

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO COACH WILLIE JEFFRIES

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a trailblazer, an athletic legend and a dear friend—Coach Willie Jeffries. Coach Jeffries has dedicated much of his extraordinary career to my alma mater, South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, South Carolina. But his impact has been felt far beyond that campus.

Coach Jeffries is a man of humble beginnings. He was born in Union, South Carolina. His widowed mother raised him in a two-room house in this segregated Southern town. Earning money by working various jobs at the local white-only country club, he got to see how the other side lived.

He graduated from South Carolina State University with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's degree in guidance and counseling. Having played football and baseball for the historically black college, Coach Jeffries secured coaching jobs at segregated high schools in Lancaster and Gaffney, South Carolina. After compiling a 6-year 65–7–2 record with three consecutive State AAA championships, North Carolina A&T came calling with an assistant coach's job, which started Coach Jeffries in college coaching. He was next lured to Pittsburgh as an assistant coach. There he tasted coaching against big-time college football schools such as Florida State, UCLA and West Virginia.

But when his alma mater sought him out, the 36-year-old Coach Jeffries jumped at the chance to come home and lead his beloved Bulldogs. In six seasons as his alma mater's head coach, he compiled a 50–13–4 record and became a hot prospect for other head coaching positions. It was an offer from Wichita State in Kansas that enticed Coach Jeffries to leave S.C. State. It was historic. Coach Jeffries became the first African American to serve as the head football coach of a predominantly white university. At Wichita State, he led a team that had lost 14 of its last 15 seasons to an 8–3 season after 4 years of rebuilding. After 5 years, he left the program, which later folded, and became the head coach for Howard University, where he spent another 5 years.

In 1989, another tug from S.C. State brought Coach Jeffries back to the place where his love of football began. He coached another 13 years, before retiring following the 2001 season to become the director of athletic fund raising for the Bulldogs. During his 29-year coaching career, Coach Jeffries amassed a 179–132–6 record. This tremendous record included six Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) championships, two national titles, several post-season appearances, and numerous coaching awards. He holds the title for the most wins of any S.C. State coach and the most MEAC victories.

Coach Jeffries has been inducted into the South Carolina State University Athletic Hall of Fame, the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame and the MEAC Hall of Fame. He has been honored with South Carolina's Order of the Silver Crescent, the State's highest award for community service. He has received the Black Coaches' Association Lifetime Achievement Award and is enshrined in the Palmetto State's Black Hall of Fame. Since 2002, he has served on the NCAA Football Rules Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in commending Coach Willie Jeffries for his extraordinary contributions and courage. He is a legendary football coach that has touched many lives on and off the playing field. He is an inspiration to young people who aspire to rise above their current circumstances and even break barriers. This humble man from humble beginnings is a role model, a resilient leader, and a renowned motivator. In short, Coach Willie Jeffries is a national treasure.

IN HONOR OF TOM DAY'S BEING INDUCTED AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL APARTMENT ASSOCIATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Tom Day on the occasion of his being named President of the National Apartment Association (NAA). I join my colleagues in honoring his accomplishment and commitment to service.

This fellow North Texan has risen through the ranks of the NAA to serve in this illustrious leadership position. NAA is a federation of 164 state and local affiliates, comprised of more than 30,000 multifamily housing companies representing more than five million apartment homes throughout the United States and Canada.

Locally, Tom has allowed his love for profession to carry over into his advocacy for his cause. Mr. Day has held many local and state positions in the Apartment Association of Greater Dallas and the Texas Apartment Association. Recently, Tom has held the position of President of both of these organizations. His qualifications to lead such an expansive organization are tremendous.

I wish Mr. Day all the best for great success with his new induction as President of the NAA, and I am confident of the continued good works of the association and its members.

RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOGI BHAJAN

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution honoring the life and numerous contributions of Yogi Bha-jan, the chief religious and administrative authority for Sikhism in the West. Yogi Bha-jan passed away in Española, New Mexico on October 6th.

