

come together to honor the history of African Americans. We do so by celebrating this nation's greatest legacy: the legacy of liberation.

Dr. Martin Luther King, one of this nation's greatest liberators, once said, "Let's make America what it ought to be . . . Let's make America a better nation." Dr. King fought tirelessly to fulfill the legacy of liberation and make America a better nation—a nation of liberty and justice for all. Dr. King knew, as Frederick Douglass once said, "Liberty given is never so precious as liberty sought for and fought for." Thanks to the efforts of freedom fighters such as Dr. King and Frederick Douglass, we have come a long way toward fulfilling the legacy of liberation. However, we still have a long way to go before all citizens—no matter their skin color—will be able to share in this legacy and truly know what it is to be free.

Today, I want to share with you the three ingredients necessary to fulfill the legacy of liberation: listening, learning, and leading. We must listen to the voices of the past who fought for freedom for all African Americans. We must learn from the accomplishments and achievements of African Americans who helped build this nation. And we must lead the way to liberty by following in the footsteps of our greatest African-American leaders.

First, we must begin by listening to the voices of liberty. We must listen to these pioneers of freedom and equality who had the vision to see through the injustice of slavery and recognize the value of respect of all individuals no matter what the color of their skin. If we listen closely, we will hear the voices of those who articulated the hope and promise of our nation. These are the voices of those who spoke up, stood up, and fought for the true significance of "one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." And whose voices do we hear? We hear the voices of Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln, Carter Woodson, Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Their voices are the voices of liberation. And while many have listened, some have not heard their message. But we cannot give up—we must keep listening until each and every voice of liberty is heard!

In addition to listening to the voices of liberty, we must also learn from their legacy. This legacy of liberation includes the great contributions that African Americans have made to society. These are achievements that build upon the foundation of liberty and strengthen our nation's freedom. John F. Kennedy, one of this nation's greatest Presidents, once said, "In a time of turbulence and change, it is more true than ever that knowledge is power." The turbulence of the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement brought about some of the greatest changes that we have ever seen in the history of this nation. We, as a nation, were forced to address and acknowledge our total history. In doing so, we finally began to recognize the accomplishments of all our citizens. This knowledge of our past has served to strengthen the legacy of liberation and bring hope to the future.

Indeed there is so much we can learn from our African-American brothers and sisters if we will only take the time to do so. The list of accomplishments is long and distinguished. I would like to share just a few with you today. For example, a black slave by the name of Onesius experimented with smallpox vaccines in the 1720s. Elijah McCoy's perfection of the

locomotive engine led people to say they wanted his product, not some cheap imitation. They wanted the real McCoy! George Washington Carver, an agricultural revolutionary, concentrated his research on industrial uses of cotton, peanuts, pecans, and sweet potatoes. Dr. Charles Dew is responsible for engineering blood transfusions. Langston Hughes, who was known as the "Poet Laureate of Black America," helped bring vision and scope to African-American literature through his poetry. Duke Ellington brought jazz to the forefront of the global music scene. It is without a doubt that America would not be the same without the contributions of these pioneers. They helped to make America what it is today and further the legacy of liberation. If Dr. King were here today, he would be pleased with the progress that has been made in recognizing African Americans for their contributions to society. But he would also tell us to roll up our sleeves because the cause is not yet finished. Much remains to be done! Much remains to be learned!

We must not only listen and learn from liberty's legacy, but we must also lead the way toward greater freedom for all. We can do so by following in the footsteps of some of this nation's greatest leaders—the leaders of liberation. When jailed in Birmingham, Alabama, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., composed a letter in the margins of a newspaper and continued writing on scraps of paper some of the most powerful words ever written. He eloquently described many injustices suffered by so many African Americans. Near the end of that letter, he noted that, "One day the South will recognize its real heroes." Those heroes are the leaders of liberation—leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and the Little Rock Nine. These leaders stood up and sat down for what they believed in: equality and freedom for all. Their actions changed our nation forever, and for that we are grateful.

I had the distinct privilege to recognize the efforts of Rosa Parks and the Little Rock Nine when we in Congress presented them with the Congressional Gold Medal for their efforts to break down racial barriers and fulfill the legacy of liberation. I am also pleased to have supported legislation to construct the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in our nation's capital. This memorial, which is to be built along the Tidal Basin in Washington, DC., will honor Dr. King's dream of freedom and equality for all.

