

receiving the vintage life membership include: Dharathula Millender, Dorothy Clark, Anna Connor, Dr. FranCina Conard, Delorise Webster, and Rev. Samuel Roberts. Those receiving silver life memberships include: Roosevelt Allen, Jr., Ella Bradford, Valerie Allen Broadnax, Jacqueline Hall, Esq., and Christina Sally. St. Timothy Community Church will be receiving the gold life membership and Steven Christopher Tinsley and the Youth Church at St. Timothy Community Church will receive junior life memberships.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the new life members as well as the other members of the Gary NAACP for the efforts, activities, and leadership that these outstanding men and women have championed to improve the quality of life for all residents of Indiana's First Congressional District.

#### WHY THE CRACKDOWN ON CUBA

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the following article entitled "Why the Crackdown in Cuba," by Wayne S. Smith into the RECORD.

#### WHY THE CRACKDOWN IN CUBA?

(By Wayne S. Smith)

Various newspaper articles reporting the deplorable crackdown on dissidents in Cuba have correctly noted that the situation there earlier had seemed to be inching toward somewhat greater tolerance. During his trip to Cuba in May of last year, for example, President Carter met with Cuban dissidents and in his televised speech to the nation spoke of the Varela Project, an initiative of theirs calling for greater political freedoms. And both before and after Carter's visit, many other Americans, myself included, regularly and openly met with the dissidents as part of a broad effort to expand dialogue and improve relations between our two countries.

Oswaldo Paya, the principal architect of the Varela Project, was even recently allowed to come to the United States to receive the W. Averell Harriman award from the National Democratic Institute in Washington, and from there he went on to Europe. The Cuban government may not have liked what he had to say while abroad, but he wasn't punished for it when he returned home. It did indeed seem that things might slowly be moving toward somewhat greater tolerance of dissent on the island.

Why then the recent arrest of dissidents? Is it, as some in the United States quickly posited, that Castro was simply hoping the rest of the world was so distracted by the war in Iraq, that no one would notice or react to the detention of a few dissidents in Cuba?

No, that explanation simply doesn't hold up. First of all, no one in his right mind (and whatever else he is, Castro is that) would have expected the arrest of over 80 dissidents, many of them well-known international figures, to go unremarked. The Cubans expected a firestorm, and they got it.

Second, the timing could hardly be worse from Castro's standpoint. The UN Human Rights Commission has just begun its annual deliberations to decide, among other things, whether to condemn Cuba for violations of human fights. Given the greater tolerance

discussed above, there had seemed a good chance that Cuba would not be condemned this year. The crackdown, coming just now, makes that far less likely.

Given all that, why the crackdown and why now? To answer those questions, we must first note that the greater leeway for dissent noted above came in response to the overtures of groups in the American Congress and the American public, not to any easing of the hard line on the part of the Bush Administration. Quite the contrary, its policies and rhetoric remained as hostile and as threatening as ever. It ignored all Cuban offers to begin a dialogue and instead held to an objective of regime change. As Mr. James Cason, the Chief of the U.S. Interests Section has stated publicly, one of his tasks was to promote "transition to a participatory form of government."

Now, we would all like to see a more open society in Cuba; that indeed, is what we are all working toward. But it is not up to the United States to orchestrate it. In fact, it is not up to the United States to decide what form of government Cuba should have. Cuba is, after all, a sovereign country. To the Cubans, for the chief U.S. diplomat in Cuba to seem to be telling them what kind of government they should have seemed a return to the days of the Platt Amendment.

The Bush Administration was uncomfortable with signs of greater tolerance on Castro's part, for that simply encouraged those in the United States who wanted to ease travel controls and begin dismantling the embargo. New initiatives along those lines were expected in the Congress this spring. What to do to head them off?

What the Administration did is clear enough. It ordered the Chief of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana to begin a series of high-profile and provocative meetings with dissidents, even holding seminars in his own residence and passing out equipment of various kinds to them. He even held press conferences after some of the meetings. The Administration knew that such "bull-in-the-china-shop" tactics would provoke a Cuban reaction—hopefully an overreaction. And given that the purpose was "regime change", the Cubans came to see them as "subversive" in nature and as increasingly provocative. Those arrested were not charged with expressing themselves against the state, but with "plotting with American diplomats."

The circumstances are different, but to understand Cuban sensitivities in this case, let us imagine the reaction of the U.S. Government if Cuban diplomats here were meeting with members of the Puerto Rican Independence Party to help them promote Puerto Rico's transition from commonwealth to independence. Perhaps the Attorney General would not arrest everyone involved, but I wouldn't take any bets on it.

