

Reverend Jackson has served many congregations during his lengthy career, including First Baptist Church in Florida; First Baptist Church in Selma; Carolina Baptist Church in Andalusia; Bethel Heights Baptist Church in Gatesville, Texas; and since 1979, Lakeview Baptist Church in Auburn as its Pastor.

Reverend Jackson has also helped train ministerial students, and has served on the Board of Samford University. In addition, he has traveled around the world on mission trips, and is widely recognized in the Southern Baptist Convention for his teachings and his accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Rev. Al Jackson on this important day, and I thank the House for their attention in honoring a man who has lived his life as a shining example for us all.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING SUSAN FRENO

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 21, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, Susan Freno is an exceptional individual worthy of merit and recognition;

Whereas, Susan Freno has been acknowledged by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation as the 2004 Corrections Officer of the Year recipient, therefore, receiving the DRC Ronald C. Marshall Award;

Whereas, Susan Freno should be commended for her excellence, for her professionalism and integrity, and for her ongoing efforts to effect others lives in a positive and in a changing way; and

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Susan Freno for her outstanding accomplishment.

IN HONOR OF ANGENAÉ; MARIE ZAAHIR-BEY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 21, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the achievements of Angenae Marie Zaahir-Bey upon her selection as the Girls Inc. "Girl of the Year Award Winner" in Delaware.

Girls Inc. is a nonprofit youth organization dedicated to inspiring our Nation's young women to reach their goals. On this, its 50th anniversary, I take great pride in honoring Girls Inc. and the wonderful young Delawareans who have achieved success through the guidance of this special program.

As this award demonstrates, Ms. Zaahir-Bey is a determined young woman who serves as a role model to all of her peers. She is an outstanding member of Girls Inc. and is always willing to help others—going above and beyond what is expected. Ms. Zaahir-Bey recently graduated from P.S. Dupont Elementary School and received a 3.9 grade point average for the year. In addition, she received the "Young Brandywine Artist Award," high hon-

ors, and "Reader of the Month" in the Delaware Tech National M.S. Society Readathon.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Ms. Zaahir-Bey and Girls Inc. for their dedication to improving and enhancing the lives of women. Ms. Zaahir-Bey's involvement with Girls Inc. and selflessness serves as an example to us all. She is an exemplary young Delawarean.

TO HONOR THE FALLEN FROM SOUTH FLORIDA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 21, 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the heroes who have given their lives in our fight against world terrorism. Every generation of Americans has been asked to leave their farms and towns and cities so that freedom could be spread throughout the world. As a citizen of this great Nation, I honor the sacrifices of the military in Iraq, Afghanistan, and all over the world who have given their lives in the fight against terrorism, and those who before them paid the ultimate price for freedom.

Like their forefathers in World War II, Floridians who have fought in the name of freedom are selfless citizens who answered the call of duty. Among these are my husband Dexter Lehtinen, who served this country bravely in the Vietnam War, and my stepson, Aviator 1st Lieutenant Douglas Hooper Lehtinen, who is currently serving in the Marines. Special mention is due to honor the six soldiers from South Florida who lost their lives in our war against world terrorism. I, and all of the citizens in my district, am thankful for their service.

This Nation can never repay the debt owed to these six men; their honor and service, however, will never be forgotten. In Operation Enduring Freedom, South Florida lost Army Specialist Pedro Lazaro Pena-Suarez, who was 35 when he lost his life in Kuwait on November 7, 2002. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, we lost Marine Corporal Armando Ariel Gonzalez, who was 25 when he gave his life in Iraq on April 14, 2003. Army Private First Class Charles M. Sims was only 18 when he perished in Baghdad on October 3, 2003. Army Sergeant Edmond L. Randle was 26 when he gave his life in the north of Taji on January 17, 2004. Army 1st Lieutenant Christopher J. Kenny was 32 when he fell in Baghdad on May 3, 2004, and Army Private First Class Jeremy Ricardo Ewing, who was 22, gave his life in Baghdad on April 29, 2004. Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, based in Opa Locka, perished on April 24, 2004 in the Northern Persian Gulf.

These men remind us that freedom is indeed not free. We must forever be vigilant to the rise of tyranny and be willing to fight it wherever it exists. We must never take for granted our democratic government. We must remember that in places like Cuba, North Korea, and Iran, human beings are still oppressed by horrible dictators. Let us fight these regimes until freedom rings in every nation of the world.

God bless all the men and women in our armed forces who have given their lives so that others may live in freedom.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 21, 2004

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, May 17, 2004 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the landmark "Brown v. Topeka Board of Education" decision ordering the desegregation of U.S. schools. This court ruling effectively denied the legal basis for segregation in Kansas and 20 other States with segregated schools and forever changed race relations in the United States. Brown v. Board laid the precedent for ending all segregation. Very few Supreme Court decisions have impacted our nation's history as much as Brown v. Board.

