

TRIBUTE TO MRS. JOHN SPARKMAN OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a long-standing citizen of my district, Mrs. Ivo Sparkman, widow of U.S. Senator John Sparkman. Mrs. Sparkman passed away last week, 2 weeks after celebrating her 100th birthday.

During their 62 year marriage, Senator and Mrs. Sparkman made their way from Albertville, Alabama all the way to Washington, D.C. and then settled in downtown Huntsville.

In later years, Mrs. Sparkman discovered a real artistic talent, painting, and she produced several colorful paintings for family and friends. She also possessed a true love for nature enjoying gardening and bird-watching.

As the wife of a longtime U.S. Senator, Mrs. Sparkman exhibited a keen interest in politics and hosted many dignitaries at her home through the years. The Sparkman's time in Washington proved very beneficial to my district as Huntsville's space program began to thrive under their leadership.

Alabama and the nation displayed their affection for Mrs. Sparkman at her October 6th birthday party. Former U.S. Senator Howell Heflin attended the party, held on "Ivo Sparkman Day" as proclaimed by Mayor Loretta Spencer and Governor Don Siegelman. Letters poured in from all over including special notes from Lady Bird Johnson and Annie and John Glenn.

I believe this is a fitting tribute for one who has dedicated many years to serving the nation and Alabama. I send my condolences to the Sparkman family. On behalf of the people of Alabama's 5th Congressional District, I join them in celebrating the extraordinary life and honoring the memory of a wonderful lady, Mrs. Ivo Sparkman.

OPPOSITION TO THE CONFERENCE REPORT ON FISCAL YEAR 2000 COMMERCE-JUSTICE-STATE APPROPRIATIONS, H.R. 2670

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, my statement in opposition to the Commerce, State, Justice Appropriations Conference Report on the Fiscal Year 2000 Commerce-Justice-State appropriations bill was inadvertently left out of the RECORD. The following is the statement I had prepared.

I have the greatest respect for the Chairman and Ranking Members of this Subcommittee and am, therefore, disappointed in the need to oppose the Conference Report, however it is deficient in several critical ways, particularly in not paying our UN debt, in not including the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and in under funding the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) program.

First, this Conference Report does not provide the needed funds to address one of our

greatest and most immediate current foreign policy needs. The Conference Report does not provide the funding to pay our United Nations dues.

Great nations pay their bills. It is a travesty and a very poor reflection on this institution that the United States has fallen more than \$1 billion behind in our payments to the U.N.

Today, we could and should be solving this problem. However, the Republican leadership has chosen, instead, to allow this important international obligation to be held hostage to the domestic politics of the far-right by continuing the connection between U.N. dues and the unrelated issue of restrictions on international family planning.

There are many consequences to the U.S. not paying its UN bills. Most immediately, if we do not pay a significant portion of our arrears this year, we will automatically lose our vote in the General Assembly. I cannot believe that this Congress could even consider allowing such a step to occur—but, unfortunately, it has done so repeatedly in the past few years and there is a real possibility that it will again this year. In light of the majority's recent rejection of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in the Senate, not paying our UN dues marches this Congress further down the path of neo-isolationism.

We used to be told by our colleagues who oppose the UN that their objections to UN funding were based on concerns about inefficiencies and bureaucracy at the UN. Those issues have been and continue to be addressed. The UN is reforming. We use our leverage to continue those reforms when we continue as a deadbeat in our dues.

Now, of course, our U.N. dues have not been paid because they are being held hostage to a totally unrelated matter—the Mexico City gag rule and the politics of the religious right on the other side of the aisle. It is long past time for this to stop and for the United States to live up to its international obligations.

The people of San Francisco, who I am honored to represent here in Congress, understand the importance of the United Nations. Our great City is the birthplace of the UN—the UN's Founding Charter was signed in San Francisco over 50 years ago. San Francisco's interest in the UN goes well beyond our historical connections to the institution. San Franciscans take seriously the principles and the ideals behind the UN, including the belief that a multinational institution can play a valuable role in conflict resolution and the promotion of peace.

I believe that the U.S. has a national interest in a reformed United Nations that functions effectively and efficiently. We must provide it with the needed resources.

The second major problem with this Conference Report is the removal by the Conference Committee of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

One year ago, many of us spoke on this floor about the tragic and brutal murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student. Matthew was courageously willing to be open about who he was. He suffered because of who he was. This is simply wrong.

