

A native of Eastern Kentucky, Judge Stewart grew up on a hillside farm in Knott County. As a youth, he labored alongside his father in the log woods and lumber industry. Never one to shy away from hard work, he used his knowledge of the lumber industry to pay his way through college. After graduating from Morehead State University, he went on to lead a successful professional career that has included working as a Juvenile Probation Officer, Assistant Director of the Northeast Kentucky Area Development Council, Executive Director of Gateway Community Services, and President of a construction company. He also served as a member of a number of civic and professional boards and was a member of the Morgan County School Board for four years.

Sworn into office on January 6, 1986, Sid Stewart has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the people in Morgan County. As a lifelong resident of Eastern Kentucky, he has a personal interest in the well being and prosperity of the region and understands the challenges and needs facing the residents of the area. During his time in office, Judge Stewart has focused his efforts on lifting up the people of his community. He has worked with local, state and federal officials on a variety of initiatives aiming to boost the local economy, create new jobs and enhance public services. Without the determination and vision of Judge Stewart, these initiatives would not be possible.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to thank my friend Judge Stewart for the time and effort he has put into the lives of others. Although his time in public office is drawing to a close, I know the people of Morgan County will continue to benefit from his contributions for many years to come.

#### THE WAR IN CHECHNYA AND MOSCOW

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, next week following the NATO conference in Prague, President Bush is scheduled to meet with President Putin in St. Petersburg, Russia. It is expected that the two leaders will discuss such vital issues as the war against terrorism, the policies in Iraq, safeguards against weapons of mass destruction, and expanded energy cooperation between the United States and Russia. I would urge Mr. Bush to include on the agenda the continuing conflict in Chechnya.

At this time, the Russian Government and its people are still recovering from the horrific events of last month, when a group of armed Chechen terrorists seized approximately 700 hostages in a Moscow theater and threatened them with execution if the Putin Administration did not withdraw its forces from Chechnya. After three days of terror, Russian special forces captured the theater, apparently killing all the terrorists. In the preliminary gas attack to neutralize the terrorists, over one hundred hostages lost their lives. This terrorist attack was appropriately condemned by the Bush Administration, and we all sympathize with the innocent victims of this attack.

But, Mr. Speaker, this does not mean that we should not step back and seriously exam-

ine the circumstances that have driven some elements of the Chechen resistance to such suicidal extremes.

Perhaps it is because the Russian military, in its drive to suppress Chechen separatism, has employed means which virtually guaranteed to drive a despairing civilian population into the arms of a radicalized resistance. In the three and a half years since the war reignited when Chechen militants invaded neighboring Dagestan, the Russian military has embarked on a campaign of carnage, destruction, and looting against the civilian population. There are credible and ongoing reports of atrocities committed by members of the Russian military—indiscriminate shelling and bombing, murder, assault, rape, torture, arrests “disappearances,” kidnaping and holding civilians for ransom. It is imperative that military personnel who commit such egregious human rights violations face criminal charges but the Russian military and judicial system has yet to demonstrate its commitment to bring such criminal actions to account.

Nor should we have any illusions about some elements among the Chechen fighters, who have murdered hostages, kidnapped civilians for ransom and used them as shields during combat operations, and embarked on a campaign of assassination against fellow Chechens who work for the Russian civil government in Chechnya. And, as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Steve Pifer testified before the Helsinki Commission, “We have seen evidence of individuals or certain factions in Chechnya who are linked to international terrorist elements including Al Qaeda.” Without a doubt, war criminals and terrorists should be brought to justice, wherever they are and whomever they serve.

In the wake of the attack on the theater in Moscow, President Putin has hardened an already uncompromising position against the Chechen fighters. But, it should be clear that the Russian scorched-earth policy against Chechnya and the Chechen people is not bringing peace to the region. Rather, such policies are sowing the dragon's teeth of hatred and conflict for generations to come.

The distinguished Newsweek commentator Fareed Zakaria recently wrote: Terrorism is bad, but those fighting terror can be very nasty, too. And the manner in which they fight can make things much, much worse. It is a lesson we had better learn fast because from Egypt to Pakistan to Indonesia, governments around the world are heightening their repression and then selling it to Washington as part of the war on terror. Russian officials called the Chechen fighters “rebels” or “bandits” until recently. Now they are all “international Islamic terrorists.”

Secretary of State Colin Powell continues to call for the observation of human rights and a political settlement in Chechnya, while consistently and properly supporting Russia's territorial integrity. But as the Danish Foreign Minister, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, recently summed up the issue, “We, of course, support Russia in the fight against terrorism ... but it is not a long-term solution to the Chechnya problem to launch a military action and bomb the country to pieces.”

