

TRIBUTE TO DON PIERSON

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 1995

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Mr. Don Pierson, an outstanding individual whose bold approach towards life and its challenges epitomizes the values Texans hold dear.

Mr. Pierson was born on October 11, 1925, in Abilene, TX. Throughout his fascinating life, Mr. Pierson has pursued many careers and professional endeavors. For example, he has been a land developer, a local hotel owner, a car dealer, a pilot, a cable television pioneer, and a city mayor.

This list of successful ventures proves Mr. Pierson to be a man of initiative, resourcefulness, and ingenuity—a true Texan in every sense of the word. Texans respect the kind of vision and strong character that Mr. Pierson possessed and exhibited.

Mr. Pierson's numerous accomplishments speak to all of us. They remind us of the possibilities and opportunities which remain within our reach if we are willing to accept the corresponding risks and obstacles in order to pursue and attain them.

I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize this truly admirable individual.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 1995

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the leave of absence which I was granted yesterday, Monday, February 27, 1995, I was not present during two rollcall votes. Specifically, I was absent during rollcall votes Nos. 175 and 176.

Had I been here I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 175, the rule for debate on H.R. 1022 and "yea" on rollcall No. 176, the Brown of California substitute to H.R. 1022.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 1995

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, as this year's Black History Month comes to a close, it is appropriate to remember its origins. The celebration dates back to 1926, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a period of time in February to celebrate the heritage and accomplishments of black Americans. It took 50 years, but in 1976, February was officially declared Black History Month.

In the last decade, black Americans have increasingly received recognition for their achievements. In 1983, Guion S. Bluford Jr. became the first black astronaut to travel into space. And just this month, Dr. Bernard A. Harris became the first black astronaut to walk in space. In literature, both Alice Walker and

Toni Morrison received the Pulitzer prize in 1983 and 1988, respectively. Most notably, Army Gen. Colin Powell became the first black Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his heroic leadership and steadfast confidence during the Persian Gulf conflict not only won a war, but reassured a Nation.

When commenting on the present, let us not forget the black Americans of the past who helped set the stage for today's achievements. The theme of this year's Black History Month is "Reflections of 1895: Douglas, DuBois, Washington," in honor of the famous black Americans of the 19th century. Each championed the rights of African-Americans in the United States, although at times they disagreed on the means of achieving their common ultimate goal. Frederick Douglas, a freed slave, devoted his life to the cause of freedom and equality for all Americans. W.E.B. DuBois, who also gained freedom from slavery, is best known as one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and an outspoken advocate for education. Booker T. Washington, who took a different approach to education, nonetheless shared DuBois' desire for a more integrated and conciliatory society. Although these three great men differed on means, their goal was the same: justice and equality for all black Americans.

The accomplishments of black Americans are great indeed, and span every sector of society; we should not wait until February of each year to remember their many accomplishments. But in celebrating African-American accomplishments, it is imperative that we emphasize the word American as much as the word African. For just as surely as George Washington and Amelia Earhart are vital parts of every black American's heritage, so too are Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Thurgood Marshall vital parts of our national heritage.

We should recognize great blacks, therefore, not because they are black, but because they are great individuals. If we are to move forward as the world's most diverse and successful multicultural Nation, we must stop defining each other by the color of our skin, and strive to judge one another by the content of our character.

ANGOLA NEEDS WORLD'S HELP

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 1995

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I read with great interest the following article on Angola. So that all of my colleagues will have the opportunity to see this important piece. I would like to insert it into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Christian Science Monitor, Jan. 25, 1995]

ANGOLA NEEDS THE WORLD'S HELP IN MAKING PEACE TRIUMPH

(By Jose Eduardo dos Santos)

It was with great satisfaction that I read the recent bipartisan congressional letter to President Clinton declaring that "the United States has a strong national interest in a stable peace agreement in Angola." I share the view in Congress that the Lusaka Accords are the "last, best hope for peace in Angola."

The letter accurately notes that the treaty also offers a promise of stability and prosperity in our region along with opportunities to expand US exports to Angola.

I have called on all Angolans to make a pact in the defense of peace and absolute respect for national reconciliation so that we may reconstruct our war-ravaged country and vivify the soul of our people. It is a gigantic task, but I am confident we can show that we are equal to it, and are capable of making peace triumph.

PROXY BATTLES OF THE COLD WAR OVER

But we cannot achieve this difficult goal alone. Generations have been born and have grown up knowing nothing but conflict, first with colonial rulers and then among ourselves. If peace is to set down roots, it will need the nurturing of the international community, led by the U.S.

