

## April 23, 2007: Rep. Sanchez Statement on the Passing of Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Passing of Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez issued the following statement on the passing of Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald:

"I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the Millender-McDonald family. It is with great sadness that I say farewell to my dear friend and mentor, Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald.

Juanita was highly regarded among her colleagues and proudly served her community in the 37th Congressional District.

I considered Juanita a mentor who always remained optimistic about life.

She was a distinguished leader who held many accomplishments including her work in the Women's Caucus, where she led national discussion on global women's issues, creating new opportunities for all women. She was the first African American woman in history to hold the distinguished position of Ranking Member on the powerful Committee on House Administration where she investigated widespread voting irregularities and voter disenfranchisement.

Juanita was an outspoken advocate for democracy around the globe, leading the fight for human rights and speaking out against atrocities in underprivileged regions.

She was a pinnacle force in helping advance the African American agenda in Congress by working to improve education and providing equal opportunities.

Juanita was a prominent member of the California Congressional delegation, where she held a distinguished career as a public servant and fought to create greater opportunities for all Californians. She will long be remembered for her work in improving our state's infrastructure with the Alameda Corridor and having established the early framework for port security at our Los Angeles/Long Beach Ports.

A true trailblazer, Juanita was the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council; the first to hold the position of Chairwoman for two powerful California State Assembly committees (Insurance, and Revenue & Taxation) in her first term.

Juanita's legacy and tireless work in the U.S. Congress and for the State of California will never be forgotten. Her spirit continues to be an inspiration for all of us. She will be greatly missed."

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