

In 1967, Mr. Hurtado was one of the founders of the North Bay Human Development Corporation, currently known as California Human Development Corporation, whose core services include job training, affordable housing, criminal justice services, community services and training, and community integration for individuals with disabilities. In 1968, he became the Director of the On the Job Training and Adult Work Experience Programs where he served migrant and seasonal farmworker families in Napa, Sonoma, and Solano Counties. In 1982, he joined the Farmworker Services Division as a Deputy Director, advocating on behalf of Northern California farmworkers' rights.

Mr. Hurtado is an integral member of our community and has worked diligently toward its improvement. He formed and was involved in several community organizations including Organización Latinoamericana de Liberación Económica of Napa County, Credit Union "El Porvenir" of Napa County, Community Health Clinic Ole and Bronze Development Corporation. He has also worked with the Comité Mexicano de Beneficencia, Legal Aid of Napa Valley, the Napa Valley Migrant Farmworker Housing Committee, and the Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior, among others.

Mr. Hurtado received his degrees in Accounting and Business Administration in Mexico. He has shared the majority of his life with his wife, Mrs. Rogelia M. Hurtado.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge Mr. Hurtado for his extraordinary work as a lifelong community organizer who works to bring equity to the lives of Latinos throughout the Napa Valley.

HONORING ELAINE BAKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Civil Rights leader Dr. Elaine Baker. Dr. Baker is a resident of Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

She is the only child to the late Joseph and Louise Marjorie Baker. She was born on June 30, 1949 in the historical independent black community of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, which was founded in 1887 by former slaves led by Isaiah Montgomery. Growing up in this community she was nurtured by a community of proud, loving and generous elders and peers and teachers.

She was influenced by a socio-cultural environment in Mound Bayou that had great expectations and surrounding communities that communicated messages of dual citizenship for people who looked like her. For example, the separate waiting room in the doctor's office in Merigold in stark contrast to the openness of Friendship Clinic in Mound Bayou. The "colored only" water fountains in Cleveland spoke a deafening sound of discrimination. And the "colored only" bathrooms in Clarksdale, which reinforced that something was not right.

The violent death of Emmett Till, as memorialized in the Jet magazine photo story remains indelibly etched in the forefront of her reality that danger could be lurking anywhere for people who looked like her. The news stories

about bombings and lynchings and murders and arrests that Jet, Ebony and other Afro-American news media carried either in print or through audio media brought home the chilling messages of "less than" and "more than" solely, it seemed, based on skin color. These incidents and family discussions let her know that she could not sit back and not become an advocate for change.

The importance of education was always at the forefront of discussions in her home. Her grandmother, with an elementary education reminded her to get an education. She told her with an education it will matter how you look or what you have or don't have, you'll know." Her mother, a 1944 graduate of Bolivar County Training School, was an avid reader and teacher. Both of these women set the reading example for her—whether it was the Bible, various news media, or other options including the catalogs. From Mound Bayou to Tougaloo College the meaning of civil rights took on very significant meanings. Those meanings led her to Brown University where she was a semester exchange student from Tougaloo to Atlanta University now known as the Whitney M. Young School of Social Work to the University of Georgia. There she was exposed to socio-economic and racial divides that urged her into action and she became part of change.

Her love of people and a desire to understand human behavior in the social environment underpinned her selected academic majors: Sociology at Tougaloo College where she was a B.A., Cum Laude graduate, earned a Master of Social Work and Public Administration Ph.D., with emphasis in Organization Development, Health Resources Administration and General Public Administration. Her involvement in community-based organizations was transformative in focus and diverse in the individuals engaged.

She knows life is the gift that keeps on giving and memories of civil engagement include Fannie Lou Hamer, Unita Blackwell, Marian Wright Edelman, and many others. She believes that what she has been gifted which is not hers to keep. She is truly an advocate for change.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Elaine Baker for her dedication to civil rights.

HONORING REGINALD MAYO, PH.D.
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with my heartfelt thanks and appreciation that I rise today to recognize an outstanding member of our community and my good friend, Dr. Reginald Mayo, Superintendent of Schools as he celebrates his retirement from the New Haven Public School system. In a career that has spanned 46 years, Reggie has dedicated a lifetime to education, quietly touching the lives of thousands by providing our young people with a strong foundation on which to build their future success.

Reggie Mayo has devoted most of his professional career to the New Haven Public

School system. He began as a science teacher at Troup Middle School in 1967 and rose through the ranks serving as Assistant Principal of Troup and then Principal of Jackie Robinson Middle School. He was promoted to K-8 Director of Schools and later Executive Director of School Operations until his appointment as Superintendent in 1992. During his tenure, Reggie earned a distinguished reputation for his commitment and vision.

As superintendent, Reggie has steadily guided the District to set new standards in education. One of his earliest accomplishments was making New Haven the first school district in Connecticut to effectively end the practice of social promotion. As the State was rocked by the school desegregation case *Sheff v. O'Neill*, Reggie quietly and effectively built the largest interdistrict magnet program in Connecticut—with 1,300 suburban students enrolled it is a model program of urban-suburban exchange. Partnering with the city's mayor, John DeStefano, Reggie undertook a master plan which included the renovation or reconstruction of every school—every school—in the district. And in what will likely come to be known as his crowning achievement as superintendent, in 2010 Reggie, in cooperation with the Board of Education, teachers unions, and the city administration, launched what has become a nationally recognized school reform plan. This outstanding initiative, collaboratively built by administrators and educators, involves evaluating schools and teachers as well as intervening and implementing improvement plans in poor-performing schools.

Over the course of the last two decades, Reggie Mayo, along with Mayor John DeStefano, has transformed the educational environment in New Haven. Schools have been rebuilt, outfitted with the latest in technology and resources, curriculum has been rewritten, graduation rates have risen dramatically while drop-out rates dropped significantly, and real education reform has been launched. His is a remarkable legacy that will continue to inspire learning and nurture creativity for many years to come.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a personal note of thanks to Reggie for his many years of friendship and support. During my tenure in Congress and before, I have had many opportunities to work with him and am always inspired by his unwavering energy and commitment. His presence in the New Haven Public School system will most certainly be missed, however, I have no doubt that he will continue to serve our community and enrich the lives of others.

For his invaluable service to our city—by most importantly our children—I am proud to stand today and join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered in extending my deepest thanks and sincere congratulations to Dr. Reginald Mayo. His vision, leadership, and contributions have changed the face of education in New Haven and made all the difference in the lives of our young people. We owe him a great debt of gratitude for the indelible mark that he has left on our community. I wish him, his wife, Patsy; their children, Reggie, Jr., Shawn, and Lisa, and his grandchildren, Reginald III, Ryland, Riece, and Shawn Jr., all the best for many more years of health and happiness.