This important anniversary was celebrated in Topeka, Kansas with the formal opening of a new national park—the Brown v. Board National Historic Site at Topeka's once-segregated Monroe Elementary School. In conjunction with the fiftieth anniversary celebrations, Washburn University hosted an interdisciplinary academic conference, "Telling the Story: Narrating Brown v. Board," May 18–20, 2004, and invited proposals for twenty-minute paper presentations on the full range of themes suggested by the Brown decision. Professor of History, Philip A. Grant, Jr. of Pace University was accepted to deliver his paper entitled "Midwestern Press Reactions to the 1954 'Brown' Decision," at the conference "Telling the Story: Narrating Brown v. Board" at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas on May 19, 2004.

Since the Supreme Court overturned Plessy v. Ferguson and declared an end to legal segregation, this country has made great progress, especially in the area of racial relations, but there is more work to be done. In order for us to continue to make this country a better place in which to live, we must remember the past. I believe that Professor Grant has brought to light the importance of Brown v. Board as seen by newspapers of the Midwest at the time of the decision. I ask that his entire paper be made a part of the RECORD so that all the American people, not just those who attended the conference last month, may have the benefit of his historical insight. [Paper recited at the "Telling the Story: Narrating Brown v. Board" conference at Washburn University, May 19, 2004]

MIDWESTERN PRESS REACTION TO THE 1954 "BROWN" DECISION

(By Philip A. Grant, Jr.)

On May 17, 1954 the United States Supreme Court issued its historic "Brown v. Board of Education" decision. In a unanimous opinion the nation's highest tribunal decreed segregation in public elementary and secondary schools unconstitutional. By every standard the "Brown" ruling ranked as one of the most significant developments in the long and eventful history of our federal court system. Indeed there is ample evidence to warrant the conclusion that the "Brown" decision generated more controversy than any previous Supreme Court verdict.

The "Brown" decision attracted prime news coverage throughout the Midwest, a twelve state region extending from Lake Erie in northeastern Ohio to the Kansas-Colorado line more than thirteen hundred miles to the West. Moreover, a substantial majority of midwestern newspapers opted to editorialize on the "Brown" ruling.

Among the daily publications printing editorials on the "Brown" decision were the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Cincinnati Enquirer, Detroit Free Press, Indianapolis Star, Chicago Tribune, Milwaukee Journal, Saint Louis Post-Dispatch, Kansas City Star, Des Moines Register, and Minneapolis Tribune. These newspapers circulated in ten of the Midwest's major population centers.

The Plain Dealer asserted that for a number of states "a greater challenge in the form of 'thall shall not' could hardly have been issued than the Supreme Court ruling against Negro segregation in public schools." Convinced that the Supreme Court "could not have ruled otherwise than it did on the basic issue," the Plain Dealer believed that the Negroes had "earned the right to be treated as first-class citizens and earned it the hard way."

Perceiving that the "Brown" decision "probably will prove to be the most important judicial finding in the field of racial relations in our entire national history," the Enquirer ascertained that it would "work profound changes in a substantial part of the United States—not confined to the South by any means." The Cincinnati newspaper concluded: "What the justices have done is simply to act as the conscience of the American nation."

The Free Press, definitely endorsing the thrust of the "Brown" decision, claimed that the people of the country "who cherish the belief that the American system of democracy is a vital, living organic philosophy, steadily but inexorably, advancing toward the ideals of the founders of the Union, will be heartened by the unanimous opinion of the Supreme Court." While conceding that the "Brown" ruling would "not of itself abolish prejudice nor raise all Americans to the exalter status of men created in the image of their maker," the Free Press maintained: "But it does mark a step in that direction, a step toward fulfillment of man's dream that all men are created equal, and that under a more perfect government of laws they can attain to dignity and all its inherent rights."

Extolling the Supreme Court for having upheld "a vital principle of individual equality under the law," the Star argued that segregation was "morally, practically and economically evil" and denied "the brotherhood of man upon which our whole form of constitutional government is based." While concerned that no provision of the Constitution granted the federal courts "the right to establish or control educational systems," the Star contended:

"Morally, we believe the Supreme Court was right in calling for an end to segregation. It is fortunate that this decision was unanimous for the full authority of the court will carry great weight with the Southern states, who now oppose its view. We hope the states opposing this ruling will accept it in good spirit and earnestly try to meet its demands. We hope Federal authorities will give the states time, and sympathetic assistance in making this conversion. And we hope that any demagogue, white or colored, who tries to inflame public opinion by using this explosive issue will be properly rebuffed by the overwhelming majority of the good people in our states."

While admitting that it was doubtful whether the South would abide by the court's decision, the Tribune was optimistic that the unanimous ruling "should help a good deal to discourage resistance to the finding or attempts to evade its plain meaning." The Tribune, commending the Supreme Court for having "struck down segregation in the public schools of the United States," declared:

"The principle established by this decision is not that anybody has to give up any of his

prejudices, no matter how desirable it might be that he do so. The principle is the much simpler one that the state governments, north and south, must regard all men as created equal so far as opportunities at the disposal of the state are concerned. The idea may appear dangerously novel to some citizens, but the Supreme Court didn't invent it. Indeed, they can be said to have borrowed it from a distinguished Virginian named Thomas Jefferson."

