutor for more than 30 years, specializing in homicide cases and winning numerous high-profile death penalty cases.

In 1992, Mr. Cline began serving as District Attorney. Re-elected three times, he initiated programs to address workers' compensation and automobile insurance fraud, domestic violence, major narcotics, sexual assault and child abuse, welfare fraud, auto theft, gang violence and child abduction, among others. He created the state's first Rural Crime Program, designed to protect the agricultural industry, and developed other programs addressing consumer fraud, career criminal prosecution, victim's services, elder abuse prosecution and the safe neighborhoods program. Mr. Cline and his staff also implemented programs designed to strike at the root causes of crime. These included a program to reduce teen pregnancy, which received statewide recognition, as well as a Veterans' Court to address the needs of combat veterans.

Mr. Cline is a member of many professional and philanthropic organizations. He is past president of the Tulare County Bar Association and is an active member of the California and National District Attorney's Associations. He is the only District Attorney ever elected president of the Tulare County Police Chiefs' Association. Mr. Cline has also served on the boards of the HEART after-school program and the Tulare County Library Foundation, among others. He has been active in Pro Youth Walk Run, the Justice Run and the annual Victims of Homicide Memorial Quilt Ceremony.

Please join Congressman NUNES and me in congratulating Mr. Phillip James Cline on his retirement from his position as District Attorney of Tulare County.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HAR-
LEM'S COMMUNITY LEADER
DOROTHY MAE SKINNER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Harlem's community leader Dorothy Mae Skinner, who passed away on Monday, November 26, 2012. I first met Dorothy in my early years in the U.S. House of Representatives in her role as a community activist, concerned resident, and devoted parent.

Dorothy was very engaged in the war on drugs in the 1970's and 1980's and became active with the New York City Police Department 30th and 32nd Precincts and community councils. Dorothy was both friend and foe of the neighborhood drug dealers, for they all loved her but knew she was leading the fight against them, a fight she handily won. As President of the Block Association, she organized block parties, jazz mobiles, Halloween parties in Hamilton Park, and coordinated activities with the Police Athletic League (PAL).

Dorothy Mae Skinner joined the Board of Directors of the West Harlem Group Assistance, Inc., one of Harlem's oldest and largest community based development organizations, which was established more than 30 years ago to revitalize the under-invested West and Central Harlem communities—riddled with dilapidated and abandoned buildings.

Dorothy served as Chairperson of West Harlem Group Assistance Board of Directors for over 20 years and served as the Secretary until her passing. She helped guide the vision of WHGA to recreate a community in which all responsible residents, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders are mobilized and firmly committed to working together willingly and cooperatively. This ensured that Harlem was positioned to enter the 21st century as a safe, socially stable, healthy, economically sound, well-educated and informed, and politically strong community.

Dorothy Mae Skinner was born on June 22, 1926, to the late Herman and Gladys Harris. She was the eldest of 12 children born to that union. With that size family, Dorothy grew up with a great sense of family values, which continued with her own family. Dorothy met and married Robert Skinner on December 24, 1946. They were married for 34 years and were blessed with 6 children: (Butch) Robert, (D.G.) Dorian, Roberta, Rene, Diane, and Cheryl, whom she nurtured and cherished. She is pre-deceased by her eleven siblings and her husband, Robert.

Dorothy loved to travel and it did not matter if it was local or long distance. She continued to preach and teach family values, as she believed in family outings. Every weekend during the summer she would either take her children away, or send her children to the movies or penny arcade. Most people reserve a hotel room when going on vacation, but Dorothy would rent an apartment for a week to accommodate her children and their friends. She also organized yearly dude ranch trips during the summer and Ski trips during the winter.

Educated in the NYC public schools, Dorothy was a determined young woman who received her GED at age 35 and continued her

education and attended City College of New York. She truly believed in education and was employed by the NYC Department of Education for a number of years, nurturing and caring for many young lives, until her retirement at age 65. Many years later, as she would often sit on her stoop, former students, now grown, would stop by and chat with her.

Dorothy was very involved in the Mt Pisgah Baptist Church where she served for several years as Deaconess. She was known to many as Mrs. Skinner, Dorothy, Grandma, or Grandma Dee. Dorothy enjoyed scratchoff and sometimes made a pretty penny too, which kept her scratching.

Mr. Speaker, great women like our beloved Dorothy are precious gifts we temporarily have in this world, but their assistance, contributions and accomplishments are far remembered and everlasting. I ask you, my colleagues, to join me in celebrating the life of Dorothy Mae Skinner.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD
D. RUPPERT, MD

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable human being, Dr. Richard Ruppert. Dr. Ruppert unexpectedly passed from this life on October 22, 2012. Dr. Ruppert was a friend and advisor to many, including me, and we were indeed privileged to have known him.

Born in Rural Ohio 81 years ago, Richard Ruppert worked in the family farm for five years after he graduated from high school. He then went on to Ohio State University, where he received his undergraduate and medical degrees. While at Ohio State University, he met and married his wife, Elizabeth Ruppert, MD.

Following his residency, Dr. Ruppert returned to OSU, where he was professor of gastroenterology in the Department of Medicine for nine years. He was named assistant dean of the College of Medicine in 1970, adding medical director for patient services two years later. He was named vice chancellor for health affairs at the Ohio Board of Regents in 1974, and in 1977 Dr. Ruppert became the third president of the Medical College of Ohio. During his 16 year term, the Medical College of Ohio saw unprecedented growth, was established as a leader in medicine, and came into its own as a premier institution. Dr. Ruppert's able guidance directed the Medical College of Ohio through an illustrious time and his leadership is unparalleled. As one colleague described it, "Much of MCO's success can be credited to Richard D. Ruppert. From a new college on a divided campus—one part farmland and the other a deteriorating county hospital complex—he provided guidance and the political skills to develop the new campus to its present ten structures . . . The school has emerged from its early growing pains to achieve an identity as a quality medical institution during Dr. Ruppert's tenure, with a large credit due to his leadership and vision."

Even as he presided at the helm of the medical college, Dr. Ruppert gave himself to civic affairs. He served a decade on the Toledo Lucas County Port Authority Board, four