

for contracting to purchase ten million tons of coal from South Africa (12977). He was among the first five persons arrested at the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C. in the "Free South Africa" campaign (1984). He co-chaired the 1990 Nelson Mandela visit to Atlanta following his release from prison and awarded Mandela the SCLC/Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Rights Award. He was keynote speaker at the African Renaissance Dinner in Durban in 1998 honoring Mandela's retirement. He was invited to keynote the dedication of a school and hospital in East Germany honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. He led a peace delegation to the Middle East and met with the president of Lebanon and Yassir Arafat to seek justice in the Middle East by non-violent means. He led protests against the dumping of toxic waste in Warrenton County, N.C., and was arrested twice in this campaign which gave birth to the environmental justice movement.

He served on the board of directors of MARTA (Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority) for 23 years and was chairman for three years (during the '96 Olympics), and was instrumental in securing millions in contracts for minority businesses. Since retiring from the pulpit in 1997 and SCLC in January 1998, he has helped black farmers secure a federal court decree valued at \$2 billion against the Department of Agriculture for discrimination. He assisted black auto dealers to seek redress from discrimination claims against auto manufacturers. He has supported black concert promoters in their fight against exclusionary policies of talent agencies. As convener of the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda (CPA), he is active in election reform and voter empowerment, economic justice, criminal justice reform, including alternative sentencing and a moratorium on the death penalty.

He is married to Evelyn Gibson Lowery, an activist in her own right, founder of SCLC/WOMEN and is the father of five children.

Lowery has received numerous awards, including an NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award and the Martin Luther King Center Peace Award. Essence has twice named him as one of the Fifteen Greatest Black Preachers. Lowery is married to Evelyn Gibson Lowery, an activist in her own right.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained in meetings with the regional leaders of my Congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcalls 282, 283, 284 and 285.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LITERACY, EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION ACT (LERA)

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Literacy, Education and

Rehabilitation Act (LERA). The purpose of LERA is to reduce recidivism and the victimization and costs, fiscal and social, associated with such recidivism. Studies have shown that inmate participation in education, vocational and job training, prison work skills development, drug abuse, mental health and other treatment programs, all reduce recidivism, significantly.

The Federal prison population has increased more than 7-fold over the past 20 years. In 1984, the population was about 25,000 prisoners. Today, there are more than 175,000 prisoners, and the population is growing. According to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the primary reasons for this tremendous growth has been longer sentences resulting from the 1984 Sentencing Reform Act and mandatory minimum sentences. The Sentencing Reform Act established determinate sentencing, abolished parole, and dramatically reduced good time credits. Other sentencing policy by Congressional or administrative action has increasingly limited the discretion of judges and prison officials to impact sentence lengths or confinement options.

During the same period, the annual number of prisoners returning to communities has also increased several fold. Currently, about 40,000 prisoners leave Federal prisons each year. The question is whether they leave prison better prepared to lead law-abiding lives, or in a worse position to do so. The addition of a felony record and a Federal prison stay is not, in and of itself, likely to add to a person's job or social development prospects.

Unfortunately, the elimination of incentives such as parole, good time credits and funding for college courses, means that fewer inmates participate in and excel in literacy, education, treatment and other development programs. LERA provides incentives and recognitions for achievement by giving the BOP Director the discretion to grant up to 60 sentence credit days per year to an inmate for successful participation in literacy, education, work training, treatment and other development programs. LERA will not only prevent crime victimizations, but also save taxpayers money. Many sentences are excessively long because mandatory sentencing policies do not allow sentencing judges the discretion to distinguish between hardened criminals and those amenable to rehabilitation and preparation for successful re-entry. LERA allows offenders to distinguish themselves.

FREEDOM FOR FABIO PRIETO LLORENTE

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Fabio Prieto Llorente a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Prieto Llorente is an independent journalist for the independent press agency of Isla de Pinos. Instead of the false propaganda mandated by the regime, he writes about the reality of the reprehensible repression inflicted on the Cuban people by the dictatorship. Because of his belief in truth in print, truth for the people of Cuba and truth to enable the world

to better comprehend the daily horrors of totalitarian Cuba, Mr. Prieto Llorente was a target of the totalitarian regime.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Prieto Llorente received threats and warnings from Castro's thugs in order to prevent him from pursuing his career as a truthful journalist. He was detained in January 2002 simply because he reported on an opposition demonstration. On March 19, 2003, Mr. Prieto Llorente was arrested because he published the facts about the tyrannical regime.