And the beginning of the war in Iraq did play a role in the crackdown. The Cubans saw it as a signal that the United States was determined to throw its weight around and to blow away anyone it doesn't like through the unilateral use of force. As one Cuban official put it to me recently: "This new pre-emptive-strike policy of yours puts us in a new ball game, and in that new game, we must make it clear that we can't be pushed around."

It was this kind of mind set that led to the crackdown and that turned the latter into a massive overreaction. The Cubans did exactly what the Bush Administration had hoped they would do. Virtually the whole active dissident community has now not only been arrested but put on trial (or notified that they soon will be) and given extremely heavy sentences. Tragic. This is a blot that will not be easily erased and that will impede any significant progress in U.S.-Cuban

relations until there is some amelioration of conditions in Cuba. The Bush Administration meanwhile will certainly continue the pressures, and the provocations, so as to prevent any such amelioration.

It has been argued that Castro simply saw this as a propitious moment to halt dissent in Cuba, and there are doubtless some elements of truth to that argument. Castro has never liked to be criticized. Still over the past few years, he had tolerated criticism of the system. All things being equal he might have continued to do so. But the situation has changed, not just between the U.S. and Cuba, but internationally, in ways that the U.S. public is just beginning to understand.

In the dark days that lie ahead, people of good will in the United States who want to see a more normal relationship between our two countries, and to see a more open society in Cuba, should hold to the demonstrable truth that the best way to bring about both is through the reduction of tensions, the beginning of a meaningful dialogue and increased contacts. As Elizardo Sanchez, Cuba's leading human rights activist, has often put it, "the more American citizens in the streets of Cuban cities, the better for the cause of a more open society; so why do you maintain travel controls?" The policies followed by one administration after another over the past 44 years have accomplish nothing positive. True to form, the policy followed by the Bush Administration, and the clumsy tactics of the U.S. Interests Section, have produced only a crackdown. Exactly what we should not want!

#### CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CELEBRATES THE ORDER OF THE ELKS NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important work of the Central New Jersey Elks Lodges who are observing National Youth Week. This week is intended to honor the Junior Citizens of Central New Jersey with whom the Elks have worked throughout the past twelve months. The Elks Lodges work in conjunction with the schools, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and other local youth organizations to promote the principles of the Order of the Elks and those of the collaborating organizations.

The ideals celebrated by the Order of the Elks, as a part of National Youth Week, include academic achievement, volunteerism, and community service. Young people are recognized at dinners organized by the Elks Lodges to their accomplishments in these areas. Examples of events include, working with the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts to sponsor the Blue and Gold Dinner at which merit badges are distributed. The Tournament of Champions in conjunction with the schools celebrates the academic achievement of local students.

I commend the Order of the Elks for promoting these important ideals in our communities. They are reinforcing and rewarding our Junior Citizens for displaying important community values. It is only through the development of a combination of scholastic excellence and a meaningful sense of community participation that we can build strong communities for tomorrow. Clearly the Order of the Elks in

celebrating National Youth Week is doing just that.

I ask that all the members join me in congratulating the Order of the Elks for their important work with youth in Central New Jersey.

ROAD TO BE NAMED IN MEMORY  
OF LIEUTENANT HECTOR POLLA

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the fine accomplishments of the late Lieutenant Hector Polla. Lt. Polla is a decorated hero of World War II whose wartime sacrifices must be remembered. The United States Army will name the new Defense Access Road at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, after Lieutenant Hector Polla.

Hector John Polla was born in Lexington, Missouri, in 1916. He graduated from Higginsville High School and Wentworth Military Academy Junior College before heading to the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1937. Upon his graduation from West Point in 1941, Lt. Polla was deployed to the Philippines and stationed on the Bataan Peninsula. He was there when the Japanese attacked on December 8, 1941. His courage and gallantry during the defense of Bataan resulted in his being awarded the Silver Star Medal. He survived the Bataan Death March and spent nearly three years in Japanese prisoner of war camps. Survivors of the war camps praise him for the leadership, fortitude, and skill he demonstrated during the hard years of captivity. Lt. Polla died tragically in January 1945 after the Japanese ship on which he and other prisoners were being transported was bombed by American forces.

In addition to the Silver Star Medal, Polla's military medals and citations include the Purple Heart Medal, two Bronze Star Medals, the Prisoner of War Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one bronze service star, the American Defense Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award, and the Philippine Defense Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this is a fitting tribute to a man who served his country with the utmost dedication and bravery. The Lieutenant Hector Polla Road will help us remember how he and so many other soldiers have given everything to defend our country in her time of need.

