

Cemetery was purchased with funds appropriated, pursuant to P.L. No. 98-602, in satisfaction of four (4) judgments rendered in favor of the Wyandotte Nation against the United States. Each of these judgments arose out of the U.S. acquiring Wyandotte land in the present states of Ohio and Michigan for unfair and inadequate compensation. Because the Nation had virtually no trust land when P.L. No. 98-602 was enacted, the act provided that \$100,000 of the appropriated funds must be used to acquire land, and that the United States must accept title to such lands in trust for the Nation. P.L. No. 98-602 is thus a statute, which provided for reestablishment of a trust land base so that the Nation could pursue economic development and self-sufficiency.

Senator Brownback's attempts to amend or repeal Section 134 of H.R. 2217 would deprive the Wyandotte Nation of its ability to use the Property acquired with 602 funds for any meaningful economic development. Such a move would be entirely contrary to our legal rights under P.L. No. 98-602 to reestablish a trust land base and pursue economic development and self-sufficiency.

Having said all that, I am hopeful that you will continue to oppose Senator Brownback's attempt to amend or repeal Section 134 that would not only take away from the Wyandotte Nation the rights every other Indian tribe is guaranteed by law, but would also cement a decision by the 10th Circuit which creates great uncertainty within Indian Country and prejudices the rights of every Indian tribe in the United States.

Sincerely,

LEAFORD BEARSKIN,  
*Chief.*

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FIRST  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN TO WIN A  
GOLD MEDAL IN A WINTER  
OLYMPICS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 4, 2002*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an American athlete, Vionetta Flowers who accomplished a crowning achievement by winning a gold medal for the United States during the 19th Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah. The accomplishment is made so more notable in that Vionetta Flowers became the first American of African descent to win a gold medal for the United States in a Winter Olympic Games.

Ms. Vionetta Flowers won a gold medal along with her teammate, Jill Bakken, in the inaugural women's Olympic bobsled race. Ms. Flowers is a native of Helena, Alabama. She is the daughter of Jimmie and Barbara Jeffery and is married to Johnny Mack Flowers.

Ms. Vionetta Flowers attended Jackson-Olin High School in Birmingham Alabama where she was The Athletic Congress (TAC) champion, an All-State basketball star, and a member of the Birmingham Strider Track Club. She went on to be a four year-letterwinner in track and field at the University of Alabama-Birmingham (UAB). She achieved prominence as a seven-titleholder in the 100 meters, 200 meters, long jump, and triple jump throughout her illustrious career at UAB. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education in 1997. Since graduation, she has returned to Birmingham to coach the track team at the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

Ms. Vionetta Flowers' path to Winter Olympic gold is storied one. After failing to qualify for the 2000 United States Olympic team, she was given a flier found by her husband indicating that someone was in need of versatile athletes interested in the bobsled. Flowers tried out and eventually raced with Bonny Warner amassing a top 10 in all seven World Cup races in 2000-2001 and closed the season with four straight top-three finishes—earning them a third-place finish in the overall World Cup Standings.

After the 2001 season, Vionetta Flowers started racing with Jill Bakken, a former Oregon State soccer player turned bobsledder. On Tuesday 19th, 2001, they sled into the history books as the fastest women on a bobsled at the Winter Olympic Games.

I share the view of Ms. Vionetta Flowers as she spoke on the interview podium. She said "I didn't know I was the first. I hope this won't be the end of it. I hope you'll see other African-American girls and boys who want to give winter sports a try..." Ms. Vionetta Flowers, the Congress of the United States of America salute you. The American people salute you.

TRIBUTE TO TABETHA WAITS

**HON. BARBARA CUBIN**

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 4, 2002*

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young Wyoming student today who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Tabetha Waits of Rawlins has been named one of Wyoming's top honorees in the 2003 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor bestowed on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Tabetha is being recognized for her work around Wyoming to educate young children about the dangers of tobacco and drugs. Tabetha organized "You Can't Break Our Stride," an all-school walk-a-thon that raised nearly \$10,000 to aid victims and families affected by the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11. Tabetha's work shows that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

It is vital that we continue to encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution that Tabetha has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Tabetha are inspiring examples for us all, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BOB RILEY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 4, 2002*

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 39, H.R. 1892, Family

Sponsor Immigration Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 40, H. Con. Res. 304, Expressing sympathy to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo who were tragically affected by the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano on January 17, 2002. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

UAW LOCAL 599 CIVIL RIGHTS  
PIONEER

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 4, 2002*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first annual Civil Rights Pioneer Awards presented by UAW Local 599 on Sunday, March 3rd in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Local 599 is honoring those members that have dedicated their lives to end discriminatory practices in the workplace. Throughout the Civil Rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s, these courageous people fought against bigotry and racial discrimination in our nation. They have followed in the footsteps of A. Philip Randolph and combined their efforts to end discrimination with the goals of the labor movement to provide dignified, respected employment to all workers.

