

EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES TO ITS PARLIAMEN-
TARIAN, THE HONORABLE
CHARLES W. JOHNSON

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the acceptance of the ill-advised attempt by the finest Parliamentarian I have ever known to tender his resignation. While I do not disagree with any of the language contained in H. Res. 651 expressing the House's gratitude to Charlie Johnson, I will vote to table the consideration of the resolution since I strongly oppose the House accepting Charlie's resignation.

Charlie Johnson has served two separate roles during his distinguished 40-year career in the Office of the Parliamentarian. First, he has steadfastly guided the proceedings of the House on a day-to-day basis by assisting the presiding officer in a fair and evenhanded manner. His objectivity, dedication to fairness, and respect for precedent have made him an invaluable asset to the people's House.

Just as importantly for the long-term continuation of the fair and consistent workings of the House, Charlie has been an educator. He has assembled what I consider to be the very best office on Capitol Hill, and clearly the most professional. Charlie and his staff work in a collegial and dedicated manner, frequently in the eye of the hurricane, and sometimes even in front of it. The Office of the Parliamentarian has historically been nonpartisan.

One of the very best things Newt Gingrich did when he was elected Speaker in 1995 was to ensure that the Rules and Precedents of the House would continue to guide the proceedings of the House. He recognized that Charlie and his staff are the institutional memory of the House. Speaker Gingrich knew it was important to have nonpartisan professionals guiding the proceedings of the House.

While Members come and go, the Office of the Parliamentarian, led by Charlie for the last decade, has continued its proud history. Charlie has continued the legacy of his mentor and friend, the late Bill Brown.

My own experience with Charlie has been gratifying and truly educational. When I was in the minority, I learned to understand and appreciate the nonpartisan nature of the Office of Parliamentarian, and of each and every member of that staff. While I'm sure Charlie has his own strong personal opinions on the great issues of the day which we debate, I do not know what those opinions are, nor, I venture, does any other Member. Those personal feelings have never been a part of the way in which Charlie carries out his professional duties.

When I became the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee in 1995, and as part of the new majority, the Committee took on the responsibility for consideration of many of the items outlined in the Contract with America. At that time, I became even more aware of the importance of the Parliamentarian and the necessity of that office being nonpartisan. A great majority of the matters in the Contract, including amendments to our founding document, the

Constitution, were considered and processed by the Judiciary Committee. Having the advice and counsel of Charlie was crucial to that endeavor. It was a difficult and heated period of leadership transition, and, through it all, Charlie maintained his impartiality, professionalism, and desire to preserve the integrity of the proceedings of the House.

Little did I know at that time that I was to find myself in a position several years later when I would need Charlie's help in an even more difficult and heated endeavor—the consideration of the impeachment of the President of the United States. Throughout those long and agonizing proceedings, Charlie was always in the background with answers to questions, and a nonpartisan professional attitude. He was a crucial part of the proceedings in the Committee and on the House floor.

During the entirety of my working relationship with Charlie, he has taken his job seriously, but not himself. He is a man with a wonderful sense of humor. That quality helped both him and the Members get through some difficult times. I know Charlie is a great fan of the one-liner. One of his favorite comedians was the late Henny Youngman of "Take my wife—Please" fame. I have it on good authority that when Henny Youngman visited the House, Charlie was given a gift of two of his joke books which Henny autographed, and which Charlie keeps right next to his House Manual. It has been said that, occasionally, Charlie has grabbed the wrong volume and based some of his rulings on the Henny Youngman book, but I doubt that.

We frequently throw around clichés in this body, but, in this case, I say without a doubt that Charlie Johnson has served his country well. He has also served well the Members of this House, the House as an institution, and the American people with distinction and dignity, and I honor him here today.

I wish Charlie and his family a long and happy retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARIANNA
RAFTOPOULOS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Marianna Raftopoulos and thank her for her dedication to Colorado as a Moffat County Commissioner. Her dedication and tireless efforts have done much to ensure a promising future for her constituents. As Marianna moves on in her career, let it be known that she leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment to the people of Moffat County and the State of Colorado.