The Journal, analyzing the "Brown" ruling as the "most far reaching court decision on the racial issue since emancipation," anticipated that the decision would "revolutionize the school set-up in the South and, in effect, the racial relationships there are bound to be felt outside the classrooms." Surmising that the consequences of the "Brown" verdict would impact the entire country, the Journal stated:

"... It apparently knocked the last legal prop from any official discrimination against Negroes or other minority groups because of color, race or religion. It banishes any legal recognition of second class citizenship for the members of such groups."

Impressed that the "Brown" ruling was unanimous and written in direct and persuasive language, the Milwaukee newspaper was pleased that there "could be no doubt about the intent or the logic and reasoning supporting the decision."

Feeling that there was "no need to say just how important" the "Brown" ruling was, the Post-Dispatch also emphasized that there was "no point in explaining it today as the most momentous since the Dred Scott decision handed down almost a century ago, on the eve of the Civil War." The Post-Dispatch, pointing out that the substance of the "Brown" verdict was of "transcendent importance," predicted that the decision would have its "impact in one way or another on every community, in every city" and "in less time than we are apt to think around the world."

The Star, recognizing that the "Brown" decision "sets the goal" of ending racial segregation in all public schools, stressed that the principle involved in the Supreme Court ruling "now controls for the future" and "is the law of the land." Warning that there "can be no cheating or blocking" the objective proclaimed by the Supreme Court, the Star offered the following appraisal:

"The breakdown in segregation since World War II has come a step at a time and generally without friction. The Supreme Court's ruling basically is no more drastic than the trend of our times that produced it. Now that the principle is established the future calls for more of the good sense and understanding of racial problems that has generally prevailed."

Praising the Supreme Court for having "begun the erasure of one of American democracy's blackest marks," the Register rejoiced that the nation's "basic law on public education has been brought into line with the ringing spirit of freedom and equality in the Declaration of Independence." While gratified that the "Brown" decision decreed that racial segregation constituted a denial of equal educational opportunities, the Register asserted:

"The Supreme Court decision will ease America's conscience. The strong cry of 'hypocrite' from colored folks all over the world has been heard in Des Moines and in Mobile. But America's conscience will not be cleared until her practice measures up to the noble words of the court decision."

The Tribune, sensing that the "Brown" ruling would "be welcomed and embraced by all who believe in the constitutional guarantee of equal rights meaning just that, and nothing less," suspected that the decision

would "echo far beyond our borders and may greatly influence our relations with dark-skinned people the world over." Concerned that the "Brown" verdict posed "one troublesome immediate question," the Tribune asked: "What will be done in the southern states where political leaders have been most militant in opposing the end of segregation?" While wondering whether the political spokesmen of the South would "persist in their attitudes," the Minneapolis newspaper was "inclined toward the optimistic view."

There was a consensus within the ranks of the major newspapers of the Midwest that the Supreme Court had acted wisely and responsibly in issuing the historic "Brown" ruling. While newspapers tended to analyze the "Brown" decision from somewhat different perspectives, they all agreed that the objective proposed by the Supreme Court was entirely consistent with the nation's long overdue quest for racial equality. In expressing their attitudes on an issue of overriding importance the daily publications of the Midwest were contributing to a dialogue with their readers and historians of the future.

RECOGNIZING BRIGADIER GENERAL STEPHEN J. CURRY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 21, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Brigadier General Stephen J. Curry will retire from the Army on June 28. BG Curry is currently serving as the Commandant of the United States Army Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

BG Curry's first major duty assignment came in October, 1972. He was assigned Tank Platoon Leader, B. Company, 6th Battalion, 32d Armor, 4th Infantry Division, at Fort Carson, Colorado. He stayed at Fort Carson through October, 1974, by which time he had attained the rank of 1st Lieutenant.

In 1978, then-Captain Curry attended the Military Police Officer Advanced Course at Fort McClellan, Alabama. Upon completion of the course he was assigned to Germany as Commander, 615th Military Police Company, 793d Military Police Battalion, VII Corps, United States Army Europe and Seventh Army.

Captain Curry continued his professional military education from August, 1982, through June, 1983, at the United States Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He followed this with a promotion to Major and consecutive duties at Fort Hood, Texas. In 1986, he moved to Washington, DC, to serve as Personnel Staff Officer for the United States Army Military Police Operations Agency. He went on to serve as Military Assistant in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Logistics, during which time he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. He then went on to serve in Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, and, as a Colonel, Operation Joint Endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, Stephen Curry was promoted to Brigadier General in August, 2000. His retirement ends the career of a recipient of the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army