He was arrested as part of the despicable island wide crackdown of that month on peaceful pro-democracy activists. In a sham trial, Mr. Prieto Llorente was sentenced to 20 years in the infernal totalitarian gulag. While incarcerated in the grotesque squalor of the atrocious gulag, he has been held in solitary confinement, confined with common criminals, suffered from violent headaches and lack of medical care. Let us be very clear, Mr. Prieto Llorente is languishing in unspeakable squalor because he published the truth.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that journalists such as Mr. Prieto Llorente are locked in dungeons for writing and publishing the facts about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. At the dawn of the 21st Century, it must no longer be acceptable for anyone in the world, anywhere in the world, to be locked in a gulag for writing the truth. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Fabio Prieto Llorente and every prisoner of conscience languishing in the Cuban dictatorship's abhorrent gulag.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL DEDICATION A SUCCESS; WEEKEND OF MAY 29, 2004

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the staff of the American Battle Monuments Commission and the World War II Project for all their efforts in ensuring a very successful dedication of the World War II National Memorial: General P.X. Kelley, Chairman, American Battle Monuments Commission; Major General John Herrling, Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission; Mr. Kenneth Pond, Executive Director, American Battle Monuments Commission; Mr. Mike Conley, Associate Executive Director, National World War II Memorial Project; Mr. Bob Patrick, Director, National World War II Memorial Dedication; Mr. Dick Couture, Director, Marketing and Member Services, National World War II Memorial; Ms. Betsy Glick, Director, Communications, National World War II Memorial Project; and Mr. Barry Owenby, Project Executive, National World War II Memorial Project.

These individuals, along with their staffs, worked untold months to ensure that the weekend of May 29, 2004, will live on in the hearts of the veterans and families of the "Greatest Generation."

More than 150,000 people attended the May 29, 2004, dedication ceremony of the first national memorial built to honor all of the Americans who served their country during World War II. Millions more were able to watch the

dedication through live television feeds to the national broadcasting networks, the History Channel, and C-Span.

Additional events throughout the weekend drew large crowds who gathered for reunions and celebrations. A four-day National World War II Reunion held in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage drew over 300,000 people, and three two-hour ceremonial and musical performances held at the MCI Center were sold out. A Service of Celebration at the Washington National Cathedral was well attended by military and civilian clergy and World War II dignitaries.

Mr. Speaker, the enthusiasm, performance, and commitment of all the staff at the American Battle Monuments Commission, the National WWII Memorial Project, and the National WWII Memorial Dedication do not go unnoticed, and I thank them for their exceptional work on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

HONORING SAUK CITY

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sauk City as it celebrates its sesquicentennial. Sauk City is Wisconsin's oldest incorporated village; it was founded in 1854, just 6 years after the great state of Wisconsin.

This scenic part of my district is situated on the beautiful Wisconsin River and attracts thousands of visitors each year to boat, hike, camp, and bike. Sauk City's great outdoors provide not only a wonderful backdrop for leisure activities, but also have proved to sustain this community and its strong investment in agricultural trade.

Sauk City can pride itself on being a community which has always placed an emphasis on the safety of its residents. It is home to Wisconsin's oldest-standing fire station and volunteer fire department; Sauk City is also a member of the oldest joint law enforcement agency in our state.

I am honored to be participating in Sauk City's sesquicentennial festivities, which will kick off with a parade through town, complete with horse-drawn carriages, old tractors, classic cars, and floats depicting life in Sauk City from 1854 to today. Residents will be able to see scenes of old school rooms and a quilting bee and veterans will be driving authentic military vehicles. The parade will conclude at August Derleth Park, where community members can view circus wagons from the Circus World Museum, see horses pulling a Leinenkugel Beer Wagon, watch cloggers, singers, jugglers, and Mexican and Latin-American dancing demonstrations. There will even be a beard contest and a hot dog-eating contest for those who feel particularly competitive. A fireworks display will conclude the festivities.