I also ask you to consider the impact African Americans have had in politics and civil rights right here in southeastern North Carolina. We should call attention to the African-American leaders who served our nation and our communities in ways unimaginable 100 years ago or even 50 years ago. African Americans now serve in unprecedented numbers in elected and appointed positions at all levels of government. These advances would not have been possible without those pioneers who opened doors of opportunity for all. I'm speaking of local leaders from southeastern North Carolina, such as Hiram Rhoades Revels, the first African-American member of Congress; Minnie Evans, an artist from this area whose work hangs in the White House; Meadowlark Lemon, the clown prince of basketball who led the Harlem Globetrotters to world prominence; and Michael Jordan, the greatest athlete in the history of basketball. By listening to and learning from these African-American leaders of the past and present, we can honor their legacies and strengthen our own liberty.

On the night before his assassination, Dr. King prophetically said, "Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And he's allowed me to go to the mountain. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land." Together, we will fulfill the legacy of liberation through listening, learning, and leading, so that we might one day reach the Promised Land that Dr. King dreamed of for all Americans—a land of equality, freedom and justice for all. It begins now. It begins with us. We have listened! We have learned! We must lead!

CONGRATULATING THE PEACE  
CORPS ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, It is a great pleasure to congratulate the Peace Corps as it celebrates the 40th anniversary of its founding. This truly is a milestone.

Founded in 1961, the Peace Corps has sought to meet its legislative mandate of promoting world peace and friendship by sending American volunteers to serve at the grassroots level in villages and towns in all corners of the globe. Living and working with ordinary people, volunteers contributed in a variety of capacities—such as teachers, foresters, farmers, small business advisors—to improving the lives of those they serve. They also seek to share their understanding of other countries with Americans back home.

As a returned volunteer, I can attest to the positive impact Peace Corps volunteers have on the lives of people around the world and here in the United States. Volunteers are not high-priced consultants but hands-on workers in the trenches who live in the communities they serve. In many cases, they speak the native language and become a part of the local culture.

To date, more than 151,000 volunteers have served in 132 countries. Currently, 7,300 Peace Corps volunteers serve in 76 countries, helping improve the lives of children, their families and their communities.

Volunteers also come back to the United States with a commitment to service, as well as the skills and interest in world affairs needed to be leaders in the global community. Many successful Americans served in the Peace Corps; their Peace Corps skills and perspectives shaped their lives and their careers back home. A few of the many notable alumni include Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD of Connecticut, who served in the Dominican Republic from 1966 until 1968, Donna Shalala, former Secretary of Health and Human Services, who served in Iran from 1962 until 1964, and Richard Holbrooke, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, who served as Country Director in Morocco from 1970 until 1972.

I believe I would not be a Member of Congress today were it not for my experience in the Peace Corps and know I am a better person for my service.

The Peace Corps has played an important role overseas and here at home. And my

prayer is that it will do so for many years to come.

TO HONOR DELEGATE HARRY J. PARRISH FOR 50 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I speak today after reading in a local paper that Delegate Harry J. Parrish, of Manassas, Virginia, has recently been recognized by the Virginia General Assembly for 50 years of public service. I want to bring to my colleagues' attention some highlights of this gentleman's exemplary career of service to the people of Manassas, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States of America.

Delegate Harry Parrish was born on February 19, 1922, on a farm in Fairfax County, Virginia. Shortly after his birth, his family moved to Manassas where his father bought a coal and ice company and renamed it the Manassas Ice and Fuel Company, Inc., which is still in existence today. As he was growing up, his father encouraged him to pursue flying, an interest that led him to fly for the U.S. Air Force. Mr. Parrish graduated from Osbourn High School in 1940 where he was a member of Prince William County's first high school football team. He then attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute to seek a degree in business administration. His courses were accelerated at the onset of the American involvement in World War 11, and in 1942, Mr. Parrish enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps, which later became the U.S. Air Force.

Mr. Parrish had a remarkable and distinguished military career. He was one of only 17 Americans hand selected to attend the Royal Air Force Flight School, No. 5 where he graduated as a pilot, navigator, bombardier, radio operator and armaments man. Through his extensive training, Mr. Parrish became one of the legendary pilots who served in the China-Burma-India Theater where he "flew the hump" and delivered vital war supplies to our troops. Of all his accomplishments, his experiences in World War 11 are the moments in his life of which he is the most proud.

