

but, at the same time, renew our commitment to the basic truths and objectives that inspired the journey in the first place. This month and every month, we must re-dedicate ourselves to keeping America's promise.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam President, in honor of Black History Month, I have come to the floor twice this month to discuss some of the early contributions of black Americans to my home state of Oregon. Today, I come to the floor for a third time to discuss some of the changes to Oregon civil rights that occurred during the middle part of the 20th Century, at the same time similar changes were sweeping across our entire nation.

In the early 1900's, Oregon was not home to many black Americans. Eighty-five percent of Oregonians were born in the state, and the rest generally came from Canada and northern Europe. This was no accident Oregon, which had joined the Union as a "free state" had, in its constitution, technically barred black Americans from moving to the state until 1926. While it may not have been uniformly and vigorously enforced across the state, Article I, Section 35 of the Constitution of the State of Oregon read:

No free negro, or mulatto, not residing in this State at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall come, reside, or be within this State, or hold any real estate, or make any contracts, or maintain any suit therein; and the Legislative Assembly shall provide by penal laws, for the removal, by public officers, of all such negroes, and mulattoes, and for their effectual exclusion from the State, and for the punishment of persons who shall bring them into the state, or employ, or harbor them.

Thus, during the first decades of the 20th Century, Oregon was probably home to no more than 2500 black citizens, a population only one-tenth the size of Oregon's then politically active Ku Klux Klan.

The nature of race relations in Oregon changed for the better, however, when World War II created an explosion of jobs in Portland's shipyards and other defense-related industries. A large influx of black laborers immigrated to the region—primarily from Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana—and, almost overnight, ballooned Oregon's black population to more than 21,000. These new citizens forced Oregonians to reckon with the civil rights issues they had ignored for decades.

These new Oregonians immediately faced widespread discrimination in local businesses, public parks and playgrounds, and on the job. Black workers were routinely denied membership in local unions, and members of the Portland NAACP and Urban League worked diligently to organize black workers and integrate them fully into the workplace. In explaining the refusal of Harry Mills, a black longshoreman, into the International Longshoremen's

and Warehousemen's Union, Local 8, a union vice-president stated that "We are not opposed to Harry Mills. We are fighting the Negro race! We cannot open our doors to the Negro people after having kept them closed all this time."

The doors which had always been closed to black Oregonians were slowly opened after the end of the war. In 1947, a Fair Employment Practices bill was introduced in the state legislature in Salem. While soundly defeated initially, the bill was immediately resurrected by then State Representative Mark Hatfield, whose tireless efforts led to the bill's passage in 1949. In 1953, the State Public Accommodations Act was passed, guaranteeing black Oregonians access to the restaurants and public parks which had for so long denied them service.

Those two bills changed the civil rights landscape in a state which had only years before explicitly excluded black Americans in its constitution. World War II, and events across the country, served as a catalyst to that change. Oregon, which had never had a large population of black Americans, was suddenly forced to confront the civil rights demands of a growing group of citizens, and responded slowly through its laws and practices. Positive change occurred during the middle part of the last century, and more positive change, which I will discuss later in the week, was still to come.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HEROES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, in the past year, America witnessed the extremes of both tragedy and humanity. On September 11, 2001, we endured the most atrocious and devastating attacks on our soil. After such tragic events, we searched for answers and solace and found leaders and hope. Amidst the rubble and ashes, have arisen tales of heroism, courage and compassion and we, as a nation, have emerged stronger and more united. Indeed, African Americans have contributed enormously to this outcome. As we celebrate Black History Month and honor those outstanding heroes of the past, we should also take this time to recognize the leaders of the present and their outstanding efforts.

In the political arena, leadership among African Americans has transcended political and racial lines. One need look no further than to Colin Powell, our Secretary of State and Condoleezza Rice, the National Security Adviser to the President. Both have served the country ardently and tirelessly during our war against terrorism.

