

Navy Cross. His medal came nearly a half-century after he and his African American shipmates on Intrepid's Gun Tub #10 shot down a Japanese kamikaze plane. However, his odyssey began October 27, 1944, when the captain of the Intrepid, Joseph Bolfer, recommended all seven survivors for the Navy Cross, just short of the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award and conducted meritorious mast on board the ship for the men. Yet, when the commendations were sent on to Washington, they came back, with the men being given only Bronze Stars, or lower medals with no apparent explanation for the change.

Notwithstanding Swann's long, arduous and lonely court battle to receive the belated honor, it wasn't until 1997 that another of his shipmates Navy Petty Officer Robert Jones, by then 71, and a resident of Newport News, Virginia received his Navy Cross, again more than 50 years afterward in a stately ceremony held at the Capitol Building in Washington, DC, hosted by Congressman ROBERT "BOBBY" SCOTT (D-VA).

Furthermore, family testimonies revealed America in 1951 prior to the Brown versus the Board of Education decision was a very different place when Sgt. Charlton, who would have been 22, had he lived to his birthday, July 24, distinguished himself in battle to such an extent that he earned his nation's highest recognition for valor—the Medal of Honor. However, when his body was returned from Korea, his family was denied the right to bury his remains in Arlington National Cemetery with other Medal of Honor recipients. Sgt. Charlton was a war hero, but Cornelius Charlton was black.

Moreover, it wasn't until 1990, when the American Legion spearheaded an effort to locate the graves of all Medal of Honor recipients. Through their efforts Charlton's final resting place was identified as Bryant Memorial Park, which had become overgrown.

Yet, equally poignant, family testimonies revealed that it wasn't until 1997, a half century since WWII, and President Harry Truman who stood on the White House grounds and awarded 28 United States Medals of Honor to white soldiers for their outstanding valor that black soldiers who were denied the recognition accorded their white counterparts, were awarded the same honor—the Medal of Honor. During a White House ceremony former President Clinton presented the nation's highest military award for bravery to seven black WWII heroes, six of which were awarded posthumously. The only living veteran awarded the medal of honor during the ceremony was 77-year-old Vernon Baker, of St. Maries, Idaho. The other heroes finally awarded the Medal of Honor were: Edward A. Carter, Jr., John R. Fox, Wily F. James, Jr., Ruben Rivers, Charles L. Thomas, and George Watson. Attending the ceremony was retired Army General Colin Powell, who as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was the highest ranking African American in the military.

And now almost a century and a half after the end of the Civil War, a resurgence of interest and advocacy on behalf of legendary Harriet Tubman has gradually materialized, while on the other hand the first-ever memorials to honor black war heroes within: (a) the Commonwealth of Virginia is being planned; (b) the first national park monument was dedicated to

Mississippi Black Civil War soldiers; (c) a monument/memorial is being planned to honor the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts and their families; (d) a US Colored Troops USCT plaque dedication is being planned for Andersonville National Historic Site in southwest Georgia; and finally planning is underway for the North Chicago Memorial Park/Monument dedicated to the 100,000 men who went through the Great Lakes Naval Training Center during World War II.

Later that evening we gathered drenching ourselves in the richness of Black history and feeling mixtures of both pride and pain as we awarded, or publicly recognized, acknowledged and meaningfully remembered those who fought for people they had never even met. Something quite austere happened at the gala reception and award ceremony, which prompted many to say, 'I thought we did therapy that night,' and left others crying and emotional. We have given these awards annually over the course of the past ten years. This year our honorees included three categories: (1) individual awardees: Norma Baker, GSgt. Maurice Bingham, USMC, Ret., Celestine Caldwell Hollings, Paul J. Matthews, Cpl. Fred McGee, USA, Freddi E. Moody, Master Chief Vince Patton, USCG, Ret., Ed.D., Lt. Col. Charles H. Rucks, USMC, Ret., Isaiah J. Williams, III, Master Chief Harold Wilson, USN, Ret., and Wallace Terry (Posthumous); (2) organizational awardees: the Center for Drug Abuse Research, Howard University, Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America, Harlem Youth Marines, Inc., Morgan State University, The Association of the 221 Negro Volunteers, WWII, and the 1279th Combat Engineers Alumni Association; and (3) historic groups and/or sites: United States Colored Troops Institute and Olustee Battlefield Historical State Park.

Finally, as we prepare our special 15th Anniversary report, after-action briefs and legislative proposals we must reiterate now more resolutely than ever before from the very beginning of independence "We were there," and despite the adversity, "We served!" Simply read the missing pages of American history, or perhaps the footnotes and you will find the names of Crispus Attucks, Salem Poor, Sgt. William H. Carney, Cpl. Andrew Jackson Smith, Harriet Tubman, Freddie Stowers, Sgt. Henry Johnson, Mess Attendant Dorius 'Dorie' Miller, Josephine Baker, Pvt. William Thompson, Sgt. Cornelius Charlton, Cpl. Fred McGee, Captain Riley L. Pitts, Staff Sgt. Hilliard Carter, and others, as well as thunderous places like Breeds Hill, Fort Wagner, Honey Hill, New Market Heights, . . . , Kunu-Ri, Hill 188, Hill 528, Hill 543, Pork Chop Hill, Hamburger Hill, Heartbreak Ridge, and others looming as silent reminders of past deeds, and debts unpaid.