Unfortunately, Matthew is not alone. According to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence programs, in 1998, 33 Americans were murdered because they were gay or lesbian. In the United States last year, there were at least 2,552 reports of anti-gay or lesbian incidents.

The number of serious assaults in which victims sustained major injuries grew by 12%.

Hate crimes take many forms and affect many different kinds of victims. We all remember the horrible murder last year of James Byrd, Jr., an African-American man in Texas. We all remember earlier this year, when a gunman opened fire at a Jewish Community Center and then singled out an Asian American and shot him. How many more deaths, how many assaults on the personal integrity of people, need to happen before this Congress will see the need for hate crimes legislation?

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act would provide law enforcement officials with needed tools to fight these crimes, and would serve as a lasting tribute to the lives of Matthew Shepard, James Byrd, Jr., and the others who have been victimized by hate crimes. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act would not end all violence against people because they are gay, or African-American, or Jewish, or come from another country. Nonetheless, this legislation would allow the federal government to investigate and punish crimes motivated by hate. If this law prevents one hate-driven death, it will be justified.

The murder of Matthew Shepard is the manifestation of the enduring bigotry that still prevails in our society. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act should be included in the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill.

I also believe that this Conference Report is deficient because it provides only \$325 million for the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) program. This funding level is a cut of \$1.1 billion below last year's funding and \$950 million below the President's request. This cut is wrong. The COPS program has been successful in adding officers to local law enforcement agencies and has had a real impact on preventing crime and promoting neighborhood and community safety.

Because the CJS Conference Report does not pay our UN debt, because it does not contain the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, because it inadequately funds the COPS programs, and for other short-comings in important programs, I urge my colleagues to oppose the Conference agreement.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND EDWARD R. SHERIFF

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Reverend Edward R. Sherriff. On October 20, 1999, Reverend Sherriff was stabbed to death in his home in Sacramento. A memorial service will be held on November 7 at River City Metropolitan Community Church's Cathedral of Promise in Sacramento. As the community mourns his loss, I ask all my colleagues to join with me in saluting the career and efforts of this exceptional person.

Reverend Sherriff was born in Serdoo-Wooley, Washington and raised in Northern California on the Hupa Reservation. He began preaching locally at age seventeen. This childhood interest grew into a career. He was the pastor of several congregations and coordinated churches in the Northwest U.S. and in Canada. In 1965, he was dismissed as a result of his sexual orientation, and he did not enter another church for 19 years.

His life in ruin, Reverend Sheriff borrowed money to buy a restaurant. This venture eventually expanded to five extremely successful eateries. During this time, he also financed a homosexual hotline in Spokane, Washington, taught nursing for the state of Washington, and volunteered his time to help the needy and hungry.

In 1983, Reverend Sheriff attended a service at Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church in Spokane, Washington. Because of this open and caring environment, he was convinced to rejoin the ministry.

Reverend Sheriff briefly served as a pastor of the MCC church in Boise, Idaho, and he served as District Coordinator of the Northwest District, Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches from 1987–1992. From 1990 to 1992, Reverend Sheriff served as Executive Director of the Hope House, a low-rent residence facility operated by Loaves and Fishes.

Edward Sheriff began his tenure as Associate Pastor of River City Metropolitan Community Church in Sacramento in 1987. His office was located in the church building in Oak Park, a multicultural community in a depressed area of Sacramento. He made a practice of inviting cold and hungry people off the street to come in for a cup of hot coffee. As the news spread, more and more people began to flock to the Reverend's door.

Due to his nursing background and interest in feeding the needy, nutritional concerns were of utmost importance in formulating his outreach to the community. In 1990, he began cooking a pot of soup for the 10 or 20 hungry people who had nowhere else to go for a warm meal.

In the early 1990's Reverend Sheriff and MCC began the Samaritan Center to provide held for the needy regardless of religious affiliation, race, creed, sex, or sexual orientation. The Samaritan Center used volunteers and the church's kitchen to prepare the meals and used the church's social hall to serve the meals. The number of hungry people continued to grow, and in 1992, Reverend Sheriff resigned his District Coordinator position and dedicated his time to the Samaritan Center.

In 1994, MCC's Activities Building, which housed the Samaritan Center, burned to the ground. At the time, the Samaritan Center was providing about 400 hot meals per day. As a result, the center was promptly moved to a new location and continued the services to the community. In September of 1999, the Samaritan's Food Bank program, together with Reverend Sheriff's coffee shop, had helped feed over 4,200 people.