In times of economic uncertainty, we can look to Kenneth Chenault, the Chief Executive Officer of American Express; E. Stanley O'Neal, poised to become CEO at Merrill Lynch; and Richard Parsons, soon to become CEO at AOL Time Warner, all models of successful economic achievement and leadership.

From Washington, D.C. to Wall Street, African Americans have left an indelible impression on the face of American recovery and strength. Yet while these leaders have played their tremendous roles on the national stage, African Americans in communities across the country have made contributions of innumerable value. Let us not forget that the strength of our Nation is inextricably linked to the fabric of our communities.

In my hometown of San Francisco, Reverend Cecil Williams has served for 35 years as the Pastor of the Glide Memorial United Methodist Church. Rev. Williams was one of five students to break the race barrier at Southern Methodist University in the 1950s and accompanied Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the 1963 civil rights march. Under his leadership, the Glide Church has over 9,000 members and has become the most comprehensive nonprofit provider of human services in the city. The church maintains a wide variety of community outreach and assistance programs, such as providing people with three meals a day, 365 days a year, substance abuse treatment, support against domestic violence, job re-entry help and a free health clinic.

In Los Angeles, one can find the headquarters of Operation HOPE, Inc., America's first non-profit social investment banking organization, founded by John Bryant. John is also the chairman of the board and CEO of the community-based banking organization, which strives to bring economic self-sufficiency and revitalization to inner city communities. In 1994, John was selected by Time magazine as "One of America's 50 Most Promising Leaders of the Future" and just last year he was the recipient of Oprah Winfrey's Angel Network "Use Your Life" Award. As a result of his hard work and ingenuity, Operation HOPE, Inc. has indeed become a symbol of hope to many.

Miriam Shipp-Tolliver-El has helped educate an estimated 1,200 students during her 36 years as a teacher of children from kindergarten through eighth grade in the Oceanside Unified School District and 25 years as an adjunct professor at Palomar College in Oceanside, CA. Miriam encountered many racial barriers during her childhood in North Carolina. While in high school in the 1940s, she hoped to become a Roman Catholic nun, but no convents would accept an African American woman. Her next choice of becoming a civil rights lawyer was also unfulfilled because law schools in her area would not admit African American students. So Miriam became a teacher and a very accomplished one at that. She was a co-founder of the North County NAACP chapter in Oceanside. She also created a multicultural program in Oceanside schools and started black studies classes at the college. Just last year, at the age of 73, Miriam was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the NAACP chapter and a commendation from the city of Oceanside for her endeavors and achievements.

These are but simply a few of the African American leaders that serve as wonderful role models present in our communities. Countless others serve each day in several capacities such as doctors, counselors, police officers and municipal workers and their constant contributions have helped make our country as strong as it has ever been.

As Mary McLeod Bethune, founder of the National Council of Negro Women, stated:

If we accept and acquiesce in the face of discrimination, we accept the responsibility ourselves and allow those responsible to salve their conscience by believing that they have our acceptance and concurrence.

If the events of September 11 have proven anything, it is that we must not harbor hatred nor tolerate discrimination. Now more than ever, we must embrace our differences and learn from one another. We have proven that we can stand together, united against the face of terror and threat of evil, and overcome. That determination, spirit and resolve would not be possible without the many contributions of African Americans at both national and local levels. I applaud their achievements and encourage my fellow Californians to do the same.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in October 1999 in Houston, TX. A man was beaten and partially blinded by an attacker who believed the victim to be gay. The assailant, Roderick Brenneman, 59, was convicted of assault and sentenced to a year in jail in connection with the incident.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

TRIBUTE TO HILDA LEGG

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to honor a fine businesswoman, mother, and all-around great Kentuckian, Hilda Legg. On September 26, 2001, this body confirmed Hilda's nomination to be Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Hilda is doing a fantastic job at that post and I wish her many years of continued success.