The cold-war superpowers who once used our differences in their proxy battles are now trying to forget their old differences. But they must not forget old obligations. We look to them now as partners. We were once a wealthy country and we can make ourselves one again—but not overnight, or alone.

Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said, "It is imperative that immediate action now be taken to implement the comprehensive agreement signed in Lusaka." Mr. Clinton gave me his written assurance, "Once a peace agreement is reached, the United States government will be prepared to do all it can within the United Nations and bilaterally to ensure its successful implementation." Many of our friends, both old and new, implored us to take unpopular risks in the negotiations with the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). In response to their urgings, we went that extra mile. We have done that and now we turn to them to help us make that peace a success.

The Security Council's decision to deploy a contingent of about 500 cease-fire observers is welcome, but we need prompt dispatching of at least 7,000 peacekeepers to ensure that all provisions of the agreement are adhered to. The UN and the international community cannot skimp on this vital aspect of the peace process. We want our former enemies to know from these credible sources that we are sincere in word as well as deed, and I am sure they feel the same way. Peacekeepers will help instill confidence among past foes.

To repeat 1992's tragic mistake of trying to "make peace on the cheap" would doom our nation and all of southern Africa to more war and bloodshed. The cost of providing peacekeepers and launching national reconciliation is only a fraction of the cost of making war and caring for the victims.

The national healing process must begin with caring for the hurt, the hungry, and the homeless. We urgently need portable hospital facilities that can rapidly be dispatched to the hard-hit areas like the devastated cities of Cuito, Huambo, Uige, and Melange.

THE NEED TO CLEAR MINES

The fighting is over, but we urgently need help to clear millions of antipersonnel mines strewn throughout our nation, so that our farmers may till our fertile fields, our children may attend school and play safely outdoors, and all our citizens can travel in peace to and from their jobs and homes.

Before the war, we were known as a country with abundant mineral and agricultural resources. We were self-sufficient in most foodstuffs. Our exports ranged from crude oil and uncut diamonds to coffee and tobacco textiles and shoes.

Now we must repair and rebuild as we heal our wounds and our wounded. We need technical assistance to rebuild our infrastructure, we need international peacekeepers to enforce our cease-fire, we need foreign investment to restore our industrial base, we need equipment and expertise to clear away the deadly debris of war. We also need loans and credits to stimulate our economy, as well as debt relief and restructuring.

SAVIMBI INVITED FOR TALKS

We have launched our democracy. Our elected National Assembly is at work and soon we will hold the final round of our presidential elections. Meanwhile, our former foes will be joining us in governing the nation by assuming positions of major responsibility. They will be Cabinet ministers, provincial governors, mayors, ambassadors and much more. The two former enemy armies will join together in a national defense force as most former combatants are demobilized.

I have invited UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi to meet with me at any time and any place in Angola so we may show our people we are fully engaged together in national reconciliation and reconstruction.

A new page is being turned in Angola's history. It presents new challenges for Angolan political leaders, government officials, and ordinary citizens as we try to reconstruct a third time from the rubble and ruins of the tragedy that devastated Angola. We call upon the United States and the international community to join us in our historic task of making peace work not just for ourselves but for a continent that is struggling hard to spread the blessings of peace and democracy to all its citizens.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL WITHIN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 1995

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce legislation to authorize the establishment of a memorial, on Federal land within the District of Columbia, to Martin Luther King, Jr.

Alpha Phi Alpha, which Dr. King joined in Boston on June 22, 1952, is one of the oldest African-American fraternities in the Nation. With more than 700 chapters in 42 States, its members include some of the most prominent leaders and distinguished officials within the United States. The fraternity wishes to honor Dr. King's remarkable role with a memorial in the Nation's Capitol. It is the fraternity's belief that a memorial will provide a tangible recognition that will assist in passing Dr. King's message from generation to generation. Alpha Phi Alpha will coordinate the design, construction, maintenance and funding of the monument. The bill provides that the monument be established entirely with private contributions and at no cost to the Federal Government. The Department of the Interior, in consultation with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Commission on Fine Arts, will select the site and approve the design.