A native of India, Yogi Bha-jan introduced thousands around the world to Sikhism, a religion that carries the message of truthful living and the fundamental unity of humanity, and reaches out to people of all backgrounds to work together for world peace. When he came to the United States in 1968, Yogi Bha-jan recognized immediately that the experience sought by many young people through drugs could be alternatively achieved through Kundalini yoga, which stimulates individual growth through breath, chanting, and meditation among other components. Soon after, he founded the Healthy, Happy, Holy Organization (3110), a nonprofit private educational and scientific foundation with 300 centers in 35 countries, dedicated to improving physical well-being, deepening spiritual awareness, and offering guidance on matters of health and heart. He later also founded a successful drug rehabilitation program that blends ancient yogic wisdom of the East with modern technology of the West.

In 1971, the president of the governing body of Sikh Temples in India gave Yogi Bha-jan the title of chief religious and administrative authority for Sikhism in the Western Hemisphere. That same year, the Sikh Dharma was legally incorporated and recognized as a religion in the U.S., and soon after Yogi Bha-jan founded the Sikh ashram that still thrives in Espanola, New Mexico in my district. Yogi Bha-jan wrote 30 books and inspired 200 more through his teaching, and inspired the founding of several businesses including Akal Security Inc., one of the fastestgrowing security companies in the nation. Throughout his lifetime, he traveled the world and met with world leaders such as Pope John Paul II and the Dalai Lama to discuss world peace and religious unity. He also served as informal counsel to numerous political and spiritual leaders. As the resolution states, Yogi Bha-jan's teachings and the businesses formed under his inspiration, improved personal, political, spiritual and professional relations between citizens of the United States and citizens of the nation of India.

After the terrorist attacks on U.S. soil on September 11th, Yogi Bha-jan reached out to Sikhs across America, encouraging and helping them to educate their fellow citizens about Sikhs, and to work with law enforcement and community leaders to help them protect Sikh populations. He established links to human

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

rights advocates nationwide to ensure that the issue of Sikh identity was understood and respected. When a Sikh man named Balbir Singh Sodhi was murdered in Arizona five days after 9/11, Yogi Bhajan worked with community and government leaders in Arizona to help raise awareness about the Sikh community there, and to honor Balbir Singh with a major memorial event.

I had the privilege of Yogi Bhajan's friendship and support for more than 20 years. He was a dynamic, powerful person with a strong devotion to human rights, religious freedom, and good health. Whatever one's faith, he had the right words, the right lesson, and the right message. He spoke to us all, and he inspired us. Around the world he was a powerful voice for peace.

The resolution I am introducing today recognizes Yogi Bhajan as a wise teacher and mentor, an outstanding pioneer, a champion of peace and compassionate human being, and extends condolences on his passing. I would like to thank Representatives JOE WILSON and JOE CROWLEY, the Co-Chairs of the House India Caucus who have helped build support for this resolution, as well as Senators JEFF BINGAMAN and PETE DOMENICI, who will introduce the Senate companion. I also thank the bipartisan groups of original cosponsors who join me in urging my colleagues to support this important resolution.

IN HONOR OF THE THIRD ANNUAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of every victim of gun violence within our Greater Cleveland community. We gather in honor, support and hope for each family member and friend, whose lives have been forever altered in the wake of gun violence.

We also stand in honor of the members of the Million Mom March, Greater Cleveland Chapter; InterAct Cleveland, Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence; Black on Black Crime, Inc.; Survivors/Victims of Tragedy; VOICES; and the National Council of Jewish Women, for their collective efforts and dedication focused on preventing gun violence.

Today, on the Third Annual Day of Remembrance of Victims of Gun Violence, we honor and recognize the dedicated residents of our Cleveland neighborhoods. The unwavering commitment of our neighborhood activists and leaders continues to raise up our community, one avenue at a time. The work of our neighborhood leaders, young and old, serves to build strength, hope and creates the power to eradicate violent crime within our homes and along our streets.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of the victims of gun violence. Our thoughts and prayers are with every family member and friend of loved ones lost. Let us remember that our unified energy, focused on peace and security within our neighborhoods, provides light and hope to the families touched by gun violence, and radiates outward, offering the promise of peace for us all.

