

join my colleagues in acknowledging his accomplishments. We extend our sympathies to his family.

THE 110TH CELEBRATION OF GROUNDHOG DAY

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise in honor of the 110th celebration of Groundhog Day, February 2, 1996. Although it is almost 4 weeks late I am pleased to announce only 2 more weeks of winter left according to the 1996 proclamation.

1996 GROUNDHOG DAY PROCLAMATION

Punxsutawney Phil, King of Groundhogs, Seer of Seers, the Omniscient Marmot, Weather Forecaster Without Peer has responded to his annual summons at 07:28 this February 2, 1996.

As he sat upon his regal stump, he greeted the throng of anxious well-wishers "Happy Groundhog Day." After brief observation and contemplation he spoke in Groundhogese which was quickly interpreted to read:

I'm sorry to have to say
On this Groundhog Day
As I looked around
My shadow I found
When my shadow I do see,
Six more weeks of winter there must be.

However, I think that even Punxsutawney Phil, burrowed deep below the icy frost of winter at Gobbler's Knob, engaged in fun and frolic as we enjoyed the taste of spring this past week. May I say in all confidence, that Phil be true to his word and that March will "come in like a lion and go out like a lamb," to put an end to this bitter cold winter.

COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA-ROSE COLLINS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Miss COLLINS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, we, as African-American citizens are on the verge of having our civil and economic rights readjusted to a degree that will seriously test our faith—both in ourselves as a people and in our American Government. Not since the 19th century—in the wake of reconstruction—has the U.S. Government been so determined to renege on every last pledge and promise that it made in the name of equality for all Americans.

After 300 years of so-called emancipation, America has failed to live up to its founding creed that "All men are created equal." Although significant strides were made during the civil rights era, some Members of Congress are determined to devise new laws and customs in order to maintain the status quo. As in the past, in order, for us to combat this rising tide, we must never yield to their oppressive tactics. We must never forget that the African-American spirit can never be broken.

Black history month is always a special time to honor the contributions and achievements

of African-American men and woman. This year, however, I want to specially focus on the extraordinary examples of courage displayed by dynamic African-American women throughout our history.

The courage and conviction of African-American woman such as Sojourner Truth will never be forgotten. As a fierce opponent of slavery, Sojourner Truth, spoke before huge crowds deep in the Ante-bellum South, preaching against white supremacy—all the while, Sojourner Truth never even knew if she would live to complete the speech.

Another great example is Harriet Tubman, who not only escaped from slavery herself, but ventured back into the slave States over 20 times to free more than 300 of our brothers and sisters.

It was Mary McLeon Bethune, who blazed the trail for future black appointees to high-level government positions by becoming the first black woman to be a White House appointee.

There was also Ida B. Wells, who at great personal risk, let the crusade against lynchings in Tennessee and cofounded the NAACP.

Daisy Gibson Bates is another example of African-American courage. As a newspaper editor, Ms. Bates fought throughout her career against racial injustice. However, it was her leadership in the 1955 struggle for Arkansas school integration that gave her national prominence. As president for the Arkansas chapter of the NAACP, she led the way in publicly criticizing the State Governor for his refusal to admit nine African-American students to all all-white high school.

As a direct consequence, her life became a legendary nightmare of arrest, abuse, and intimidation. In addition to forcing her newspaper out of business, racist whites routinely vandalized her home and burned crosses on her lawn. Yet, this remarkable black woman never yielded to the oppression.

Fannie Lou Hamer is another outstanding example. As the founder and chairwoman of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, Ms. Hamer created an alternative to the all white Democratic Party. Ms. Hamer's struggle against the racist white establishment in Mississippi was nothing short of heroic. For her efforts, she was made the object of assassination attempts, unlawful arrests, and torture. Despite these incredible odds, Ms. Hamer persisted—and in 1964, she became the first African-American woman to run for Congress from Mississippi. By 1968, she was formally seated at the National Democratic Convention in Chicago. All because she was sick and tired of being sick and tired. Her famous statement is still used today to verbalize frustration with the system.

Coretta Scott King is an example of a courageous African-American woman. After her husband was slain, she made a swift transition from dedicated wife and parent to a dynamic civil rights and peace crusader in her own right. She was a leading figure in the American antiapartheid movement and founded the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, GA.