Mr. Speaker, as the community of Sacramento gathers to mourn the loss of one of its finest citizens, I am honored to pay tribute to Reverend Edward R. Sheriff. His tireless service to the community and people of Sacramento will be dearly missed. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in mourning his loss and celebrating his achievements.

HONORING WWI VETERAN, JOHN STRONG

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor World War I veteran, John

Strong, Mess Attendant 3rd Class, U.S. Navy. The Government of France has approved Mr. Strong for the award of The National Order of the Legion of Honor.

The National Order of the Legion of Honor is the highest honor France bestows on its citizens and foreign nationals. It is presented in gratitude for the American valor in France during World War I and in recognition of the 80th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918.

John Strong is 101 years old, and a long time resident of Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley. He served as a Mess Attendant 3rd Class with the U.S. Navy in World War I. He left for Brest, France on the U.S.S. *Passitora* and served aboard a submarine in France. John Strong vividly remembers surviving a torpedo missile attack by the Germans. The torpedo landed three or four feet away from the submarine that he was on and many sailors were killed as a result of the attack. Mess Attendant 3rd Class Strong was one of the few fortunate sailors to survive and he has never forgotten this incident. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy on September 25, 1919.

John Strong has since been a minister of the Gospel of the Jesus Christ Church. He entered into the ministry in 1929 and over the years has pastored in five churches. He was an active minister until 1998.

Mr. Speaker, I want to honor the Reverend Strong for his dedication to the U.S. Navy. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing John Strong many more years of continued success in life.

TRIBUTE TO WINSOME McLEAN-DAVIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention the achievements of Ms. Winsome McLean-Davis.

Ms. McLean-Davis is currently the administrator for the Bishop Henry B. Huckles Episcopal Nursing Home which is a 240-bed skilled nursing facility in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. Through her leadership and pioneering spirit, the facility opened an adult day care program in April of this year. The Episcopal Nursing Home has also received a deficiency-free assessment from the Department of Health.

Winsome's contributions to our community go beyond her accomplishments in the successful operation of this nursing facility. As Vice President of her local block association, Winsome has focused on improving her community. In an attempt to develop community support groups, Winsome organized a summer program for children and youth. Currently, Winsome also serves as the Vice President of the Black Long Term Care Administrators' Association (BLTCA).

Our community has greatly benefited from Winsome's strong moral commitments. She credits her father, Cirlin Thomas McLean, a trade union leader in Jamaica with instilling in her the principle that "investing in another's life is the real sign of true service." Her mother, Ruby, by example, continues to enforce

these values. Winsome completed her undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of the West Indies and Howard University. She completed post-graduate studies in gerontology at the Brookdale Center on Aging of the City University of New York.

Winsome is married to Kenneth Davis and they have a five-year-old son, Andrew. Ms. McLean-Davis is truly an inspiration to her fellow administrators and a pillar in her community. I commend her to my colleagues as an outstanding example of a community leader.

TRIBUTE TO CLAUDE C. STEWART, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Claude C. Stewart, Jr. Although he is no longer with us, his life stands as a testament to the value of hard work and a strong commitment to family. However, "June," as he is fondly known, liked to believe that he led an ordinary life.

He was born on September 7, 1923 in Union County, South Carolina. He was the 18th child of Claude C. Stewart, Sr. and Janie Means Stewart. Other than a 22 month stint serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, June spent most of his childhood and adult life in Columbia.

For more than 40 years, he worked for Johnson's Funeral Home and Palmer Memorial Chapel. However, "June" is best remembered for his service to the Columbia, South Carolina, Fire Department. In 1953, he was selected one of the first eight African Americans to work at the department. Hard work and dedication enabled June to rise through the ranks and become the first black Engineer, Captain, Battalion Chief and Assistant Chief. In June 1989, he retired as Assistant Chief after 36 years of service.

Outside work, "June" was a dedicated member of Second Calvary Baptist Church where he served on the Deacon Board. He was also a member of Masonic Lodge #47 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Until his death, June was married to Bertha Williams Stewart for 46 years. They had two children. Their son, Claude David, predeceased his father. Their daughter, Claudette, married Leonard Hampton and has one son, Terrance Claude Hampton, whom "June" affectionately called his "Man."

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me and my fellow South Carolinians from the Columbia area as we pay tribute to Claude C. Stewart, Jr. "June" showed us how to turn the glory in an ordinary life into the extraordinary. He will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO ANN MELLON

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of a great American, Ann Mellon, from my hometown, Worcester, Massachusetts. Ann was an amazing woman. She