

was a true pioneer of American political life. Ordinary Americans that are heroes.

Among the other African-American heroes that we should also remember are:

Lillian Fishburne—the first African-American woman to be promoted to the rank of Admiral in the U.S. Navy.

Dr. Meredith Charles Gourdine—a man who pioneered research and inventions so that energy can be converted to practical applications.

Roger Arliner Young—the first African-American woman to earn a doctorate degree in zoology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1940. A native of southern Virginia, she later taught at NC College for Negroes and Shaw University.

Josh Gibson—playing for the Pittsburgh Crawfords in the Negro Baseball League, Josh hit 85 home runs in one season and is the only player—black or white—ever to hit a fair ball over the triple deck stands and out of the old Yankee Stadium.

Little Rock Nine—I was pleased that they were recently awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for their efforts in breaking down the color barriers in our nation's school system, and I enjoyed meeting them in Washington this past year.

Wilma Rudolph—a woman who overcame scarlet fever, polio, and pneumonia to become the first person to win 3 Gold Medals in a single Olympiad. I support efforts to award her the Congressional Gold Medal.

These are ordinary Americans that are heroes.

THIRD, IT'S ABOUT REACHING TOWARD OUR HORIZONS

When we remember our heritage and recognize our heroes, we can reach toward our horizons. Our nation's great purpose will never be realized unless we work together to build a better America—an America with horizons that ensure quality education for all, an America with horizons that ensure accessible, affordable, and available health care, and an America with horizons that ensure our neighborhoods, businesses, and schools are safe from crime.

To get to those bright horizons, we must act in partnership. God has given the people of this nation a mission to prove to men and women throughout this world that people of different races and ethnic backgrounds can not only work together, but also can enrich and enable both ourselves and our common heritage.

If Dr. King were here today, he would be pleased with the progress that has been made. But he would also tell us to roll up our sleeves; the horizons have not been met. The cause is not yet finished. Work remains to be done.

In the Seventh Congressional District, we have the great opportunity to bring into partnership all the different peoples who live here: African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and whites. Together—and there are over 600,000 citizens in this district—we can make a real difference in America's horizon.

CONCLUSION

With a strong heritage, inspiring heroes, and an eye on the horizon, we can create better schools, better jobs, and better health care for everyone.

I challenge you to leave here today, not motivated by the fear of failure, but motivated by the destiny that guides you toward a brighter future for this country and its future.

Will you join me in remembering our heritage?

Will you join me in respecting our heroes?

Will you join me in reaching toward our horizons?

In doing so let's remember the last words of Dr. King's letter from the Birmingham jail:

Let us hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear drenched communities, and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty.

IN HONOR OF EDWARD FOOTE,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF MIAMI

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Edward T. Foote II, President of the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida. As many of my colleagues are already aware, President Tad Foote recently announced his resignation as the fourth president of the University effective June 1, 2001. Though his impending departure is a great loss for the University and its surrounding community, I would like to congratulate Tad and thank him for twenty years of hard work and dedication to improving the University of Miami.

Over the last two decades, President Foote has been instrumental in overseeing the University's rise to prominence as an elite institution of higher learning in the United States. The statistics are startling: funding for research at the University has reached a total of approximately \$176 million. In addition, the University received a startling number of applications for this year's freshman class—over 13,300 applications were received for an incoming class of 1,800. Finally, the University has experienced a banner year in its fundraising efforts, collecting a total of just under \$86 million. These figures, all school records, will ensure that the University is prepared to take on the challenges facing higher education in the United States as we enter the new millennium.

There can be no doubt that these impressive statistics are directly related to Tad Foote's stewardship of the University of Miami throughout the past twenty years. He has truly transformed the University, instilling a sense of pride and confidence in the quality of education that the school provides. Though his term as president will expire in 2001, President Foote has agreed to remain affiliated with the University until 2003 as Chancellor, a position that allows him to assist in the transition process. This decision to further his affiliation with the University is an action that clearly demonstrates President Foote's extraordinary dedication to the students and faculty of the University of Miami.