I have been privileged to know Hilda Legg for many years. She is a native Kentuckian who has worked very hard

to improve the lives of the people of the Commonwealth. Hilda is one of those unique individuals who exudes the kind of enthusiasm and spunk that everybody wants to possess. Her energy and drive have allowed her to lead a storied life that is full of family, friends, and accomplishments. Hilda truly is one of a kind.

Hilda began her professional career as a teacher in Adair County, KY, and went on from there to work at the U.S. Department of Education during President Reagan's first term. In 1984, she jumped headfirst into the world of politics and worked on the successful Reagan-Bush presidential campaign. That same year she also helped me achieve victory in my very first Senate campaign. From 1985-1987 she proudly served the people of western Kentucky as a Field Representative in my Bowling Green office.

Hilda is most widely known and praised for her service and dedication to the people of rural Kentucky and America. Raised without running water, the difficulties facing rural Americans is something Hilda experienced firsthand as a child. As the Executive Director and CEO of the Center for Rural Development in Somerset, Kentucky, Hilda strongly promoted economic development in eastern and southern Kentucky. Her leadership at this state-of-the-art facility helped make the Center a national model for economic development in rural areas and for related educational, cultural, and recreational purposes.

Now, as Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service, Hilda is working on behalf of millions of people throughout the United States. Specifically, her Agency is responsible for helping rural Americans finance electric, telecommunications, and water projects. The RUS also provides valuable loans and grants for rural distance learning and telemedicine projects. President Bush was wise to choose Hilda for this important position and I am confident she will prove to be as good a friend to rural America as she has been to rural Kentucky.

Hilda, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, thank you for your contributions to Kentucky and this great nation. I wish you and your family the very best.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS

• Mrs. CLINTON. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to Americans who embody the extraordinary service and sacrifice that make our country great: the American Gold Star Mothers.

Formed shortly after World War I, this organization has brought together mothers who lost children during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Beirut, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf, Soma-

lia, Bosnia, Saudi Arabia and in other times and places where soldiers' lives were lost in service of our country. The American Gold Star Mothers work to promote the noble ideals for which their children fought and died. The gold star they wear is a source of pride for their families and a symbol of the sacrifice they have endured so that our Nation might remain free.

All of us who are parents know what it is like to live with the fear of losing a child, but only those who have suffered through such a loss can know just how very painful it is. Gold Star Mothers have endured such a burden and transformed their grief into an organization that serves not only the families of all who have lost loved ones in the military, but veterans everywhere, as well as our Nation as a whole. Their grace, dignity and patriotism represent the very best of America.

I have had the honor of meeting with representatives of this wonderful organization to discuss their history and their work. Words alone cannot describe how much I admire their courage and resolve. We as a Nation have an obligation to them: not only to recognize their profound sacrifice and the bravery of their lost loved ones, but to give them support as they meet the challenges of life, challenges that I am sure would be easier to bear if their children were with them today.

During this extraordinary time in our history when, once again, American forces are overseas in battle, it is fitting that we pay tribute to the soldiers who fought for the cause of freedom and democracy in earlier conflicts and to the families who have given up so much in the name of these ideals.

We must memorialize the losses that we, as a Nation, have suffered and make clear that what counts in the long run is the quality and endurance of human spirit. Nowhere has it been given fuller flower than in our country. And in no organization can the power of the human spirit be seen more clearly than in the American Gold Star Mothers.

Although we can never alleviate the pain of losing a son or daughter, we can recognize the sacrifices these families have made and ensure that they suffer no economic hardship. That is why I am proud to cosponsor S. 129, "Gold Star Parents Annuity Act," which was introduced by my colleague, and an America hero, Senator MAX CLELAND of Georgia. This legislation would provide a monthly stipend to Gold Star Parents. It can make a big difference in the lives of families who are struggling to make ends meet. But, more important, it can itself be a powerful symbol of our Nation's respect for the service and sacrifice of those who fought and died so that we might be free. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill, and in paying tribute to the American Gold Star Mothers. •