In addition, the war in Chechnya has affected thousands of refugees, who have fled the constant carnage. In September of this year, I and 10 other colleagues from both the House and Senate wrote President Putin re-

garding the plight of the internally displaced persons escaping Chechnya to the neighboring province of Ingushetia. We urged the president to resist the forcible return of internally displaced persons seeking refuge in Ingushetia, elsewhere in the Russian Federation, or to any location where the security situation is unstable and proper housing unavailable. However, I have recently learned of 300 Chechen families who are currently facing expulsion from Ingushetia and are seeking refugee status in Kazakhstan. I hope the Russian Government will not expel these individuals, but instead will take all possible actions to alleviate the situation for the many innocent victims of the brutal violence.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge President Bush to include these important issues in his talks with President Putin when they meet in St. Petersburg.

#### HONORING JOHN JORDAN “BUCK” O’NEIL ON HIS 91ST BIRTHDAY

#### HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Jordan “Buck” O’Neil, a man some call “Mr. Kansas City.” “Buck” is a man who has come to embody the ideals we share as a nation. As he celebrates his 91st birthday on November 13, 2002, I am proud and honored to celebrate his lifetime of achievement as our hometown hero.

John Jordan “Buck” O’Neil was born November 13, 1911 in Carrabelle, Florida. He developed a love of baseball at an early age and his father nicknamed him “Buck” after the co-owner of the Miami Giants, Buck O’Neal. Though a segregated America denied Buck the opportunity to grace the diamonds of the Major Leagues as a player, he was able to showcase his unmatched talent with the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro Leagues. He joined the Monarchs in 1938, and played for them until 1943, at which time he went to serve his country in World War II. Recognizing his patriotic responsibility to our country, he entered the United States Navy and was stationed in the Philippines from 1943 until his discharge in 1946. Buck was named player/manager for the Monarchs in 1948 and continued his association with the team through the end of the 1955 season.

As a player, Buck had a career batting average of .288, including four .300-plus seasons at the plate, and led the Kansas City Monarchs to victory in the 1942 Negro World Series. After 12 years as a player, Buck changed hats and managed the Monarchs to four more league titles in six years. Following his career with the Kansas City Monarchs, Buck joined the major leagues as a scout for the Chicago Cubs. In 1962 the Chicago Cubs made him the first African American to coach in the Majors. Buck is credited with signing Hall of Fame baseball greats Ernie Banks and Lou Brock to their first professional contracts, and is acknowledged to have sent more Negro League athletes to the all white major leagues than any other man in baseball history.

Today he serves as the Board Chairman for the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City and spends his time promoting the

achievements of African American baseball players who played for the love of the game, despite the color barriers at that time that kept them out of the Majors. He is also actively involved in utilizing the Museum to assist in the education of youth in the community through programs such as "Reading Around the Bases" where elementary school students learn from community readers about the pioneers of the Negro Leagues. I was honored to be asked to read from "second base" to a group of students as part of celebrating Buck's 88th birthday party. Buck participates in the Negro Leagues Museum's "Night of the Harvest Moon" program on Halloween night. It provides area children a safe alternative from the traditional to door-to-door trick or treating. More than 16,000 children have participated in the event over the past five years.

Our "Hometown Hero" is very active in various charitable causes within the community. He lends his name and energy to sponsor the Buck O'Neil Golf Classic, a fundraiser for the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. In the past four years, the event has raised nearly \$400,000 for the organizations. For the past seven years, the Kansas City Securities Association, Inc. Educational Endowment Fund has given four-year scholarships to graduating high school students in honor of Negro Leagues players, one each year in honor of Buck O'Neil. And Buck still keeps on giving. This entire birthday week is dedicated to giving. Buck wants to fill the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum for his birthday, so the museum is trying to get 9,100 people to the museum in honor of Buck's 91st year. Yesterday, Buck's actual birthday, tickets to the museum were only a dollar all day, and the 91st person to walk through the door won an assortment of prizes. On Friday, November 15, Buck will get together with friends for "Givin' Buck the Blues", a star-studded celebrity roast in his honor and donate all of the night's proceeds to the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. And there is no indication that Buck will ever slow down. He started his birthday on the radio, left to read to children, spoke at a news conference, and headlined a Project S.O.S. dinner to help kids get school supplies and clothes. The amazing thing about all of this is that he still finds time to give hugs, give autographs, speak to church groups, and throw baseballs to the small children who frequently walk up to him. Buck has risen to national prominence with his moving narration of the Negro Leagues as part of Ken Burns' PBS baseball documentary. He has been the source of countless national interviews including appearances on "Late Night with David Letterman," and "Late, Late Show with Tom Snyder," and being interviewed numerous times on the Jim Rome Show, a nationally syndicated sports radio program. Mr. Rome has talked to Buck so often because Buck had such rich experiences to share about various baseball players, and baseball in general. He states that Buck was one of the most interesting interviews he had ever had on his show.

