

President and Mrs. Clinton. Hispanic leaders throughout the United States were invited to attend this reception.

The Governor of Nevada appointed Liliam to serve on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday commission. She also served on the Job Training Coordinating Council and the United States Governor's Workforce Development Board. She is an active member of the Las Vegas Latin Chamber of Commerce and the Clark County Fair Advisory Council.

Her efforts for the State of Nevada have been recognized through numerous awards. She received the Outstanding Hispanic Award from the Latin Chamber of Commerce. Liliam was named as one of the Women of Achievement in Government and Politics by the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. She was also identified by the Nevada 125th Anniversary Commission as one of the women who have played a significant role in making Nevada what it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Liliam Lujan Hickey on the floor of the House today. She is an outstanding example of service and hard work not only to the Hispanic-American community but to all southern Nevadans.

**INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
REVISING THE NUMBER OF AS-
SOCciate JUDGES OF THE SUPE-
RIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA**

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, it has become necessary to introduce a bill that is necessary for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to function as Congress intended. Federal law requires that judges of the Superior Court and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Article I Courts, to be nominated by the President and approved by the Senate. This bill, which is the companion bill to S. 2068 introduced by Senator SUSAN COLLINS, will increase the number of Superior Court judges by 3 to 61 in order to allow the Superior Court to function at the 58 judge level approved by Congress. However, after the establishment of the new Family Court Division, the Superior Court was temporarily increased by three in order to assist the transition because Congress wanted to assure a full complement of family court judges. However, no permanent authorization reflecting the changes was approved. Consequently, as judges have retired or otherwise moved on, the President has continued to make nominations to fill each judge's seat. With no authorization for the necessary number of authorized judges, an unintended anomaly has resulted in Presidential nominations but no actual vacancies because the court is short three judges. Because as many as nearly 2 years occur after the Senate approval, lawyers are increasingly unwilling to give up their practices to apply for judgeships on the Superior Court, the trial court of jurisdiction for all criminal and civil matters in the District of Columbia. The 15–18 month pipeline for confirming new judges has presented the court with some serious concerns. With such a long waiting period, private and solo

practitioners, for example, who are among the best qualified, are significantly deterred, and the court loses judicial talent that would otherwise be available.

The present anomaly has forced the Superior Court to use senior or retired judges inappropriately. Because they are retired, senior judges take on particular cases or a full calendar temporarily, for up to a year. However, inasmuch as confirmed active or permanent judges often cannot be immediately seated, there is no judge to maintain the court's 2 calendars, one for criminal court and the other for temporary restraining orders and warrants. Consequently, several senior judges have taken on this indispensable duty since 2003. While senior judges, of course, take on cases, they do so at their discretion. It should never be the case that senior judges perform an important regular and vital function of the court for years at a time.

I ask that this bill be approved to remedy this problem in the D.C. court system that results entirely from congressional action.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE CONGRES-
SIONAL TEACHER AWARD PRO-
GRAM ACT**

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Congressional Teacher Award Program Act, establishing the Congressional Teacher Award.

This is a moment for Congress to raise the level of respect for teaching across the nation. Although we cannot legislate that the nation respect teachers for all the hard work that they do day in and day out for the future of our nation, Congress can use its leadership to take a role in the cultural change required at this time.

This act creates a bi-partisan, bi-cameral Task Force to determine a nonprofit entity to establish and operate the Congressional Teacher Award. This award would be given each academic year to highly-qualified, hard-working teachers who change the lives of students in each congressional district of the United States, including the district of a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to Congress. As funds raised by the nonprofit entity allow, awardees would also receive a scholarship to attend a professional development opportunity of their choosing.

The teachers receiving the award must be certified, have been teaching for 5 consecutive years in a public or private school elementary or secondary school, and demonstrate a commitment of service to his or her school, maintain high standards for students, and incorporate multiculturalism, technology, interdisciplinary studies, student relevance, and current issues in lessons, classroom activities, and special presentations. An application with letters of recommendation would be required.

Each Member of Congress would get to celebrate a teacher in his or her district each year. This continued focus on excellent teaching will work to raise the level of respect for teaching in America. Henry Booker Adams said, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

Congress does have influence; people and nations take their lead from us, and it is time that we lead the celebration of those who helped us reach this professional level—our teachers.

**IN RECOGNITION OF LEONARD
HALL'S 100TH BIRTHDAY**

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Leonard Hall of Armona, California who will be celebrating his 100th birthday on April 24, 2006.

Mr. Hall was born in 1906 to parents Clarence R. Leonard and Ida Mae Hall. Leonard learned at a young age the daily routine of life on a farm. When he was in his early twenties, Leonard began farming on his own. Soon his business grew to include a dairy and he also raised and sold cattle. Mr. Hall successfully ran his business for about 80 years.

Leonard Hall once stated, "I think everyone should give back something to the community where they lived. How else are we going to keep our memories alive?" These were not words without substance—Mr. Hall is a great advocate for his hometown and has financially supported several important projects within Kings County.

In remembrance of his wife Katherine, he gave financial support to the Burriss Park Museum in Hanford. The museum recognized the gracious gift by dedicating the new wing of the museum in her name. The Hanford Carnegie Museum also benefited from Mr. Hall's generous donations. With his help the institution was able to install a new foundation and also introduce the original Beacon Oil office as an historical exhibit.

Perhaps the most poignant of his contributions is the funding he provided to help restore the Grangeville Church, which is known as the first church of Kings County. For Mr. Hall, the renovation was not just for the purpose of historical preservation but it was a way for him to honor the memory of his parents, who were wed there at the turn of the century.

Leonard Hall's generosity is his way of saying thank you for all the wonderful memories. During this momentous occasion of Leonard Hall's 100th birthday, I would like to wish to him and his family all the best. I would also like to extend, on behalf of the residents of Kings County, heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for Mr. Hall's generosity that has helped preserve the past for the generations of the future.

IN HONOR OF DONALD R. KIRTLEY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Donald Kirtley, who was awarded the 2006 New Castle County Delaware Chamber of Commerce's Wallace M. Johnson Community Service Award. Over the past 7 decades, Don