This celebration of 150 years for Sauk City demonstrates the strength of this closely-knit community and offers the promise of continued stability in the future.

CONGRATULATING MACARTHUR HIGH SCHOOL

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate MacArthur High School for receiving the Intel/Scholastic Twenty-First Century Schools of Distinction Award. Located in my district of Irving, Texas, MacArthur High School received the award announced yesterday by Intel Corporation. The school will receive a \$25,000 grant from the Intel Foundation, in addition to technology tools and assistance.

Mr. Speaker, this is truly an honor for everyone at MacArthur High School who participated in this highly competitive contest and chosen as one of two recipients as the "Best of the Best". Recipients were selected for their performance in comprehensive programs exhibiting excellence in the use of technology, parental and community involvement, professional development, teamwork and high academic standards.

Each student at MacArthur is issued a school-issued laptop and access to a co-op curriculum, which includes work study and advanced placement programs, as well as concurrent enrollment at a nearby college. Teamwork, leadership programs, experimental lab activities and interactive student presentations are just a few examples of how these students make learning an adventure. For the past four years, the school has received the state's highest academic rating.

It has been discussed on numerous occasions and in numerous venues that the United States will not be able to lead—or for that matter, successfully compete—in the global economy if we cannot put a stop to the continuing shortage of highly qualified scientific and technology brainpower in this country.

This award is of particular significance, as I have long championed the need for more emphasis in science and math education, particularly for young children. I believe these students and others like them will become tomorrow's leaders in the fields of science and technology. Showing students the importance and the value of the science and technology fields is a life long process. It cannot happen overnight. It begins here and now. I implore our community leaders to also encourage science education in young men and women.

I would like to commend the Intel Foundation and Intel CEO Craig Barrett for their leadership and commitment to this initiative. The additional contributions of their corporate partners should also be acknowledged.

Mr. Speaker, again, I congratulate the students, teachers, principals and parents of MacArthur High School on this distinguished honor.

TRIBUTE TO WALLACE FOWLER

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who embodies philanthropy.

Wallace Fowler has worked for years growing the business communities of rural America. His successes are many, but it is his unabashed willingness to give back to his community that demands recognition.

Mr. Fowler was educated in Arkansas and has worked in The Natural State since the 1950's. Today, he serves as Chairman or vice-chairman for a half-dozen companies in Arkansas. He sits on several civic commissions, planning associations, and development councils. His list of honors is long and distinguished.

Blessed with an appreciation of local and rural business communities, Mr. Fowler has dedicated his life to growing rural America one business at a time. As Chairman of several local banks, he knows better than most how to give a helping hand when it's needed. More importantly he has learned rural America is capable of achieving its goals if given a chance.

He has been awarded most recently with the Arkansas State University (ASU) Indian Club's Distinguished Service Award, the Jonesboro, Arkansas, University Rotary Club's Vocational Excellence Award and ASU College of Business' Executive of the Year. These awards, along with the several others he has earned, are ample proof of his unrelenting drive and his strength of character; but they do not accurately depict his generosity.

On behalf of the Congress, I extend the utmost respect and thanks to a man who not only grew businesses and communities through his professional life, but also gave his personal time to the same goals. Mr. Fowler is a devout family man and a distinguished Arkansan and I am honored to recognize him, a great friend, in this Congress.

IN HONOR OF RAFAEL LÓPEZ

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the great young leaders I have had the privilege to know and work with. Rafael López of Watsonville, California, will be leaving his post as founding Executive Director of First 5 Santa Cruz County to attend Harvard University and pursue a Master's degree in Public Policy and Administration.

Rafael is a native of Watsonville, where his family worked as migrant agriculture workers. One of the many noteworthy facts about his life is that he was the first in his family to graduate from both high school and college. Rafael graduated from Watsonville High School and attended Vassar College in New York and the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he earned a degree with honors in American Studies and was awarded a Distinguished College Service Award. Rafael's resume reflects his deep commitment to his community and our nation: an internship with a Member of Congress, staff member of the UCSC Chicano Latino Research Center; Coordinator for Residential Education at Merrill College, UCSC; working with groups such as the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, the El Andar Foundation, the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County, the City of Watsonville, the County of Santa Cruz, the list goes on and on.