

IN HONOR OF GENEVIEVE
KRUEGER, RECIPIENT OF THE
2002 MCGROARTY POETRY AWARD

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Genevieve Krueger, who will receive the 2002 McGroarty Poetry Award at the Shouting Coyote Poetry Festival on April 20, 2002 at Verdugo Hills High School in Sunland Tujunga, in California's 27th Congressional District. Each year, this award is given to an individual who demonstrates extraordinary community service and tireless efforts toward the advancement of the literary arts.

Twenty-four years ago, Ms. Krueger began an out-of-print book search business. She knew that her love of reading and literature would serve her customers well as she searched the country for great works of art no longer in print. In doing so, she set herself out as a devotee of the process of good writing and the need to share that writing with the world. She is also an avid book collector, with a personal collection of more than 15,000 volumes, and volunteers her time with the Friends of the Library.

In 1984, she befriended a group enrolled in a poetry workshop at the McGroarty Arts Center in Sunland Tujunga, California. The class disbanded after several sessions, and, recognizing the need for writer collaboration, Ms. Krueger invited the group to her home. What began as a workshop became a weekly writers group and for sixteen years now, writers have been welcome at Ms. Krueger's home to share their thoughts and their work.

The group named themselves the Chuparosa Writers after the private home, Rancho Chupa Rosa, of California Poet Laureate, Congressman, dramatist, Los Angeles Times columnist, and historian John Steven McGroarty (1862–1944) and his wife Ida. Today, the private home is the McGroarty Arts Center and the annual McGroarty Poetry Award honors the legacy of John Steven McGroarty, a legacy that lives on in the work of the Chuparosa Writers and of Genevieve Krueger.

The Chuparosa Writers meet each Wednesday to share their work and foster the works of an ever-changing group of writers and poetry lovers. They have helped sponsor poetry contests for elementary schools, performed numerous poetry readings as individuals and as a group, taught poetry classes to schoolchildren, assisted in creating the Poet Laureate position for Sunland Tujunga and supported countless community endeavors.

Ms. Krueger eloquently states the purpose of the group: "We meet to share new discoveries, and work-in-progress. Through our meetings we stimulate new ideas and growth, and we hope to spread the message that writing is an important and enriching activity." For her commitment to bringing the arts to a wider audience, to the literary tradition of the foothills and to new discoveries, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Genevieve Krueger upon receiving the 2002 McGroarty Poetry Award.

BLACK LUNG BENEFITS
SURVIVORS EQUITY ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation aimed at providing equity in the treatment of benefits for eligible survivors of recipients of black lung benefits. Joining me in introducing this measure is the ranking Democrat on the Committee on Education and Workforce, GEORGE MILLER of California, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania, JOHN MURTHA.

By way of background, in 1981 the Black Lung Benefits Act was amended in several respects at the urging of the Reagan Administration. The driving motivation for this legislation at the time was to shore up the finances of the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund through which benefit payments are made to beneficiaries where mine employment terminated prior to 1970, or where no mine operator can be assigned liability.

After the enactment of this legislation, administrative actions and a number of extremely harmful court decisions made it extremely difficult, if not almost impossible, for those suffering from the crippling disease of black lung to qualify for benefits. However, today, a large number of the problems claimants faced have been remedied by a Clinton Administration rulemaking that was finalized on December 20, 2000.

Yet, two provisions of the 1981 Act in particular continue to be most troublesome, and largely impact, in a very adverse way, surviving widows of coal miners who die as a result of black lung disease.

As it now stands, due to the 1981 amendments, there is a dual and inequitable standard governing how benefits are handled for surviving spouses of deceased beneficiaries. In the event a beneficiary died prior to January 1, 1982—the effective date of the 1981 Act—benefits continued uninterrupted to the surviving spouse. However, if the beneficiary dies after January 1, 1982, the surviving spouse must file a new claim in order to try to continue receiving the benefits and must prove that the miner died as a result of black lung disease despite the fact that the miner was already deemed eligible to receive benefits prior to death. This is illogical, unfair and outlandish.

In addition, as a result of the 1981 law, there is also a dual and inequitable standard governing the basis by which a miner or his widow is entitled to benefits under the Act. For pre-1981 Act claimants, a rebuttable presumption of the existence of black lung disease is established if the miner worked for 15 years or more in underground coal mines and if over evidence, such as an X-ray, demonstrates the existence of a total disability respiratory or pulmonary impairment. This rebuttable presumption, however, does not apply to post-1981 Act claimants.