I am very pleased to recognize Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as one of our Nation's greatest leaders in the ongoing struggle to achieve full equality for all of our citizens. In a very short lifespan of 39 years, this man created a

moral, political and religious revolution that is indelible within the minds and hearts of Americans. As a man of peace, Dr. King recognized that along with freedom comes a strong measure of responsibility and accountability from all Americans. He showed us that civil rights is not just a struggle for the rights of black Americans, but a struggle to ensure the rights of all Americans. His gospel often proclaimed that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Dr. King's mission is still unfinished. Racism and inequality, distrust and misunderstanding continue to divide us as a Nation. We must continue to challenge the American conscience and strive to create economic and civil equality for all of our citizens. For the future youth of our country, a memorial will provide a tangible reminder of our Nation's history and to our relentless struggle to eliminate injustice and prejudice.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. King dedicated his life to achieving economic and civil equality for all Americans, through nonviolent means. I believe that he made an indelible impression, of what one individual can do, on the minds and hearts of all Americans. I believe that a memorial would provide a tangible symbol to our Nation's youth of this country's commitment to economic, social, and legal justice. I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to ensure that the essential principles of justice and equality among our citizenry are never forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO SAN DIEGO POLICE OFFICER PATRICK R. MILLER

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 1995

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, I rise today to pay tribute to a hero in my district who helps his community day after day, week after week, year after year. This hero is San Diego Police Officer Patrick R. Miller.

Officer Miller is a man who is fulfilling his life's dream. Since childhood, he desired to become a police officer—and that dream became reality 6 years ago after successfully being accepted and completing the police academy. Officer Miller furthered his career by graduating from the highly competitive Special Weapons and Tactics [SWAT] Academy last spring.

Officer Miller is praised by his fellow officers and community residents as a model police officer—one who treats people as human beings, while doing his job with precision and professionalism.

On the morning of February 2, 1995, Officer Miller was shot five times during a routine traffic stop. He was very seriously wounded. Fortunately, Officer Miller survived the incident and is recovering from his injuries.

Officer Miller has proven to be a respected and hard working police officer for the city of San Diego. I wish him a quick and complete recovery—and a speedy return to the duties he performs so well.

I salute Officer Patrick R. Miller for his hard work, dedication, and tenacity. He is an excellent example of the impact that one person can have on the community.

LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE COVERAGE FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS TREATMENTS

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 1995

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing a bill which is truly vital to the hundreds of thousands of people in this country suffering from multiple sclerosis, a physically debilitating disease. The Multiple Sclerosis Home Treatment Act of 1995 would provide Medicare beneficiaries with reimbursement for the cost of beta-interferons, the most effective treatments for MS we have ever seen and the only type of MS treatment approved by the FDA.

Mr. Speaker, before I describe my bill I would like to tell you a little bit about multiple sclerosis and the difficult consequences of the disease for its victims and their families.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS: A SNAPSHOT

It has been estimated that today between 250,000 and 350,000 Americans have MS. The disease usually strikes at the prime of productive life—most people are diagnosed between age 20, and age 40. For reasons which are unknown as yet, women comprise an estimated 73 percent of the MS population.

Although the cause of the disease has yet to be specifically determined, we do know that in MS the central nervous system is attacked, resulting in inflammation and breakdown of the protective covering of the nerves in the brain and spinal cord, and the formation of scarring lesions in those areas.

The disease concurrently results in a multitude of debilitating symptoms such as fatigue, impaired vision, loss of muscle coordination, tremors, and bowel and bladder dysfunctions. MS is most often characterized by recurrent and progressively more acute attacks of these symptoms, called exacerbations, between periods of relative physical stability. Exacerbations can and often do result in hospitalization.

The long-term effects of MS vary. Some people experience more complete recovery between exacerbations—relapsing-remitting MS—while others experience significant physical deterioration—relapsing—or chronic-progressive MS.

Still, MS is a disease of physical debilitation. People with MS often experience a loss of ability to perform simple daily tasks. In many cases the physical consequences of MS force the individuals to quit their jobs and leave the work force, requiring them and their families to make tough financial choices while continuing to address health care needs. An estimated 27 percent of people with MS are bedridden at least 1 out of every 14 days.

BETASERON: A BREAKTHROUGH TREATMENT

Last year, the Food and Drug Administration approved a treatment, beta-interferon 1-b—trade name, Betaseron—for use in relapsing-remitting MS. The FDA approved Betaseron through their newly created fast-track approval process, demonstrating the agency's recognition of both the importance of a treatment for MS and the success of Betaseron.

Betaseron is a type of beta-interferon, a protein genetically engineered to resemble similar