

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VENUS AND SERENA WILLIAMS

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker, Congressman DAVIS, and Congresswoman MILLINDER-MCDONALD for bringing this resolution to the floor. I am proud to join my colleagues here today in support of this resolution recognizing the extraordinary sisters: Venus and Serena Williams.

As a member of both the Congressional Black Caucus and the Women's Caucus, I am especially delighted to participate in honoring the Williams sisters for their remarkable contributions not only to the sport of tennis, but also to their community and indeed communities all across our nation. These women are truly making a difference. They are breaking down barriers on the courts and in underserved communities.

Their record is staggering: together the Williams sisters have won over 43 professional titles. Venus is the first African-American woman to win the Wimbledon Championships since 1958. She is the first United States woman since 1924 to win an Olympic gold medal in both singles and doubles, and holds the women's world record for the fastest serve at 127 miles per hour. She is one of only seven women to win the singles titles in both the Wimbledon Championships and the U.S. Open in the same year.

Serena is the second African-American woman to win a Grand Slam singles title. She is the sixth American woman to win the U.S. Open singles title since 1968, and is only the fifth woman to win both singles and doubles Grand Slam titles in the same year. Since 1978, Serena is the only woman to reach the finals of the U.S. Open while debuting at the tournament.

In Compton, where they were raised, the Williams sisters are renowned for their service to their community. It is not unusual to find them passing out tennis rackets, conducting tennis clinics for low income children, or otherwise contributing to community development and helping to create an outlet for young people.

Their community service, however, extends far beyond Compton and California. Through their work, they have changed the lives of many young people, including young people right here in Washington, DC. I applaud the Williams sisters' efforts and encourage my colleagues to vote for the passage of this resolution.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LIONEL HAMPTON

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 2002

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Lionel Hampton, one of the greatest jazz musicians ever and a personal friend. Hamp, also known as the "Vibes President of the United States," passed away on

Saturday, August 31, but he lives on because of his many accomplishments. I could, of course, try to list all of Hamp's awards, but there are too many; instead, I'd like to share some personal memories I have of Hamp.

I was able to see him this past April 17, when I hosted a luncheon for him here on Capitol Hill, he was surrounded by many friends and supporters on the occasion of his 94th birthday. Just this past April 15, the Senate passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 101, which extended best wishes to Hamp for his birthday, and the very next day, the House passed the same resolution. Of course, few birthdays could top Hamp's 90th in 1998, when he played at the White House for President Clinton. He proved to all of us that he hadn't slowed down a bit. But playing for Presidents was old hat for Hamp. Throughout his career, he also played for Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush.

He also displayed his commitment to higher learning by having no fewer than 18 leading institutions award him honorary degrees and by having the University of Idaho name its school of music in his honor in 1987. That was the first time any school of music had been named in honor of a jazz musician. In fact, I have had the pleasure of serving as an honorary co-chair with President George H.W. Bush of the University of Idaho's Lionel Hampton School of Music.

To make sure his cultural legacy would be preserved, I had the honor of helping him donate that vibraphone to the jazz collection at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History on January 30, 2001. His donation will help inspire thousands of budding musicians to follow their dreams just as Hamp did.

If that wasn't enough, Hamp used his mastery of music to cross color barriers and set an example for others. He was one of the first black musicians to perform in previously white-only venues and events, including with the Benny Goodman Quartet from 1936-1940, and as the first black musician to perform at a presidential inauguration (President Truman's in 1949).

It isn't possible for me to list all of Hamp's awards, accomplishments, and performances, but rest assured, he will live on.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN STALLWORTH OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

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

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 2002

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate my constituent, Mr. John Stallworth of Huntsville, Alabama. John Stallworth played college football for Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, where he was an All-Southern Intercollegiate Conference receiver in 1972 and 1973. He went on to have a legendary career in the National Football League with the Pittsburgh Steelers, helping them become one of professional football's greatest dynasties. Now a highly successful business owner and an integral part of the Huntsville community, the City of Huntsville is

celebrating John's impressive career and his induction into the prestigious Pro Football Hall of Fame.