Therefore, let it be said, here, now and forever more that African Americans have not once, not twice, but repeatedly demonstrated throughout this country's long history an unwavering dedication towards the principles of freedom, liberty and justice for all. This is the true testament of African American patriotism and looms as an outstanding example for current and future generations of Americans nationwide, as well as freedom loving people around the world.

The struggle continues.

## HOMEPORTING OF THE USS "RONALD REAGAN"

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on the eve of the home porting ceremony of the USS *Ronald Reagan*, to welcome America's newest Aircraft Carrier and its crew to San Diego.

The USS *Ronald Reagan* CVN 76, our nation's ninth *Nimitz* class carrier, is the world's most advanced and most capable carrier ever built. The USS *Reagan*, along with its crew of 6,000 and its commanding officer Captain James A. Symonds, will give America greater capabilities to address threats to the safety of Americans and international peace and stability than ever before.

For most of the world's history, the oceans have been a dangerous and lawless place. For over 60 years, however, America's Navy has reigned supreme over the world's oceans. Today, our Navy ensures freedom of the seas for all nations who seek to use the world's shipping lanes for peaceful purposes. The USS *Ronald Reagan* enhances our Navy's ability to do its job.

For California, the USS *Ronald Reagan* will serve as a proud reminder of the legacy left behind by our former Governor and President. President Reagan understood the importance of maintaining a strong and effective military. Throughout his administration, which brought about a successful end to the Cold War, President Reagan rebuilt America's armed forces with a steadfast belief in the pursuit of peace through strength. Because of this legacy, it is entirely fitting that the most powerful and diplomatically visible symbol of the American Navy now shares both the name and home state of President Ronald Reagan.

The crew of the USS *Reagan* will find the San Diego community to be warm and welcoming. San Diego has a mix of many cultures and, as someone who moved my family here 20 years ago, I can assure the entire crew that San Diego is a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to recognize Mrs. Reagan who will participate in tomorrow's home porting ceremony. The USS *Ronald Reagan* is a testament to the many great things Ronald and Nancy Reagan accomplished together. Ronald Reagan gave our nation hope and reminded us that with hard work and determination we could do great things. President Reagan may have moved on, but his legacy is as strong and steady as the ship that now bears his name.

## HONORING THE MOSES AND AARON FOUNDATION SPECIAL FUND FOR CHILDREN

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a worthy organization, one committed to special children and their families. The Moses and Aaron Foundation's significant and enduring efforts deserve the highest praise, as do the philanthropists who have given of themselves to fulfill its mission.

The Moses and Aaron Foundation Special Fund for Children is dedicated to assisting children with disabilities and their families with a wide range of programs including social, physical, financial and wheelchair assistance, as well as counseling and guidance.

It also provides scholarship funding to educational institutions; collects; purchases; and distributes clothing for children in need and remembers them with presents at holiday time or when hospitalized.

In cooperation with Ballys Fitness Centers the Moses and Aaron Foundation under the direction of its President Rabbi Yaacov Kaploun, and Executive Vice President Yehuda Kaploun has been able to establish 27 physical fitness and therapy centers and has arranged for sound and musical equipment in other institutions.

The corporate and individual supporters of the Foundation, include Metropolitan Lumber, Bally Total Fitness, Mr. David Buntzman, Mr. & Mrs. Jarred Feldman, Mr. Robert Gans, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gans, Mr. Avi and Dr. Laura Greenbaum, Mr. and Mrs. David Hirsch, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Rennert, Mr. Eli Rothman, Mr. Mark Selden, and Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Feldstein. We recognize the special support of Ashley and Liora Herschman, recipients of the Dr. Steven Stowe Acts of Kindness Memorial Award, who by their contributions and kindness have brought happiness and a smile to the faces of hundreds of special children.

On Saturday night July 31, 2004 at the Sullivan County Community College, Lock Sheldrake, New York, the Moses and Aaron Foundation under the Honorary Chairmanship of Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, will sponsor its eighth Summer "Chazak—Strength" Concert honoring and paying tribute to special and outstanding children, and is produced by STB Jewish Music Productions. The Guests of Honor will be the Special and Outstanding children, many of whom will perform with the entertainers on stage. More than forty organizations and schools serving the physically and mentally disabled children will be represented.

The Chazak Concert and the Moses and Aaron Foundation's other programs demonstrate a caring and compassionate concern for the quality and dignity of life of others and merit the appreciation of all those who have benefited from its services.