Another example of African-American determination is C. Dolores Tucker, the first African-American Secretary of State for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Long active in civil rights, Ms. Tucker participated in the 1965 White House Conference on Civil Rights. She

was a founding member of the National Women's Caucus, a cofounder of the National Black Women's Political Caucus. During her time as Pennsylvania's Secretary of State, from 1971 to 1977, she was the highest ranking African-American in State government in the country.

Another example is the Honorable Shirley Chisolm, the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress. Congresswoman Chisolm was also the first African-American woman to make a serious bid for President of the United States.

Another dynamic African-American pioneer is Dorothy Height, whose legendary leadership skills created many powerful organizations in the service of equal rights and justice. As president and executive board member of Delta Sigma Theta, Ms. Height succeeded in making the sorority more a global organization. Dorothy Height's work with the Young Women's Christian Association [YWCA] led to its integration. As president of the National Council for Negro Women, Ms. Height has vastly expanded its reach and influence to include over 240 local groups and 31 national organizations—all striving toward the universal equality of women of color.

As we celebrate black history month, it is imperative that we continue the strides of the remarkable African-Americans who have gone before us. In so doing, we must especially remember those sisters who have shaped history. We are great descendants of great people who had the courage, the wisdom, and the fortitude, to face unsurmountable challenges. We come from the world's prime stock. So impressive is our true heritage that massive efforts have been made in the attempt to destroy all knowledge of our history. That is why each and every day, we must continue the struggle and guard against any attempts to dismantle our strong foundation.

EXPIRING TAX PROVISIONS MUST BE RENEWED

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, my Ways and Means colleague, BOB MATSUI, and I today have introduced a bill to extend the lives of several important tax provisions that expired last year.

We have done this to encourage support for prompt consideration and expeditious enactment of tax provisions affecting research and development, orphan drugs, and employer-provided educational expenses, among others. If tax payers are to meet their obligations by April 15, it is imperative that we act quickly to reinstate these effective programs.

Extension of the so-called expiring provisions was included in the Balanced Budget Act of 1995, legislation that was vetoed for reasons unrelated to these specific tax items. We believe that these targeted tax provisions serve a critical role in enhancing economic growth and long-term job creation. Just as importantly, various loophole closers were identified in the Balanced Budget Act to pay for these extensions.

In addition to the narrow tax credits for R&D, orphan drug research, nonconventional fuels research, and work opportunities for disadvantaged citizens, we call attention to the importance of continued favorable tax treatment for employer-provided educational expenses. This popular, low-cost inducement for working people to enhance their educational credentials and move up the economic ladder has now been moribund since December 31, 1994, causing many program beneficiaries considerable inconvenience as tax time approaches.

The measure also restores reasonable incentives for taxpayers to make gifts of publicly traded stock to charitable institutions, a particularly worthwhile mechanism at a time of great need for charitable giving. The bill also extends section 120 benefits regarding group legal services and makes permanent the FUTA exemption for alien agricultural workers.

The importance of these expired tax provisions to various segments of taxpayers—from

folks suffering from rare diseases to landfill owners wishing to create clean-burning energy from their property—cannot be understated and we urge our colleagues to give them the priority they deserve.

TRIBUTE TO LYNDA DIANNE
CURTIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, all of us are concerned about quality health care, and fortunately the citizens of New York City have Lynda Dianne Curtis working to provide them with top flight service. Lynda is a native New Yorker. She received her undergraduate degree from the State University of New York [SUNY] at Buffalo, and her masters degree in

special education and learning disabilities from Fordham University.

Ms. Curtis began her professional career at Sydenham Neighborhood Family Care Center [NFCC]. She has held numerous positions of responsibility, including her current position as executive director of the Cumberland Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Brooklyn. During her tenure the center has extended clinic hours, increased the number of patients attended to by physicians, and improved the physical plant facility.

Lynda's hard work has often been recognized, including awards such as the Community Service Volunteers Award, the Renaissance Community Service Award, and the Black Agency's Founders' Award. Clearly, Lynda's record of service and delivery of health care is commendable. I am happy to introduce my House colleagues to Lynda Dianne Curtis.