Marianna attended Grand Junction High School and graduated from University of Colorado at Boulder. Before being elected county commissioner in 1996, she was the public relations director for Memorial Hospital in Craig, Colorado. Marianna's commitment to her community includes serving as chair of Colorado Works Allocation Committee, Yampa Valley Economic Development Commission, Yampa Valley Partners, a member of NACO Telecommunication & Technology Committee, and extensive involvement with United Way. She is also a past president of Colorado Counties In-

corporated, serving on the General Government, Tax & Finance, Transportation & Telecommunication, and Health & Human Services Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Commissioner Marianna Raftopoulos before this body of Congress and this nation, and to congratulate her on an outstanding career of public service. Her selfless dedication to her community and the people of Colorado as a Moffat County Commissioner is truly remarkable. I wish her and her husband John all the best in their future endeavors.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor LCpl Peter J. "P.J." Sora, Jr. of Londonderry, New Hampshire. He bravely served the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division as an assistant machine gunner and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal. Lance Corporal Sora made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country when the military vehicle he was riding in tragically rolled over during a training accident at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, in Twentynine Palms, California on May 4, 2004.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring LCpl Peter J. "P.J." Sora, Jr. and our other service men and women who have courageously given their own lives in order to protect and defend the democracy we enjoy in America and to extend the freedoms that come with democracy to those who live in fear and oppression worldwide.

HONORING THE TUSKEGEE AIR-
MEN AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION
IN CREATING AN INTEGRATED
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

SPEECH OF

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 417 honoring the Tuskegee Airmen and their amazing contributions during World War II and the impact they had in creating an integrated United States Air Force.

As the first African-American combat unit in the Army Air Corps, the Tuskegee Airmen helped shatter stereotypes by fighting for freedom both abroad and here at home. Through their heroism in the skies above North Africa and Europe, the Airmen demonstrated that African-Americans could be effective members of the military. Completing over 500 missions during the war, the Tuskegee Airmen destroyed over 250 enemy aircraft without losing a single American bomber. Their individual and collective acts of courage helped pave the way for the desegregation of the Army in 1948.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize four members of the Tuskegee Airmen with ties to my hometown of Baltimore,

Maryland. Alfred L. Woolridge, Gordon T. Boyd, Leroy A. Battle, and Alfred McKenzie were four individuals with separate lives and histories. Each brought unique skills to their service and each helped to form this historic group of Tuskegee Airmen. I would like to take this opportunity to speak briefly about each of these incredible men and share a bit about them with you.

Mr. Alfred L. Woolridge, a Baltimore resident, joined the Tuskegee Airmen after enlisting in the Army in 1942 and being assigned to the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama. A scientist with a master's degree in chemistry and mathematics, Mr. Woolridge worked as an aircraft engineering officer ensuring that the planes were safe to fly every morning. After leaving the Army in 1946, Mr. Woolridge worked as an analytical chemist in Maryland until 1974. He remained an active member of his Baltimore community until his death in March of 1998.

After being inducted into the Army Air Corps during World War II, Mr. Gordon T. Boyd Jr. became a bombardier and a navigator. He joined the Tuskegee Airmen after being assigned to the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Mr. Boyd ascended to the rank of First Lieutenant and is credited with helping newer cadets adjust to military life. After being honorably discharged in 1946, Mr. Boyd worked as a management specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau until his retirement in 1979. Before his death on May 5, 1995, Mr. Boyd became a charter member of the East Coast Chapter D.C. Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

Mr. Leroy A. Battle was a jazz musician who played with Billie Holiday before he was drafted into the Army in 1943. He volunteered to join the Tuskegee Airmen and soon became a bombardier and a navigator. On April 5, 1945, Mr. Battle along with 100 other airmen, defied orders by attempting to desegregate the officer's club at Freeman Field in Seymour, Indiana. The Freeman Field Incident played an important role in African-American attempts to combat racism in the Armed Forces and eventually paved the way for President Truman's order to desegregate the Army in 1948. After being honorably discharged from the Army, Mr. Battle spent 29 years teaching before retiring in 1978. He continues to be an active member of his community by speaking out about his experiences as a Tuskegee Airman.

Mr. Alfred McKenzie joined the Tuskegee Airmen after being drafted into the Army in 1942. After completing advanced training, Mr. McKenzie became a B-25 pilot. He was sent to Freeman Field in Indiana where he later joined Mr. Battle and 100 other airmen in attempting to desegregate the officer's club. After World War II ended, Mr. McKenzie continued to fight for the cause of civil rights. After being passed over for a promotion numerous times at the Government Printing Office, McKenzie filed a class action lawsuit. The suit resulted in an order to end discrimination in promotions and a \$2.4 million award in back pay to over 300 people. He continued to work for various civil rights causes until his death on March 30, 1998.

These four men exemplified the bravery of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen. They served their country both on the battlefield and off and were valued members of their Maryland communities. Mr. Speaker I am honored to speak today on behalf of H. Con. Res. 417 honoring all of the Tuskegee Airmen including

these four gentlemen. At a time in our history when we mark the unbelievable accomplishments of the Greatest Generation, dedicate the new World War II Memorial, and commemorate the 60th Anniversary of D-Day—I think it is only fitting that we recognize these men and their fellow airmen of Tuskegee.