On his 90th birthday, the City of Kansas City, Missouri named a street in his honor one block north of 18th and Vine, the area that houses the Negro Leagues Museum as well as the American Jazz Museum. The street's new name is John "Buck" O'Neil Way. I look forward to the day in the near future when the Baseball Hall of Fame Veterans Committee

recognizes our hometown hero for his accomplishments on and off the baseball field and approve his induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

In addition to his work in Cooperstown and at the museum in Kansas City, Buck has found new and exciting ways to enjoy life and spread his infectious charm and warm spirit. He is a local hero whose recognition for service is recognized at home and nationally. Buck and the Negro Leagues are to be honored with an award from the "100 Black Men" in New York on November 14, 2002. He was given the Trumpet Award in 1999 by the Turner Broadcasting System saluting him for achievements to African Americans. The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International conferred on Buck its "Paul Harris Fellow" in appreciation of his "... furthering better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world." Kansas State University bestowed upon him the "Lifetime Leadership Award" in "recognition for leadership, community involvement, commitment to diversity, and life long record of contribution to the public." Buck has received numerous awards in recognition of his work in the community and assistance to various organizations. Some of these awards are: the United States Army Award for Outstanding Support of Army recruiting in Kansas City, the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Centurion Leadership Award, the State Historical Society of Missouri Distinguished Service Award, and the 2001 Jewish Community Center Ewing Kauffman Outstanding Achievement Award. As an award winning baseball player, esteemed baseball manager and scout, decorated veteran, and humanitarian Buck exemplifies excellence in public service and his career serves as a beacon for generations to come. He symbolizes the spirit of American patriotism and is a role model for us all. With all that Buck has done and all that he continues to do for Kansas City and the nation, one might wonder what Kansas City will give Buck for his birthday. Buck simply says, "If I could just see that museum overflowing, it would make my heart sing. That's all I want for my birthday." Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the many lives Buck has touched will return the favor on this birthday and many more to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil. It is an honor and a privilege to join in the 91st birthday celebration of an American hero, a national treasure, a symbol of African American pride, and one of Kansas City's favorite sons. Buck's favorite song is "The Greatest Thing In All My Life, is Loving You." Buck, I love you, salute you and your heroic accomplishments, and am delighted and privileged to know such a patriot and to call you my friend. Thank you, Buck.

#### COMMENDING PRESIDENT BUSH'S LEADERSHIP

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend President Bush's courageous leadership in securing bipartisan Congressional and unanimous U.N. support to disarm Iraq. The threat of nuclear, biological,

and chemical weapons being transferred from Saddam Hussein to group like al Qaeda is a real threat to America and our allies.

I also want to praise President Bush's initiatives in strengthening our important relationship with India. Over the past 10 years, bilateral trade between the U.S. and India more than tripled from 6 billion to 19 billion per year. We have continued to engage in joint military exercises, and we share common goals and concerns.

One major goal is to dramatically increase bilateral trade. We have made significant advances in this area, but more remains to be done. We share the common threat of international terrorism from al Qaeda, and we must continue to share intelligence and coordinate counterterrorism strategies through our joint task force on terrorism.

U.S.-India security cooperation is helping to foster greater stability in Asia and to make for a safer world. U.S.-India joint military exercises were held in Alaska from September 29 to October 11, involving troops from the U.S. Army 1st Battalion 501st Para Infantry Regiment and from India's 50 (I) Para Brigade. These exercises followed a joint airborne military exercise between the two countries held at Agra, India, in May of this year. As reported in the Washington Times on October 9, India's Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Lalit Mansingh, traveled to Alaska to observe the exercises. The Ambassador was welcomed by Brigadier General John M. Brown 111, Commander of the U.S. Army Alaska at Fort Richardson, who expressed his appreciation for the professionalism, discipline and adaptability of the Indian armed forces.

Also last month, a major joint U.S.-India naval exercise, named "Malabar IV," was successfully completed in the Indian Ocean. The U.S. and Indian Navies have agreed to jointly patrol the Strait of Malacca to ensure the uninterrupted flow of vital oil supplies. The U.S.-India Defense Planning Group has been established to help coordinate ongoing joint activities, while the Executive Steering Groups of all the three defense services are scheduled to meet again later this year to plan future joint exercises, training and other areas of cooperation for the next year.

Earlier this fall, India once again demonstrated that it is indeed a democracy, where power is transferred by means of free and fair elections, with the conclusion on October 7th of a four-stage election for the Assembly in India's State of Jammu and Kashmir. Despite the ongoing threat of violence by terrorist elements—most of which come from outside of India's borders—to intimidate voters and candidates alike, the elections went—forward successfully, as judged by the United States and other independent observers. Turnout was approximately 45 percent, and the result was a defeat for the ruling party—its own indication that the elections were truly democratic.

As the Washington Times reported on October 14 ("Embassy Row" column by James Morris), "The United States is praising the bravery of voters in Kashmir who defied threats from Islamic militants to vote in large numbers this month." The article quotes the U.S. Ambassador to India, Robert Blackwill, who said, "It was a successful election. The election commission did a very fine job. It was a credible election carried out by democratic means."

Other top U.S. officials have echoed these sentiments. The Assistant Secretary of State