THE DEDICATION OF THE  
BROOKSVILLE CEMETERY

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the work of a few historians in my Fifth Congressional District of Florida. The hard work and detailed research of these individuals resulted in a gravesite in the Brooksville City Cemetery in my district being designated as a Historical Landmark in the State of Florida.

The oldest gravesite in the Brooksville City Cemetery belongs to a woman named Char-

lotte Wynn Pyles Crum who was a member of an early Florida pioneering family and was killed shortly after the close of the Second Seminole Indian War.

Ms. Crum was traveling in the Brooksville area in 1842 along with her daughter and granddaughter when their group was fired upon by a band of Seminole Indians who were unaware of the war's end. All survived the attack except for Ms. Crum, whose death received sensationalized attention.

After much research about Ms. Crum's unusual death, the Division of Historical Resources within the Florida Department of State declared Ms. Crum's gravesite a Historical Landmark. At a ceremony this weekend, the cemetery will unveil a plaque in honor of the gravesite's distinction.

The Brooksville City Cemetery is in its own right a historical site because it is the final resting place for soldiers killed in the Civil War, the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and other national conflicts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the cemetery, the work of the Florida Historical Resources Division and all those who made this weekend's dedication possible and brought Ms. Crum's gravesite the distinction it deserves.

HONORING GLEN L. EBERLY FOR  
LIFELONG CONTRIBUTION TO  
NORTHWEST INDIANA

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I rise today to honor Glen L. Eberly for his lifelong contribution to the residents of Northwest Indiana, especially the Town of Dyer. Glen is one of the most dedicated, distinguished and committed citizens I have had the pleasure of knowing.

On Thursday, May 8, 2003, the Dyer Chamber of Commerce will host a roast in recognition of Glen's honorable service and the uncompromising loyalty he has displayed to the residents of Dyer. The community could not have picked a more appropriate date to roast Glen, as May 8th was the birth date of one of this Nation's most highly regarded presidents, Harry S Truman. Like President Truman, Glen possesses the qualities of a strong work ethic, coupled with honesty and integrity. Additionally, May 8th will forever be a notable date in history for me personally, because on May 8, 1984, I won my first democratic primary for United States Congress.

Born January 13, 1930, Glen and his family moved to Dyer 8 years later. He graduated from Dyer High School and served his country for 2 years in the United States Air Force. He went on to attend Ball State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in education. Glen began his teaching career in 1953 at Dyer High School, where he taught history. In 1961, Glen received his master's degree in education from Purdue University and continued his career at Dyer High School as a guidance counselor. In 1968, Glen was named assistant principal at Lake Central High School and subsequently became principal.

In addition to his love for education, Glen has demonstrated a sincere affection for the community in which he lives. Thus, Glen has served as a member of the Dyer Town Council for three terms. While Glen has dedicated considerable time and energy to his work, he has always made an extra effort to give back to the community. He is a charter member of the Dyer Noon Lions Club and is a past member of the Dyer Evening Lions Club. Additionally, Glen is a charter member of the Dyer Jaycees and is a charter member of the Dyer Historical Society and currently serves as its president. Glen has served the communities of Dyer, St. John and Schererville in various administrative capacities since 1984 and has been the Town Council Coordinator for the Town of Dyer since 1992. Though Glen is dedicated to his career and the community of Dyer, he has never limited his time and love for his family. Glen and his wife, Charlotte, have been happily married for 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, Glen has truly dedicated his life to the Town of Dyer, as well as all of Northwest Indiana. He is one of the finest gentlemen I know. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Glen Eberly for his outstanding devotion to Indiana's First Congressional District. His unselfish and lifelong dedication to those in need is worthy of the highest commendation, and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW  
YORK KENTUCKY DERBY WINNER—  
SAKATOGA STABLE

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the victors of the Kentucky Derby. On Saturday, May 3, the veteran jockey Jose Santos rode the gelding Funny Cide in the 129th running of the Kentucky Derby at the Louisville, Kentucky racetrack. Owned by Sakatoga Stable in Sackets Harbor, New York and trained by Barclay Tagg, Funny Cide is the first New York bred horse to win the Kentucky Derby and the first gelding to win the Derby since 1929. This is not only a victory for the owners, trainer, and rider of Funny Cide, but the entire State of New York and I wish them continued success.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT  
OFFICER JIM KELLEY

**HON. BOB BEAUPREZ**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man, Chief Warrant Officer Jim Kelley. Jim is remembered as a loving husband, wonderful father and a lifelong friend to many. Jim was an example to us all leading his life with compassion and dedication in all that he did.

A member of the 192nd Assault Helicopter Company, Jim served his tour in Vietnam 1969 through 1970. He gave thirty-three years