John Stallworth was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on August 3, 2002 in Canton, Ohio. His son, John Stallworth, Jr. eloquently presented him for induction into the NFL's elite ranks. His wife Flo and daughter Natasha joined him for the ceremonies, as did many other family members and friends from Alabama. John played wide receiver for the Steelers for fourteen years during which he earned four Super Bowl championship rings and set multiple Steelers receiving records. His Steeler teammates twice recognized him as team MVP. He played in four Pro Bowls, was named All-Pro in 1979, All-AFC in 1979 and 1984, and NFL "Comeback Player of the Year" in 1984. He finished his pro football career with 537 receptions for 8,723 yards and 63 touchdowns.

John Stallworth retired from professional football after the 1987 season in order to focus on his business in Huntsville. In 1986, along with his wife and business partner Sam Hazelrig, he began Madison Research Corporation, which now operates in multiple states and employs over 650 people. Madison Research, an engineering and information technology company, has become a very important business for the economy of North Alabama. His company makes substantial contributions to our nation through its valuable work on key government projects, primarily for the Defense Department and NASA, each of which has a significant presence in North Alabama.

As President and CEO of Madison Research, John still finds the time to give much back to his community. One of his latest efforts is a partnership between Madison Research and Lockheed Martin to provide internships for students from historically black colleges and universities in order to give them the same opportunities that helped him succeed.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of North Alabama, I rise to commend and thank John Stallworth for his distinguished career and his dedication to our community. The City of Huntsville is honored to have such a fine individual as a strong business and community leader.

ON THE SWEARING-IN OF J. RUSSELL GEORGE AS INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 2002

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, all of us who serve in Congress depend heavily on skilled, capable and hard-working staff members to meet the heavy demands of committee hearings, floor action and all of the other activities of a national legislature. These staff members serve in many roles, ranging from our personal staffs who handle a wide variety of issues to specialists at the Congressional Research Service, the General Accounting Office, the leadership staffs and our committees.

Over the past decade of my service in the U.S. House, I have been blessed with a strong and effective group of staff members who have helped me meet the needs of the 38th District of California. My staff also has helped me engage in vigorous oversight of government programs as a subcommittee chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform.

Today I want to recognize and honor one particular member of my staff who has served with me for nearly eight years as staff director and chief counsel for the House Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology, which is now called the Subcommittee on Government Efficiency, Financial Management and Intergovernmental Relations.

J. Russell George joined my staff in 1995, shortly after Republicans won control of the House and I was appointed a subcommittee chairman. Since that time, Russell has been my key adviser and chief aide in directing the subcommittee through hundreds of hearings that investigated every department of the federal government. He helped me prod executive agencies into a serious and sustained effort to prevent any major breakdown of government computer systems due to software problems related to the Year 2000 change-over. He was a key force in pressing for legislation to collect debts owed to the taxpayers and he has directed many other subcommittee initiatives that have saved hundreds of millions of dollars while making government programs more effective in meeting the needs of our citizens.

All of these efforts built on Russell's prior experience as a New York prosecutor, as an aide to Senator Bob Dole of Kansas and as a White House aide under President George H.W. Bush from 1990 to 1993. They also serve as a excellent foundation for the new challenge that Russell takes on today after being sworn in as the new Inspector General for the Corporation for National and Community Service. Senator Dole administered the oath of office and both of us are proud of our roles in spotting Russell's ability and putting that talent to work for the taxpayers.

I know Senator Dole and I also were pleased that Russell's parents, Jonas and Celeste George, were able to attend today's ceremonies. Russell was born in the Borough of Brooklyn in New York City on October 8, 1963. His father is a retired New York City Transit Authority Supervisor and his mother, Celeste Russell George, is a retired secretary.

Russell grew up in the Laurelton section of Queens, New York, where he attended public elementary and junior high schools. Following an entrance examination, he gained admission to Brooklyn Technical High School, where he took pre-law prep courses to follow his dream of becoming an attorney. From a very early age, Russell demonstrated a commitment for public service, raising funds for charities, and at the age of ten, publishing a neighborhood newspaper aimed at his peers.

Following his high school graduation, Russell entered Howard University here in Washington and began his career in public service. A political science major, with a history minor, Russell was involved in college politics and was elected as the undergraduate representative to the Board of Trustees of Howard. He also served as an intern on Capitol Hill and that led to his hiring as a clerk on the per-

sonal staff of Senator Dole, who at the time was chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Russell remained on the Senator's staff until his graduation from Howard, working nearly full-time, while winning placement on the Dean's List and graduating magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa in 1985.

