

Hawaii, where she started Artists for Orphans, an international non-profit dedicated to providing educational, financial, physical and emotional support to orphans in Ethiopia.

After devoting herself to this bold, compassionate work for more than a decade, Yve-I left Hawaii to move back northeast to be with her ailing father, caring for him until his last day. After his passing, she returned to working with young children in Washington, D.C. before ultimately moving to California to be with and care for her youngest grandchildren.

Yve-I gave of herself easily and was wonderful with children. I witnessed time and time again, as she was the mother-in-law to my son, and along with me, was a grandmother to Simone the daughter of my son and her daughter. Whether we were together at family gatherings on special occasions or simply spending time with our children and grandchildren, Yve-I's generous and loving spirit brought a sense of comfort and togetherness to our family which has not only nurtured our youngest members, but has strengthened the ties between us all.

Throughout her life, Yve-I was fully dedicated to complete spiritual and human development and her devotion to becoming the most complete and aware person that she could was evidenced by her constant growth and personal evolution. At the end of her life it became her goal to return to Ethiopia to live out her days so that she could continue the work of Artists for Orphans and practice her religion at an age-old founding church of her faith, and that is what she did, being laid to rest on March 17, 2006 in Shashamene, Ethiopia, where she was known as Mama Love. She is survived by her life partner, Menelek Fitzgerald, her children Aisha Patrice, Abina, Yasmina, Memuna, Bilqis, Nasir, Mahmud, and Netanya; her siblings Adrienne, Donald and Wayne; thirteen grandchildren; her nephews; and numerous cousins, colleagues and friends.

Today the family and friends of the woman who journeyed from Audrey to Yve-I come together to celebrate her life and the countless ways in which her bright and compassionate spirit touched lives of others, no matter what name they knew her by during her lifetime. Her giving nature and deep wisdom was known to and cherished by all, and will continue to lift up the lives of our young people and all who knew her for generations to come. On behalf of California's 9th U.S. Congressional District, I am proud to add my voice to the countless others who have united in thanks, appreciation, and joy to remember this very special, remarkable and loving woman, Yve-I Rastafari.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ERMA BYRD

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the memory of Erma Byrd, the wife of the senior Senator from West Virginia. We mourn the death of this great lady.

Here in this chamber it is important that we acknowledge the importance of the spouses of those who serve in the U.S. Congress. There

is no more distinguished member of the legislative branch than the Senator from West Virginia, and certainly none who has served so effectively for so long. Surely, some of the credit for this distinguished service should go to Erma Byrd.

My family and I have known the Byrds for much longer than half a century. Senator BYRD and his wife have been devoted to each other for almost 69 years. She has been his closest companion and, I believe, his closest advisor. When they first married, he turned over to her his wallet and the family finances. He relied on her for everything domestic. For decades, in the evenings after his superb legislative and political work on Capitol Hill, when other members of Congress set off for receptions and social functions, Senator BYRD returned home to sit with Erma and read, often to each other.

Erma Byrd has been a dear friend of my mother. The daughter of a coal miner, Erma Byrd was a woman who showed great consideration for other people. She was a woman with a backbone and what we would call West Virginia gumption. The whole country of the United States knows Senator BYRD as a great legislator and great orator who can be counted on as the most adamant defender of our Constitution and a champion of the honor and traditions of the Congress, especially the U.S. Senate. What many Americans may not know is the man who has given devotion to and, until her death last week, received devotion from his honorable and capable wife. I join others here in expressing my sympathies to this great colleague.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ERMA BYRD

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, hearts are heavy in West Virginia this week as we mourn the loss of a very special woman: Mrs. Erma Byrd, the beloved wife of our distinguished senior Senator.

ROBERT C. BYRD and Erma Ora James met as students at Mark Twain Grade School in Raleigh county. They married in 1937, at the tender age of 19. In that simple ceremony, a lasting bond was forged, and an incredible journey was begun.

Their journey took them from the coalfields of southern West Virginia to the halls of this great Capitol. At every point along the way, Erma Byrd was a constant source of strength, support and inspiration—whether in raising their wonderful family or anchoring the incredible career of her devoted husband.

In his words, she was a “priceless treasure, a multifaceted woman of great insight and wisdom, of quiet humor and common sense.”

What a wonderful tribute to a wonderful woman.

On the sad occasion of her passing, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing heartfelt condolences to Senator BYRD and his family. Our thoughts are with them as they say goodbye to Erma Byrd and cherish the memory of her caring kindness and love.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 609) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, with Mr. BISHOP of Utah in the chair.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to reiterate and reinforce my remarks yesterday during the debate on the McMorris-Holt amendment. I restate my commitment to work with those who want to see improvements in the adjunct teacher corps.

As I said in my previous comments, having been a professor of physics at the university level, I am well aware that knowledge of a subject is only one part of helping students learn. Being an effective teacher is much more than that. Pedagogy is both an art and a science, and pedagogical training is a critical part of being an educator.

Placing an Adjunct Teacher directly into the classroom without any pre-service training would be unfair to the Adjunct Teacher and to the students he or she would be teaching. To raise the level of performance in the classroom, Adjunct Teachers must undergo advanced training. This training must not be cursory, and should include pedagogy and the most recent research on how students learn science, mathematics, and foreign languages. It should also include practical experience with real students in classroom settings.

I want to emphasize that the Adjunct Teacher Corps program is not about replacing teachers. As the word “adjunct” signifies, these teachers would be an additional supplement to school facilities. Schools applying for these grants will tailor their Adjunct program to suit their unique needs, and in doing so, they must include parents and teachers in the planning process. This program will particularly help those educational agencies facing dire teacher shortages, or levels of achievement so low that no one teacher can solve it on his or her own. As it currently stands, many of our high-need school districts do not have enough people who are currently qualified under No Child Left Behind to teach math, science and foreign languages. While we increase those ranks, we can also supplement them with adjunct teachers with subject matter expertise. Specifically, this amendment requires adjunct teachers to possess, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree and demonstrated expertise in mathematics, science, or a critical foreign language as defined by No Child Left Behind. Every school, in every town, should have a diverse faculty with pedagogical and subject matter expertise.

I also want to state that the size of this program is very small. This program will be competing for funding with five others for a share of a \$41 million authorization.

It is my hope that this program will have long-term beneficial results. Before it was introduced, I wanted to ensure that the amendment includes provision for pre-service training and continued mentoring of these content specialists. Just as Teach for America has been a valuable asset to many school districts, I believe that these content specialists can make