Mr. Speaker, though the South Florida community will truly miss the leadership that Tad Foote has provided as President of the University of Miami over the course of the past twenty years, I am confident that he will re-

main a prominent figure in the community as he begins to enter a new phase in his life. We all owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude, and I would like to thank him for all his efforts on behalf of the entire South Florida community.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF MR. MARV VALENTINE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor one of my state's greatest advocates of integrity and moral character, Mr. Marv Valentine. Marv is a good friend, a community hero and an extraordinary public servant who has devoted his life to building the character of tens of thousands of Boy Scouts in Michigan. Marv is retiring this year after more than 30 years as the revered Camp Director of the Michigan Lake Huron Area Council's Boy Scout Camp, better known as Camp Rotary. I am sure that Congressman CAMP will echo my sentiments when I say that Marv has truly been an inspiration and a role model for Boy Scouts everywhere.

When Marv arrived at Camp Rotary in 1968, he was greeted with three dilapidated structures and a lackluster outreach program. Barely 100 Boy Scouts attended the Camp that summer. In the years that followed, the buildings were replaced, the number of children attending increased and additional structures were created. Because of Marv's perseverance and leadership, Camp Rotary, not only grew, but thrived.

What is truly astonishing, today, is the number of Boy Scouts who attend Camp Rotary every year—over 10,000. In Thirty years, Marv has led more than 100,000 Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts to that high plateau of character where leadership, honor and integrity are words to live by. So many of these young adults have grown into our community leaders and upstanding citizens. Those who attended Camp Rotary, like Mr. Frank Bartlett and Mr. Greg Flood, cite Marv's guidance as an essential influence in their life, and as a leader who they will always look up to, and always follow with trust and gratitude.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF MR. MARV VALENTINE

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today, Camp Rotary is a testament to Marv's talents. The 1,100-acre youth camp boasts more than 20 buildings, including a nature lodge with one-way glass for viewing animals, a newly renovated dining hall, adequate staff cabins, a chapel, and handicap accessible showers. Marv designed character-building courses, like the two 10-station low runs, a 45-foot elevated path, and a 40-foot rappelling tower.

On February 19th, Marv Valentine will receive the Kentucky Colonels Award, a high honor reserved by the state for ambassadors

of good will and fellowship. It is truly well-deserved. Another honor that I might offer Marv, is the knowledge that he will forever be in the hearts and minds of thousands of boys, who will carry his guidance and wisdom like a badge of honor throughout their lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleague Congressman JIM BARCIA joins me in wishing him much happiness in his retirement with his wonderful wife Justine, who has worked side by side with Marv at Camp Rotary for so many years, and with his son and three granddaughters. I am sure that, even in retirement, Marv's selfless community service and civic commitment will continue unabated, as will his shining example of moral integrity and honor.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT S. JOE

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the distinguished career of Robert S. Joe, the Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management for the Los Angeles District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. During Mr. Joe's 27 years of service with the Corps, he has been responsible for the total District civil works and military programs and all aspects of project management associated with water and coastal resources projects, issues critical to California and the nation at large.

In 1985, Mr. Joe received the Department of the Army Meritorious Civilian Award for his exceptional service. He has guest lectured and presented papers on public involvement, conflict resolution, public administration and environmental analysis over the years at several universities and seminars. He has been a tremendous asset to everyone in southern California, as well as the entire southwestern United States. His efforts on a wide variety of complex and vitally important Corps projects will benefit our nation for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Joe for all of his efforts on behalf of California and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and wish him well in his retirement.

SALUTE TO THE GREAT EXPLORER MATTHEW HENSON

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the life and career of an African-American who can be considered one of the great arctic explorers, Matthew Henson. Mr. Henson was the first man to step foot on the North Pole. While history has credited Commander Robert Peary with this extraordinary accomplishment, it was in fact this humble, uncelebrated man who actually made the first triumphant step.

Matthew Henson is a tremendous motivation to us all. He ran away from home at the age of eleven and thirty-two years later on April 6, 1909, through many trials and tribulations, found himself at the top of the world.