A TRIBUTE TO TAIWAN VICE
PRESIDENT ANNETTE LU

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, this weekend the eyes of the world will return to the beaches of Normandy as we commemorate the 60th Anniversary of D-Day, a seminal event in the liberation of Europe from tyranny that ensured peace and prosperity for generations. And as it turns out, D-Day was not the only event sixty years ago that would have a major impact on world history and the cause of freedom and justice. On June 7th, we will also celebrate the 60th birthday of Annette Lu, who has become one of most tireless fighters for democracy, women's rights and equality, and who has just been re-elected vice president of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, Vice President Lu's understanding of human rights is rooted in part in her graduate studies in the United States. She received her Masters degrees in Law from both the University of Illinois and Harvard University. After that, it would have been relatively easy for Annette Lu to stay in the United States to practice law, or to pursue a quiet legal career in Taiwan. Instead, she returned home in 1978 to run for Taiwan's National Assembly. In 1979, the authoritarian regime threw Annette Lu in jail because she had the temerity to make a speech commemorating International Human Rights Day. She spent five years and four months behind bars, but she took up the cause again immediately upon her release.

Out of prison, Annette Lu continued her fight for democracy and international recognition for Taiwan. As a local official, as the National Policy Advisor to former President Lee Teng-hui, and as a leading member of the Legislative Yuan—Taiwan's highest lawmaking body—Annette Lu fought successfully for a greater role for her homeland in international affairs, for women's rights in Taiwan and around the world, and for adherence to internationally-recognized human rights.

In May 2000, Annette Lu was elected Taiwan's first female Vice President, which is no small achievement. Vice President Lu has since traveled the world demonstrating Taiwan's efforts and achievements in human rights, democracy, and humanitarianism. She has built bridges to the people of Tibet and India, and for her efforts has received the Peace Corps Academy's World Peace Prize.

In short, Annette Lu has made a great contribution to Taiwan and to the international community, thanks to her steadfast beliefs and her unwillingness to remain silent in the face of injustice.

In that same spirit, Mr. Speaker, we here in Washington should take meaningful steps to end a continuing injustice: the manner in which our nation treats senior officials from

Taiwan, including the President and Vice President. When former President Lee Teng-hui was invited to give a speech at his alma mater, Cornell University, in 1995, it was my great honor to win passage of a resolution demanding that the State Department grant him a visa. Despite fierce resistance from an administration reluctant to defy China, we won that battle, and the world kept spinning after President Lee's visit to Ithaca. Now that Taiwan's Presidential elections are past, it is high time that President Chen and Vice President Lu be welcomed in Washington, DC.

This coming Sunday in San Francisco, I will have the enormous privilege of presenting Annette Lu with an award for her untiring efforts in the cause of human rights, her devotion to equal rights for women, and the personal sacrifices she has made to help uplift those who are suffering injustice. I will bring her a copy of this statement as a sign of the respect that she commands in the U.S. Congress. But Mr. Speaker, the day is coming when the Vice President and President of Taiwan will be able to visit our nation's capital and we in this body should do all that we can to hasten that historic day.

RECOGNIZING BRANDYWINE
HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL MARCH-
ING BAND

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Brandywine Heights High School Marching Band. The Marching Band was selected as one of the few bands to represent the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the official dedication of the World War II Memorial over Memorial Day weekend.

The Brandywine Heights High School Marching Band is unique in that it is one of few bands in the country that is modeled after a Revolutionary war music regiment. The Marching Band is steeped in this tradition and is able to maintain its revolutionary style by wearing authentic reproductions of Continental army uniforms and by marching with precise military bearing. The only songs performed by the marching band are patriotic, again keeping with the tradition set forth by the Continental soldiers in the 18th century.

The Brandywine Heights High School Marching Ensemble consists of four parts: the Marching Band, the Fife and Drum Corps, the Band Front, and the Bugle Corps. The Marching Band consists of 70–80 musicians and to maintain its military bearing, the band strives for not only for uniformity in dress, but also in marching. The goal of the Marching Band is to be recognized as a single unit rather than as individuals. In order to achieve this, the band performs the "Drill of Attention," which is a check list to focus band members and assemble them with correct stance and posture.

The Fife and Drum Corps consist of ten to fifteen fifes and three drummers. They play a selection of fife tunes that were played over 200 years ago by their revolutionary counterparts. As one of the very few fife bands in the country, the corps has done much to enhance the image of the band as a whole.

The Band Front consists of an honor guard, flag corps, and majorette squad. The honor