

TRIBUTE TO STANLEY J. ROBINSON: LIFE WITH AN ATTITUDE

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 3, 2003*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, March 2003 is 60 years after March 1943. The measure of Stanley J. Robinson's life is that during the month he will celebrate his 83rd birthday as well as his 60th wedding anniversary. He and wife Karlyn will remember that it was only 25 days after that wedding date of March 2, 1943, that he shipped out to war. The most important china at the wedding was not the porcelain but an assignment to fly across Africa in his B-24 with his crewmates to China. Stanley is part of what Tom Brokaw has described as "The Greatest Generation." Born in Baltimore, Stanley was a bombardier at 23 in and participated in 75 combat missions against Imperial Japan. He was credited with downing a Japanese Zero fighter plane. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal. Stanley takes pride in the fact that his B-24 did not lose a single person to enemy action, though attacked many times.

Stanley has always said that every day after his return from war is a bonus. He has lived his life with that philosophy, with zest, thoughtfulness, and care for others. In his retirement years he has for the past 18 years served as a volunteer at the Sibley Hospital.

In Judaism, a tradition also exists to mark time beyond expectation. At 83, Stanley will have a Second Bar Mitzvah at the Washington Hebrew Congregation and in the presence of family and friends. On March 8, 2003, he will be called to the Torah. His First Bar Mitzvah was in 1933, at 13 when a child assumes the religious obligations of a man. The informal tradition of the Second Bar Mitzvah is based upon the biblical measure of a life span, 70 years, as Psalm 90:10 says, "The days of our years are threescore years and ten, or even by reason of strength fourscore years; yet is their pride but travail and vanity; for it is speedily gone, and we fly away." This extension of life beyond the biblical expectation, the thirteenth anniversary year after 70, may be observed as an occasion for celebration.

Stanley Robinson and Karlyn David met when he was 17 and she was 15. It was immediately after Yom Kippur and on a street corner in Baltimore, whose precise location is now part of family lore. World War II came. He was in uniform as an officer in the U.S. Army Air Force when they were married six years later, March 2, 1943. They were a handsome pair then and remain so today. He has a full head of pure white hair.

Stanley J. Robinson has deep roots in this area. He has lived in three neighborhoods within the District of Columbia since moving here after the end of World War II. He was in business in the District of Columbia until his retirement at age 65. He was President of Union Wallpaper and Paint Company, which was founded by his father-in-law, Charles David, and operated in the District of Columbia and the suburbs for 50 years. At various times, it had stores downtown on New York Avenue and in Spring Valley, as well as Rockville, Silver Spring, and Alexandria. Union Wallpaper was, during the 1980s, sold to Duron Paint Company, where Stanley was a

vice president and also served as president of Duron's Potomac Wallcovering.

Stanley and Karlyn have three daughters, six grandchildren, and two granddaughters-in-law. All three daughters went through high school in the District of Columbia. Their oldest daughter Ellen Robinson Epstein, an oral historian and professional organizer, and her husband David Epstein, an attorney, reside in Chevy Chase. Four of the five Epstein children—Jeremy, Asher, Barak, Dina, and Kira—and two daughters-in-law, Tamar and Julie—reside in the Washington metropolitan area. They are involved in a wide range of activities including working for Microsoft, attending the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, student teaching in the DC public schools as part of a graduate program in education at GW, working for Hillel International in D.C., and practicing law. One Epstein daughter is an Admissions Officer at Columbia University and the other daughter is a student at the University of Rochester.

The other Robinson daughters are Lynn Rosenfeld, a PhD graduate from the University of Chicago who, with her daughter Hannah, lives in Birmingham. Susan Robinson Levy and her husband Sol have each had careers as producers at ABC television and reside in New York City.

TRIBUTE TO CLAUDINE BROWN

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 3, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Today I write to pay tribute to Claudine Ferguson. Mrs. Brown was born in Holmes County. After graduating from high school, despite being married and having children, Mrs. Brown finished the Manpower Development and Draught's Business College in two years.

Mrs. Brown has always stressed the importance of education in her household. She became very involved with her children's school. Mrs. Brown was then elected to serve on the Leflore County School Board, where she served for twelve and one-half years. Mrs. Brown was so successful that she won the write-in seat for serving another term on the School Board.

Mrs. Brown is very active in her community. She is the organizer, founder, and president of the Browning Civic League.

REGARDING NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 3, 2003*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to commemorate National African American History Month. Since its inception in 1926, this period has provided all Americans with a valuable opportunity to discover, cher-

ish, and reflect on the many accomplishments of African Americans. Their contributions are as vast as they are diverse. From the arts to education to public service to entertainment, African Americans have left an indelible mark on all areas of American culture and history.

During this difficult time in our nation's history, we pay special tribute this month to those African Americans serving in the United States Armed Forces. As they have in every military conflict in American history, African Americans continue to play an essential role in defending our freedoms and protecting our homeland. Over 21 percent of the United States military is African American. In the Army alone, 30 percent of enlistees are African American. We also commend the 2.6 million African American veterans who have served our nation with great valor and distinction.

Earlier this month, we lost seven courageous American explorers in the Space Shuttle Columbia tragedy. Among them was Lieutenant Colonel Michael Anderson, one of the African American astronauts in the space program. His successful rise at NASA and his scientific contributions to our world will certainly inspire a new generation of children of color to follow in his tremendous footsteps.

I encourage all Americans this month and throughout the year to recall and treasure the important contributions of African Americans to our nation's history.

COMMEMORATING THE 42ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 3, 2003*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words this afternoon about how important the Peace Corps has become to the United States' foreign relations since its inception in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy. I served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Mogadishu, Somalia from 1966-67, so I can attest to not just the great work done by my fellow volunteers, but more importantly how Peace Corps volunteers have grown into wonderful ambassadors to their host communities and countries on the United States' behalf.

Volunteers have worked in 136 countries over the past 42 years, with nearly 7,000 volunteers serving in 70 countries today. The work these dedicated men and women do is often hard, but always rewarding. They can be stationed in a city on the African coast, like I was, or a remote village in South America. Ranging from teaching school to agricultural development to health care, Peace Corps volunteers are trained to assist a community in almost every way possible and have become an invaluable part of the communities they serve.

After four decades of participating and teaching in communities on 6 continents, it is obvious that the Peace Corps has been successful beyond any expectations, helping countless communities realize the benefits of peace, freedom and economic prosperity. On its forty-second anniversary, I would like to commend the Corps and all of its volunteers for the unmatched education and service they have provided abroad and at home. I'm excited to see how far we will go in the next 42 years.