Matthew Henson's achievements have been overlooked for far too long. He deserves our recognition and admiration for his amazing accomplishments. He warrants our credit for helping to introduce us to this important place.

He has been described by people who knew him well as a "great spirit" and a great man. Those words merely touch the surface, for his spirit and drive to do better is truly immeasurable, as are his remarkable achievements in the area of exploration. I am humbled to salute this great African-American, this great man.

STATEMENT REGARDING ORIGINAL COSPONSORS OF H.R. 3615

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state that Congressman JERRY MORAN of Kansas was meant to be listed as an original cosponsor of important legislation, H.R. 3615, The Rural Local Broadcast Signal Act, which I introduced on February 10. I have added him as a cosponsor today.

DR. LEONEL VELA IMPROVES HEALTH CARE IN TEXAS

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Leonel Vela, an individual who has contributed tremendously to the improvement of public health and wellness throughout Texas. Dr. Vela has served in many capacities at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock and has significantly advanced health education and research. On March 1, he will complete his work at Texas Tech and begin working with the University of Texas Health Science Center in Harlingen. Dr. Vela will be greatly missed, but his investments at Texas Tech and throughout the state will continue for years to come.

Dr. Vela has dedicated his career to public health in order to improve the lives of individuals who do not have access to proper care. He grew up in Texas; his parents were migrant farm workers. Dr. Vela earned a bachelor's degree in microbiology and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Stanford University. At the Baylor College of Medicine, he earned his doctorate of medicine and later received his master's in public health from Harvard University. Dr. Vela is married to Alicia and has four children.

Through his accomplishments and research, Dr. Vela has proven to be an expert in many areas such as diabetes prevention and treatment, migrant health and wellness, border health care, telemedicine, and women's health issues. He has written a variety of medical publications and made presentations throughout the state on various health topics. In addition, Dr. Vela has actively led in significant public health activities and initiatives. He directed the public health response to the Ebola Reston outbreak in Texas, co-founded the Rio

Grande Valley Diabetes Task Force, developed Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) in South Texas, and enacted the response to the Dengue Fever outbreak in South Texas. Dr. Vela also supervised the first regional birth defects registry program in Texas, founded the telemedicine mobile unit project to take health care services to rural communities in South Texas, and spearheaded the establishment of the "Women's Center" and the "Diabetes Center of Excellence" at South Texas Hospital.

Dr. Vela has been recognized for his achievements through various awards, fellowships, and appointments. He was one of only three individuals presented with the prestigious Plate of Bounty Award in 1999 by the United States Department of Health and Human Services for his work in migrant health care. Dr. Vela was named the Selected National Institutes of Mental Health/APA Minority Fellow in 1989, and in 1986, he earned the Kellogg Fellowship in Health Policy and Management from Harvard University. Some of Dr. Vela's state and national appointments include the Texas Medical Association, the Governor's Border Working Group Health Subcommittee, the South Texas Health Education Committee, the National Advisory Council on Migrant Health, the TeleHealth Steering Committee for the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board, and the Good Neighbors National Environmental Board established by Congress.

Dr. Vela has displayed dedication to improving public health throughout Texas and has advanced the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. I would like to thank him for his commitment to providing access to health care for thousands of individuals, and I extend my best wishes to him in all of his future endeavors.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

HON. PORTER J. GOSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, each year approximately 300 students in my congressional district participate in the Model United Nations program. Acting as delegates from one of the United Nations member countries, these young people are afforded the opportunity to learn about that country, its culture and issues important to the nation; hone their research, debating and parliamentary skills; and interact with their peers on topics of international significance. This opens a new world to many of the students; in fact, some of them are inspired to pursue a course of study in international relations as a direct result of their work in the Model UN.

Among the teams from Southwest Florida is one from Port Charlotte High School which has competed at various forums, including Harvard University, and have amassed many awards, both as a team and individually. Following them to Harvard this week for a collegiate Model UN is a team representing Edison Community College. This is the third year that they have been invited to participate with baccalaureate schools.

We wish them luck and salute all of the young people who are devoting time to learning more about international issues.