RECOGNIZING BUCKNER CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Buckner Christian Church. On November 14, 2004, the Buckner Christian Church celebrated 120 years of service. In 1884, after much thought and prayer, twenty-six devout Christians in or near Buckner Hill, most members of Sibley Christian Church, elected a building committee of four. Together they founded the church. They organized themselves "into a congregation of worshipping Disciples, by renewing our covenant with our Heavenly Father, and pledging our mutual faith to each other, promising thereby to take the Word of God as our only rule of faith."

On November 8, 1884, the trustees purchased four lots for \$100 in the town of Buckner Hill. Despite many weather disasters and set-backs, a simple, almost austere, building was erected and the congregation was able to attend church in their own sanctuary. In 1923, plans were made to build a new church. On March 24, 1924, the old building was moved to the lots at the back of the site where services continued while a new church was built. The cornerstone of the new building was laid on June 15, 1924, and on Sunday, May 3, 1925, the new church was dedicated debt-free, with services in the morning, a basket dinner at noon, and an afternoon formal dedication service. The Independence Christian Church loaned an old pulpit to the church which is still in use today. This pulpit was once used by Alexander Campbell during one of his visits to Independence. In 1957, city water was installed and the baptistery remodeled. In 1963, the first telephone was installed. In 1995, the stained glass windows were replaced and a new wooden window-sash was made. In 1997, a new slate roof replaced the old one.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating the Buckner Christian Church on 120 years of service. I honor the early members of the church as they tried to keep their Christian commitment in their community. Today, I honor the young people of the church and those who will lead it in the future. May the Buckner Christian Church grow and prosper in this new century.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF MARY F. PARSONS

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas:

I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Mary F. Parsons; and Whereas, Mary F. Parsons was a loving sister, wife, mother, and grandmother to the members of her family; and

Whereas, Mary F. Parsons will certainly be remembered by all those who knew her because of her compassionate nature towards her family, friends, and community; and

Whereas, the understanding and caring to which Mary F. Parsons gave to others will

stand as a monument to a truly fine person. Her life and love gave joy to all who knew her.

Therefore, while I understand how words cannot express our grief at this most trying of times, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family and friends of Mary F. Parsons.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARDSVILLE TIGERS GIRLS' GOLF TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Edwardsville Girls' Golf Team. The Tigers recently won their first state championship in golf, finishing their season with a perfect record. This outstanding southern Illinois sports team is the first girls' golf team south of the state capitol to capture a state title.

The Tigers' hard work and dedication to the sport this season has allowed them to capture this title. The Tigers performed twenty-three strokes better than all other teams in competition for the state title.

My congratulations go to the Edwardsville Tigers Girls' Golf Team and retiring Coach Gary Bair on an outstanding season!

TRIBUTE TO JUDITH AND LARRY MOORE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two individuals from my state who have played a major role in the war in Iraq. Judith and Larry Moore, both civilians from Somers, Connecticut, played a very special role in the war effort.

As everyone knows, it happens rarely but occasionally that military spouses are simultaneously deployed. Christopher and Bryony Soltis, both Army doctors, were sent to Iraq last year with the Army's 1st Armored Division. With a new child in tow, it was a difficult time. The entire family was separated for over a year as Christopher and Bryony cared for wounded soldiers and civilians in Baghdad. They turned to Christopher's mother and stepfather to care for their 7-month-old daughter, Madeline.

Judy and Larry Moore were up to the task. Together, Judith and Larry provided an environment in which Maddie thrived. They cared for Madeline every day from August 2003 to July 2004 while her parents were deployed. They put photos of her parents throughout the house, read her letters from afar, and reminded her daily that her parents would come home soon. Christopher and Bryony came home in late July 2004 to find their baby had grown into a loving, well-adjusted, beautiful toddler. I am told that Maddie recognized them immediately and ran to their arms when they arrived home.

Judy Moore knows full well the toll that deployment can take. She is a remarkable woman who has contributed enormously to her country. She served as a U.S. Air Force