While on active duty, Mr. Parrish was a flight commander, squadron commander, wing operations officer and base operations officer. Following the war, Mr. Parrish went into the Air Force Reserves and served active tours of duty in the Korean and Vietnam wars. Mr. Parrish retired from the Air Force in 1971 with the rank of full colonel and with multiple awards and decorations including the Air Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After the war, Mr. Parrish returned home to work for his father in his ice and fuel business. Mr. Parrish again followed in his father's footsteps when he began serving the Town of Manassas in 1951 as town councilman. He served as councilman until being elected mayor of Manassas in 1963. Mr. Parrish served as mayor for 18 years during which time the town became a city. His service as mayor had such a positive impact on Manassas that in 1973 he was named the "Town of Manassas Man of the Century." He left his po-

sition as mayor and ran successfully for a seat in the Virginia House of Delegates in 1981, a post which he holds to this day.

Mr. Parrish is currently the co-chairman of the House Finance Committee and a member of the House Committees on Conservation and Natural Resources, Commerce and Labor, Corporations, Insurance and Banking, Rules and Joint Rules.

Mr. Parrish also serves on numerous state and local legislative and civic boards including the joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, the Virginia Coal and Energy Commission, and Virginia Veterans Cemetery Board. He is now the chairman of the board of the company his father began in 1922, the Manassas Ice and Fuel Company, Inc., and his son, Hal, is the president. He has served as president of the Virginia Municipal League and on the boards of United Virginia Bank and Crestar Bank. Mr. Parrish is one of the founders of the Prince William Hospital where he has served on the board of directors.

Mr. Parrish has been involved in far too many community clubs and groups to mention all of them at this time. Mr. Parrish is a member of Grace United Methodist Church in Manassas, the Kiwanis Club of Manassas, the American Red Cross, the Society for Preservation of Black Heritage, and Boy Scouts of America. He has also been a member of the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company since 1948.

In addition to the honors and credit to his name that I have already mentioned, he has also received the Distinguished Service Award from the Virginia Oil Men's Association and in 1998 was recognized by his peers by being named Virginia Oil Man of the Year. Also, in 1995 he served, along with his wife Mattie, as the grand marshal of the Manassas Christmas Parade.

He met Mattie during his years at Osbourn High School in Manassas where they have been sweethearts since eighth grade. Mattie has been an incredible source of support and devotion ever since. They have two children and three grandchildren.

The most amazing thing about Mr. Parrish is that despite his long and distinguished career, he remains without a doubt one of the most humble public servants that can be found anywhere. Throughout his 50 years of public service and during his time in the military, he has shown extraordinary and tireless dedication to his country, state, city, church and family.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues join me in commending Delegate Harry Parrish for achieving 50 years of remarkable public service.

PEACE CORPS ANNIVERSARY

**HON. TONY P. HALL**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I join our colleagues and the tens of thousands of Americans who have served with the Peace Corps in celebrating its 40th anniversary.

I had the honor of working as a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand, in what was then a small town where I taught English. When I returned to my "village" a few years ago, I

was astonished to see not only how much had changed—but also to see how many of the students and former colleagues I knew three decades ago still remembered the work done so long ago.

There are few initiatives as successful as this one, and it is with tremendous pride that I count myself as one of the people lucky enough to have had this experience. In the years since 1967, I have visited dozens of countries where Americans are performing Peace Corps service—and dozens more where their work is desperately needed.

I have met countless leaders in business, in charitable organizations, in government, in academia, in every walk of life whose service in the Peace Corps launched careers that have contributed in innumerable ways to the betterment of our country and the countries where they worked.

The Peace Corps does tremendous good overseas. It does wonders for the Americans who serve, and the millions more who benefit from the goodwill they instill in those who know them. And it does America proud. I salute it for its successful first 40 years, and hope it will continue a tradition unmatched by any other American initiative.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGIL SCHEIDT

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Virgil Scheidt, an outstanding citizen and dedicated community leader in Bartholomew County, Indiana. He recently retired as the Republican Party County Chairman and intends to spend more time with his lovely wife, Bettie, and eleven energetic grandchildren.

In addition to his service as County Chairman, Mr. Scheidt is a former State Chairman, a 30-year District Chairman, and a former County Treasurer. He has served as a delegate to the Republican State Convention each session since 1958 and as a delegate to the National Convention on seven separate occasions. Indiana Governors Edgar Whitcomb, Otis Bowen and Bob Orr have all recognized Mr. Scheidt's devotion by awarding him the Sagamore of the Wabash.

Privately, he farms 300 acres of land in Bartholomew County. As a pioneer in real estate, he developed both the Highland Ridge Subdivision and Woodridge Retail Center near Columbus, Indiana. Such achievements earned him the title Realtor of the Year in 1987 by the Columbus Board of Realtors.

Mr. Scheidt's passion for public service has made him an inspiration to all the residents of Bartholomew County. He is not only deeply regarded, but also deeply loved.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this respected man who has helped make selected communities of south central Indiana the pleasant places they are today.