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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

## *House of Representatives*

HONORING PROFESSOR HARDY THOMAS FRYE  
THE HONORABLE BARBARA LEE  
OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 24, 2021

Ms. Lee- Madame Speaker I rise today to honor Professor Hardy Thomas Frye, who recently passed after a lifetime of service.

Mr. Hardy Thomas Frye was born on February 18, 1939, to Andre J. Frye Sr. and Lillie Mae Williams Frye in Tuskegee, Alabama. Mr. Frye elected to join the army at the young age of seventeen. While serving, he kept a close eye on developments in the civil rights movement through black magazines and newspapers.

Following his discharge from the Army in Texas in 1959, Mr. Frye moved to Compton. His penchant for activism took root in California as he joined CORE and was an active participant in protests and events. Mr. Frye notably picketed the 1960 Democratic National Convention in support of the Civil Rights Platform.

In 1964, Mr. Frye joined Friends of SNCC to get involved in Mississippi Freedom Summer. He was assigned to the Freedom House in Holly Springs to aide in voter registration. Each day, Mr. Frye walked the streets encouraging his fellow black citizens to register to vote.

In addition to his commitment to political activism, Mr. Frye tenaciously pursued his passion for education. He began college at Sacramento City college before transferring to Sacramento State. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from UC Berkeley emphasizing his research on community development and building collaborative school-community partnerships.

Mr. Frye was an active participant in the Free Speech movement at Berkeley and became a pivotal member in

the progressive Berkeley Citizens Action (BCA). Through his work with BCA, Mr. Frye was able to spearhead the passage of progressive policies at a local level.

Mr. Frye became a professor, teaching at both UC Santa Cruz and UC Berkeley. As a professor he was motivated by his total dedication to his students. Through his work in the UC system, Mr. Frye went on to publish several significant pieces including a book on Black Alabama politics titled *Black Parties and Political Power, a Case Study*. He also co-produced the documentary *Freedom of the Mind*, which was nominated for an Academy Award.

Mr. Frye was not only motivated by local issues, he was also committed to making the world a better place in any way he could. To that end, Mr. Frye served as the Director of the U.S. Peace Corps in Guyana, focused on promoting community collaboration.

Professor Hardy Frye was an exceptional man who was always motivated to learn and impart his wisdom onto others, whether it be his students or individuals he met through his activism. He held many roles in his career, and in each he remained dedicated to his beliefs, striving to make each community he lived in a better place. The impact Mr. Frye had on our community here in the East Bay is immeasurable. My deepest condolences to his family, friends and loved ones.

Today, on behalf of California's 13<sup>th</sup> District, I commend Hardy Thomas Frye for his service to the Bay Area Community and this country as a professor, activist, and veteran.