Following Howard, Russell entered the Harvard Law School with the stated goal of "achieving legal training and returning to my community to serve it." Russell remained true to that commitment by becoming a prosecutor in the District Attorney's Office in Queens, New York, following his graduation in 1988. He tried cases and argued appeals before leaving to join the Administration of President George H.W. Bush, first as assistant general counsel in the Office of Management and Budget, and later as associate director for policy in the White House's Office of National Service. It was in that latter position, that Russell was first introduced to the National and Community Service Act of 1990, when he was instructed to implement the recently passed legislation.

After serving in the Bush Administration, Russell practiced law at a corporate law firm in New York, but in 1995 I was able to lure him back to Washington to head my subcommittee staff. Russell has been a tremendous resource and aid for me through many long hours and days of difficult work. I thank him for his dedication and hard work and I wish him all the very best in what I know will continue to be a very distinguished career in public service. He is a wonderful person and a sterling example of the men and women who serve our country so very well.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VENUS AND SERENA WILLIAMS

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 94, the resolution to honor the contributions of sisters Venus and Serena Williams offered by Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

I first want to congratulate Serena and Venus Williams for their outstanding and historic achievement of being ranked #one and #two, respectively, by the Women's Tennis Association tour, the first for siblings.

Earlier this year the sisters faced each other in the finals at Wimbledon. The singles final was the first competition between siblings at Wimbledon since the very first edition in 1884, when Maud and Lillian Watson faced each other. Venus and Serena played a game that will not soon be forgotten.

The sisters have won many awards including more than 43 professional titles between them. Settling Grand Slam titles is nothing new to Venus and Serena. Venus Williams was the first African-American woman to win the Wimbledon Championships since 1958 and was the first United States woman since 1924 to win an Olympic gold medal in both singles and doubles. It is no surprise that Venus was named Sports Illustrated Sports-woman of the Year in 2000 and winner of the 2001 ESPY Award for Outstanding Women's Tennis Performer.

Serena Williams was the first woman to reach the finals in a U.S. Open debut since 1978 and is the 2002 Wimbledon champion.

Together, Venus and Serena Williams were the first sisters in professional tennis history to each win a Grand Slam singles title, the first to be ranked in the top ten simultaneously since 1991, the first to win a Grand Slam doubles title together, and the first to compete against one another in a Women's Tennis Association Tour final. The sisters also were the first to win gold medals in doubles at the 2000 Sydney Olympic games.

The Williams sisters are also winners off the court. They have established the Venus and Serena Williams Tennis and Tutorial/tennis academy that offers mentoring and tennis lessons to high school students in the Los Angeles area.

Additionally, the sisters are co-founders of the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center in Washington, D.C. These ventures will give hope to many young people and help keep them off the streets, on the tennis courts, and following their dreams.

The sisters have also landed numerous endorsements including Reebok, Puma, and Avon Cosmetics, setting important precedents for women athletes—especially women of color. They are shining examples of what can be accomplished with hard work and perseverance.

As we honor these remarkable athletes, we must not forget to salute their family, especially their parents, Richard and Oracene Williams. They established a solid foundation of excellence in their children. They are indeed the backbones for their daughters' successful careers.

Venus and Serena's accomplishments are victories for women of all ages who aspire to be or are already athletes. On and off the courts, Venus and Serena Williams are indeed "giving back".

I believe that in a few days we will see another Williams sister-sister match up at the U.S. Open. Venus and Serena Williams are both advancing toward the finals in the U.S. Open.

Mr. Speaker, the wonderful thing about this resolution is that it acknowledges the Williams sisters for their contributions to the sport of tennis, their community, and all the things they have done and will continue to do. Without question, Venus and Serena are two great athletes who have changed the game of tennis. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF CLARK R. LAW

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 2002

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Clark R. Law, who for the past 14 years, has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Ohio Philanthropic Homes for the Aging, a nonprofit organization that represents more than 350 nonprofit long-term care facilities located in more than 150 Ohio towns and cities.

Clark has been an aggressive leader in working in Columbus and in Washington on