The Moses and Aaron Foundation was founded in memory of Rabbi Dr. Maurice I. Hecht and Aaron Kaploun, both of whom led lives of exemplary community service. It is in this sentiment of communal dedication that the Moses and Aaron Foundation has devoted itself to serving the needs of a unique group in the community.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Moses and Aaron Foundation, an organization which exemplifies the generosity of spirit in American society.

TRIBUTE TO MR. NORM D. COVELL

**HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Mr. Norm D. Covell, a man with a great career in public service. For the past four decades, Norm has worked tirelessly to reduce air pollu-

tion and its affects on public health. Norm will soon retire from his current position as the Air Pollution Control Officer for the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District. As Norm's friends, family, and colleagues gather to celebrate his distinguished career, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding citizen of Sacramento.

After obtaining his bachelor of science degrees from California State University—Fresno, Norm began his environmental health and air quality career as a military preventive medicine specialist. Eventually, Norm would be appointed as the Assistant Director for the Fresno County Department of Health and Assistant Air Pollution Control Officer. During his two decades of service in Fresno County, Norm was instrumental in implementing a number of effective and innovative solutions to air quality management.

In 1984, Norm was named as the Air Pollution Control Officer for the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District. During this period, Norm has been deservedly recognized as a visionary and dedicated leader at the local, state, and national levels of government for his efforts in advancing programs and policies that significantly improve air quality.

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District works cooperatively to coordinate the efforts of local, state and federal government agencies, the business community, and private citizens to achieve and maintain healthy air quality for Sacramento. This vision recognizes that the AQMD alone cannot achieve healthy air for Sacramento, but that combined with its regulatory role and its lead role in development of innovative programs, it can encourage the cooperative inter-agency and public effort that will be required to improve air quality. As the Air Pollution Control Officer, Norm oversees a dedicated staff of 83 positions and an annual program budget of \$19 million.

Norm was an instrumental force in developing an innovative market-based incentive program to reduce regional mobile source emissions. This program eventually became the model for the very successful Mayor Program that has been adopted throughout California. Norm also played a crucial role in creating the Business Environmental Resource Center that helps regional small businesses understand and comply with air quality, hazardous materials and water quality regulations. Throughout his career, Norm has demonstrated a consistent ability to increase awareness of air quality issues. Therefore, it is no surprise that so many of Norm's projects and ideas have gained national recognition and replication.

As a result of his sterling reputation in the field of air quality management, Norm has served in a number of important leadership roles. Norm was the President of the California Environmental Health Association from 1977 to 1979. Norm served as the President of the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association from 1984 to 1986. From 1994 to 1995, Norm was the President of the National Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials. Norm's impressive resume is a testament to his status as one of California's most accomplished leaders in the field of air quality management.

In his retirement, Norm can look forward to spending more time with his family. Norm will

also devote more time to two of his favorite pursuits: fishing and his beloved San Francisco 49ers. I am confident that Norm would achieve great success and happiness in his retirement, just as he had throughout his professional career.

Mr. Speaker, as Norm's friends, family and colleagues gather to celebrate his great career; I am truly honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most honorable citizens. The Sacramento region has benefited greatly from having Norm's strong leadership. He will be missed greatly by all who worked with him. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Norm continued success in all of his future endeavors, wherever retirement may lead him.

#### THE SECURITY AND FAIRNESS ENHANCEMENT FOR AMERICA ACT

**HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, a significant majority of Americans believes that current immigration levels need to be reduced, according to consistent polling results over the last decade. This country currently admits about one million new legal immigrants every year. An undetermined number come in illegally. Realistically, it will take several years to produce the comprehensive reforms that are needed. However, there is something that we can do now to improve the situation.

In 1990, immigration laws were changed to include a new diversity lottery program. The premise of this new program was to encourage more immigration from nations that were not already sending large numbers to the United States. Unfortunately, the current format for this lottery program are subject to fraud and abuse and leave our nation exposed to those who may seek to do harm on American soil.

Under this program, any applicant that applies under the current setup for this program may be chosen at random and given the status of a permanent resident simply based upon luck. We already have a tragic example of the potential for danger with the story of Hesham Mohamed Ali Hedayet, the gunman who killed two people at the Los Angeles International Airport in July of 2002. The investigation of this shooting revealed that the gunman had been in the U.S. illegally, but his wife won the visa lottery. This enabled the husband to apply for permanent status and remain in the country to commit his crimes.

There are also a number of stories of fraud and abuse that have been identified by the Inspector General of the State Department. Duplicate applications, identity fraud, and forged documents have been found to be commonplace in these reviews, leaving our national security at risk.

The current diversity visa program does a disservice to our immigration policy and to those immigrants who have moved through the more traditional process that allows them to lawfully reside in this country. Combining this with the clear threats to our national security, it is imperative that we take steps to reform this dangerous program.

Legislation has been introduced that I have cosponsored, H.R. 775, the Security and Fairness Enhancement for America Act, which