The legislation I am introducing today removes the requirement that a surviving spouse must refile a claim in order to continue receiving benefits. It also applies the rebuttable presumption of black lung disease for pre-1981 Act claimants to those filed after the effective date of that statute.

This is a fair and just proposal, and one which should have been enacted years ago. In fact, I have introduced various black lung bills since 1988. During the early 1990s the House of Representatives on two occasions passed reform legislation. Much of what was contained in these comprehensive reform bills was finally addressed by the Clinton-era rulemaking. However, the subject matter of the bill I am introducing today demands action by the Congress. I urge the leadership of this body to consider this matter, and to allow this bill to be acted upon this year.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES E.
ROBINSON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the future of our country is indeed our children and a man being honored tonight, James E. Robinson, is someone who believes that helping them is the highest calling. James Robinson is a founder of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Adults Club. In that capacity for the past 11 years he has worked with and inspired more than 500 young people.

Mr. Robinson also served as the Head Coach for baseball and junior varsity basketball at the Alexander Hamilton High School in Elmsford while also serving as Assistant Varsity Basketball Coach there. He has also worked with the young people Mercy College while serving as Assistant Men's Basketball Coach.

But his community service is not limited to coaching our youth. He has served on numerous committees including the United Way Youth Advisory Council, the Westchester Community College Advisory Council, the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Committee, and the African American Men of Westchester where he is chair of the Youth Committee.

Mr. Robinson is also co-founder and President of Fathers and Children Together (FACT), an organization of more than 70 fathers from nine different locales in Westchester.

He lives in Greenburgh with his wife, Yolanda, and their three children, Nicole, 8, and twins Jasmine and James, Jr. 6. He is someone whose gifts will keep giving to the community for many generations. For every child he helps will certainly go on to help others of their own generation and the next. We can truly say that he has made his community a better place, and for this we are all grateful.

TRIBUTE TO THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH BY ALBERT CAREY CASWELL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of the late Reverend Martin Luther

King Jr., who was assassinated thirty-four years ago on April 4, 1968. Dr. King's short life was spent and lost in the pursuit of justice and equality for all men, regardless of gender, creed or race. His life was a testament to the fact that we can effect profound changes in our laws and society through peaceful and non-violent means. Dr. King's spirit will forever live on in our collective continuous efforts to uphold human rights for all people, a cause that is particularly dear to my heart.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD, a poetic tribute to Dr. King, composed by Albert "Bert" Carey Caswell. Bert Caswell received a Masters degree in education and taught science in our nation's public schools. He currently works as a tour guide at the United States Capitol. He is an enthusiastic guide in this great building, and he particularly enjoys the opportunity to provide tours for children from the "Make-A-Wish" Foundation, as well as all other children. He has also given tours for some of our country's fire fighters who suffered severe burns while saving lives and protecting property. When he guides visitors in our nation's Capitol, he also makes a point of sharing inspiring stories of Members of Congress who have overcome difficulties and hardships in life, to serve in one of the highest offices of trust and responsibility which the citizens of our land can offer.

A KING AMONG MEN
(By Albert Carey Caswell)

What is a king? But a man who sits upon a throne,
Who by birthright, bloodline and good fortune, is born of a royal home
As is so within our earthly zone,
While up in heaven real kings and queens, in our Lord's eyes are those who stand alone—
A man of peace, a man of love, who will lay down his life leaving all he loves—shall sit high atop our Lord's throne.
A day in August 1963,
As a "King Among Men" would write history
As our nation heard of this, his great dream to be.
Speaking to all upon a mall,
of the dream he saw, as a nation awoke to freedoms call,
as heaven awaited him Godspeed.
His words now etched upon our minds,
To this day as we hear them tears we find,
Words ringing throughout time and history
On this great day of freedom and of peace,
The defining moment in a nation's civil rights movement to say the least,
As they traveled from far and wide,
To hear freedom's cry, from all across this countryside,
North, south, west and east.
For freedom rang out loud that day,
Yet, knowing he'd not see his children growing,
Stayed and still he spoke of peace.
In this our short lifetimes,
How is one to measure or define?
What is the true essence of man kind,
In this, his lifetime?
Men walk our earth, big and small,
Black and white, short and tall,
Rich and poor.
How then the more can one measure and define?
What is the true sum of a person's worth,
here upon mother earth?
The answer we find,
Within one's deeds of a lifetime.