Don Winans served on Local 599's Alternate Committee, the Fair Employment Practices Committee, and chair of the Shop Committee. Russ Easton served as an Alternate Committeeman, Committeeman, Shop Committeeman, and on the Fair Employment Practices Committee. Zeke Holmes served as an Alternate Committeeman, Committeeman, and as a member of the Fair Employment Practice Committee.

Bill Williams was an Alternate Committeeman, Committeeman, Shop Committeeman, a member of the Fair Employment Practices Committee, Vice-Chair of the Shop Committee, and International Financial Secretary of the Foundry. Bill Barnum served as an Alternate Committeeman, a Committeeman and a member of the Fair Employment Practices Committee. John Hightower was a Committeeman, Chair of the Fair Employment Practices Committee, President of the Trade Leadership Council, and an Executive Board Member of the Flint NAACP.

Fred Tucker was an Alternate Committeeman, Committeeman, Shop Committeeman, Chair of the Shop Committee, and was the 5th Ward Flint City Councilman. Don Sorensen, Sr. was an Alternate Committeeman, Committeeman, Shop Committeeman, Vice-President of Local 599, Education Director, Health and Safety Committeeman, Attendance Counselor for Skilled Trades, Journeyman Millwright, Walter Reuther Awardee and a member of the Fair Employment Practices Committee. Edgar Holt was the President of both the Flint chapter of the NAACP and the State-wide NAACP as well as serving as a member of the Fair Employment Practices Committee. In addition, Carl Thrasher and Harry Eaton are also being honored today for their undaunted moral strength fighting ingrained bias and breaking down barriers in our community.

In my Flint District Office. I have assembled photographs of persons important in shaping

the community. Included in that group is a picture of Edgar Holt. I chose him to represent the significance labor and civil rights have had in making Flint a better place to live. His picture is a reminder of the voluntary service the civil rights workers gave to this country to shape a brighter future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in paying homage to these eleven people. The Flint community owes a debt of gratitude for their tenacity to fight on against insurmountable odds. Collectively and individually they never admitted defeat and prevailed in bringing about a better workplace and a better society.

## TRIBUTE TO DR. DOUG SHARP

**HON. BARON P. HILL**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 4, 2002*

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow Hoosier who has achieved a truly Olympian feat. Dr. Doug Sharp, of Jeffersonville, Indiana, helped to bring one of America's four-man bobsled teams a bronze medal in the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Games. Participating in his first Olympic games, Doug helped give his team a four-heat combined time of 3 minutes 7 seconds. Doug's team, along with the silver medal-winning bobsled team, ended a 46-year medal drought for U.S. men's bobsledding.

A native of Ohio, Doug now lives in Jeffersonville, and went to Purdue University for his undergraduate degree. After graduation, he went on to become a chiropractor, receiving his degree from the Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa. Doug nar-

rowly missed competing in the 1996 Summer Games in the pole vault by falling just 4 inches short in the U.S. Olympic trials. Doug remains competitive in track and field as an assistant coach of the University of Louisville track and field team.

Doug is no stranger to serving his country. He is a member of the U.S. Army's World Class Athletes Program. The program's mission is to help support and guide world-class athletes to the pinnacle of their chosen sports while maintaining Army careers and representing the U.S. Army before the world. Doug has said that his job, as an Olympic athlete and a representative of the Army, "is to be an ambassador of good will."

It is apparent to me that—with or without the Olympic glory—Doug Sharp has already reached the pinnacle. He has served his country well and with distinction. Hoosiers and Americans everywhere are proud of his achievement. He is a true Olympic hero. On behalf of the citizens of the Ninth District and of the State of Indiana, I want to congratulate Dr. Doug Sharp on a job well done.