Generations have come and gone,
As one in our hearts now lives ever on,
As all realize this the more as Martin is gone.

In this our sweet "country tis' of thee,"
A man rose up a king to be,
A true son of liberty
For his life's work lives on.

Reverend Dr. King,
As across this nation, let freedom ring,
As his courage and spirit would help to sing
A new day's dawn!

Equality for all, as he'd create,
As straight up to heaven for his life's work his fate

As heaven could not wait.
Martin's dream, a world devoid of hate,
Where black and white children would relate,

This clarion call his golden fate.
Now, up in our Lord's kingdom on high,
His place found in heaven so divine,
All because he preached love, not hate.

This man of God,
Who to our nation and to our world had so taught to all
Of love and freedom as he had preached.

A minister of God,
A reverend for the Lord, the prince of peace,
As out to all Martin, His envoy, had so reached.

His message strong, his message beautiful and sweet,
Non-violence in the fight for equality, as to all he'd beseech.

A beautiful man, a prince of peace, a Nobel Peace Prize he reached,
A heart of gold inside, as he battled all the lies.

An educated man, who's dream of justice for all was his life's plan.
His vision was not forsaken, even as he died
Traveling across our nation far and wide
To preach peace and love to all, he strived,
As one man helped turned the tide.

Marching north to south, hand in hand,
Praying and championing equality time and again,
All led by this courageous man
Freedom fighters, who upon buses chose
To stand tall against the racism they opposed.

As their courage would stand
In his heart a great burning,
His desire for equality and dignity for all were his life's yearning,
Spreading across the land.

Marching down city streets,
Armed with only courage,
As hate and bigotry they would meet,
So liberty could stand.
Beaten, bloodied and arrested time and again
His beautiful message they could not put to an end.

They tried to take his freedom away,
Inflicting pain in every way,
As his freedom train traveled far across our land.

Our nation torn, weary and worn,
Fighting in a far off war
As his message scored,
Was so simple and so very pure:
Nonviolence and dignity,
The love of fellow woman and man
And to be free. Justice our Lord's plan,
He helped insure.
Up in heaven on those dark days of hate,
Our Lord watched and stood proud of the freedom he'd create,
and his spirit endured.

Then that dreaded day,
As shots rang out in Memphis taking our breath away,
As a nation wept on her darkest day

As all who knew of his true worth,
Understood the great blessings to our mother earth

His life conveyed.

A monumental loss;
To our nation the greatest of all costs
Tears flowing,
As all knowing
A hero was lost this day.

We live in a far better world today,
All because of our great American hero,
This king among men who showed the way!
His way of love, his way of peace,
His road to equality beseeched,
Leading us to love and peace,
As the course he stayed.

Stop this day and look around,
Before you now as is found
Our far better world of now,
All for our children today.

Still, his great works are not done,
Look around you. The battle against racism is a long hard fought one.

Those seeds of freedom he had sown,
All planted by our great American hero,
have grown, from his dream begun.
"I've been to the mountain top and I've looked down,"

A bright future for our children he found,
As he saw a rising sun.

"Free At Last" in the kingdom of our Lord.
Let it be told,
Where hearts of pure gold

Up to heaven shall surely pass,
Forever upon this earth, this wonderful man in history shall come first

As "A King Among Men" as his dye is cast
In our Lord's eye he is "A King Among Men,"

There in our hearts ever a hero and a true friend,
to worship from the past.

Today, walking with child in hand,
Respect and ever honor this blessed man
For our world, this hero would transcend.
His gift was great my friend,
As a far better world devoid of hate
From earth and heaven to our children he would send.

Upon a mall
Close your eyes and recall,
Listen still we hear his words of freedom ring

"I Have A Dream"—A King, Among Men.

To The Entire King Family and to Our Great American Hero, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, May Our Lord Bless you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 91, on the motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 3762, the Pension Security Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 92. H. Res. 92, on final passage of H.R. 3762, the Pension Security Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".