

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO BOOKER T. JOHNSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 24, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Booker T. Johnson for his nearly three decades of public service to the citizens of New York City and his continued commitment to improving our community.

Booker is the son of Booker T. Johnson, Sr. and Piccola Tyler Johnson. He was born in the State of Virginia and received his education in South Carolina where he graduated from Scotts Brance High School in Summerton, S.C. In 1957, Booker relocated to New York. He married Roxie Carter Johnson in 1961, and they are proud parents of Booker T. Johnson, Jr. and Deron Johnson, and proud grandparents of Booker T. Johnson III.

Booker joined the New York City Police Department in 1968 receiving several commendations during his 28-year career. He retired in 1995. From 1975 to the present, he has been the owner and operator of B & D Florist on Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn that serves many churches, business organizations, and the public.

In 1970, he joined Tuscan #58 F&A.M. (PH) Masonic Lodge becoming Master of the Lodge in 1980 and served as Grand Junior Warden in 1986. In 1978, he became a member of Fidelity Chapter #54 O.E.S., P.H.A. In South Carolina, he was a member of St. Phillip Church and joined Brown Memorial Baptist Church upon moving to Brooklyn, New York. Booker's motto is to, "treat everyone as you wish to be treated."

Mr. Speaker, Booker T. Johnson dedicated his professional life to protecting New York's and he continues to be committed to strengthening our community. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 24, 2004

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, had I been present on October 8, 2004, I would have voted "yes" on H. Amdt. 789, amending H.R. 10 to establish a "zero tolerance" policy towards the unlawful importation, possession, or transfer of shoulder fired guided missiles (MANPADS), atomic weapons, dirty bombs, and variola (smallpox) virus by making their unauthorized possession a federal crime carrying stiff mandatory penalties.

ANNIVERSARY OF GEORGIA'S "ROSE REVOLUTION"

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 24, 2004

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker one year ago yesterday, November 23, 2003 the world witnessed an extraordinary political event involving the peaceful pursuit of democracy. In what has become known as the "Rose Revolution", the people of the Republic of Georgia, after several weeks of peaceful and bloodless protests following parliamentary elections which were determined to be fraudulent, forced a peaceful change in their government. On that day, opposition parliamentarians entered their Assembly, roses in hand, demanding that the will of the people, expressed by their recent vote, be honored. Given the strong support of the public the government of Eduard Shevardnadze collapsed.

Soon after, and under the effective management of interim President Nino Burdzhanadze, a free, fair and democratic presidential election was held. Mikhail Saakashvili, leader of the opposition protest, was overwhelmingly elected and sworn into office on January 24 of this year as President of the Republic of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, Georgia is a small, but strategic country located in the Caucasus, between Russia, Iran, Turkey, and Central Asia. President Saakashvili is a young, energetic leader who has received educational training here in the U.S. and has repeatedly stressed the importance of strong ties with the United States. Since his election, he has committed his country to a strong effort against global terrorism and has deployed troops to Iraq. When President Saakashvili visited the United States Congress earlier this year he delivered a strong message of peace, stability, democracy, political reform, economic opportunity and closer cooperation with the West.

Recognizing the important developments taking place in Georgia, the Europe Subcommittee, which I Chair, passed H. Res. 483 in October, pledging the continued support of the United States for the continued development of democracy in Georgia.

Today, as we remember the events of November 23, 2003, we express our congratulations to the people and Government of Georgia and reaffirm our support for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia.

COMPREHENSIVE PEACE IN SUDAN ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2781, the Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act of 2004.

There can be no mistake that the situation in Darfur constitutes a massive humanitarian disaster. There is indisputable evidence from Members of Congress, international observers and non-governmental organizations that thousands of people have been killed, countless numbers of women and girls have been raped, and hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced. Lives remain in danger as water and food is scarce and the potential of a cholera outbreak is very real. It is imperative that the United States and the international community become more actively engaged in this issue—we should not allow the human suffering to continue a day longer.

The Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act is a significant measure designed to aid the suffering in Darfur while holding the perpetrators of these atrocities responsible for their actions. The Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act authorizes hundreds of millions of dollars for humanitarian development and refugee assistance. At the same time, this legislation blocks the U.S. assets of complicit senior officials of the Sudanese government and seeks to prevent the travel of Sudanese government officials to the U.S. until demonstrated human rights protections are in place.

The provisions in the Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act are necessary steps toward ending the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, but they are far from sufficient. The U.S. and the international community must maintain pressure on the Sudanese government to end the violence immediately and unconditionally.

I remain committed to working with my colleagues in Congress and the international community to end the genocide in Darfur and bring peace and stability to the Sudanese people.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 2986, INCREASING THE PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the bill before us today. For the third time in as many years, we are debating raising the debt limit because of irresponsible government policy. Today, this House will vote on raising the debt limit by

• 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.

\$800 billion, which will bring the debt ceiling to an astounding \$8.2 trillion.

It concerns me that we need to raise the debt limit because of irresponsible fiscal policy such as giving tax cuts to the nation's millionaires while our country is fighting a war overseas and my home state of Wisconsin is hemorrhaging manufacturing jobs.

While I understand that it is sometimes inevitable that we must raise the debt limit, I believe that such a serious step should be taken in conjunction with pay-as-you go rules. I believe our country must return to the days of fiscal responsibility with a realistic, workable plan to put America back on a path to fiscal security. A first step towards that goal is to restore the pay-as-you-go requirements which left budget surpluses in the 1990s and enabled us to begin paying down the debt.

We need to start making decisions that will leave our children a better country to inherit. As the father of two little boys, I did not come to Congress to leave my sons a legacy of debt, hurt economic growth, and make this country more dependent on foreign nations, who are currently the largest holders of our debt. By 2014, American families will pay an additional \$9,400 in interest on the national debt. That same year, the Social Security Trust Fund will be completely depleted if this Congress' reckless fiscal policies continue unchecked.

I am voting against such fiscal recklessness because there is no plan to restore fiscal responsibility in the future as we rapidly approach the Baby Boom generation's impending retirement. The American people deserve no less than a government that applies the same fiscal responsibility that any hard-working American family would in crafting a household budget. This Congress has failed to apply such fiscal responsibility; therefore, I urge all my colleagues to oppose this bill.

TRIBUTE TO GERALDINE SCOTT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 24, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Geraldine Scott for her dedication to our community and commitment to mentoring our youth.

Born in Queens, raised in Brooklyn, Gerri has dedicated her life to the service of others. She was educated in the New York City public school system and graduated from Hunter College in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science degree in economics. She is the granddaughter of Rudell Howell, the daughter of Ethel Owens and the proud mother of Bernard Isaiah Scott.

Professionally, Gerri has worked for the Topps Company, Inc. for more than 15 years. Initially employed as a Credit Coordinator, she has received numerous promotions and, as of 2000, was promoted to the position of Office Service Supervisor. As Office Service Supervisor, Gerri manages a staff of employees and oversees various functions and operations for Topps, including building services management. Her responsibilities also include Buyer Coordinator, Telecommunication Analyst for all Topps locations, and Communications Coordinator for the U.S., Canadian and UK offices.

Personally, she has been actively involved in her community and the Berean Baptist Church for over 25 years, serving her church through membership on various ministries, including but not limited to: the Junior Usher Board, Youth Lay League, Young Adult Choir, Young Adult Ministry, Sunday School, and Bible Study. She served her community by working with the elderly at the Kingsboro Senior Citizens home and tutored children as well as adults in math and reading.

She joined the Girl Scouts at the age of 5 and eventually became a Scout Leader. Having served as a leader for over 10 years, Gerri enjoys her work in supervising girls of all ages. She has served as Service Unit Manager for the North Brook #3 area for 4 years, during which time her scouting unit experienced tremendous growth. She implemented new programs and worked diligently with her girls, affording her the opportunity to listen, witness, and attend to their many needs. Gerri also coordinated a summer job and volunteer program for her Senior and Cadette Scouts to provide them with a "real world" experience in a work environment. One of Gerri's greatest pleasures is a visit from one of her former Girl Scouts. Gerri says, "When a Scout comes back and shares their experiences and accomplishments with me, I feel as if I have made a difference in their life."

She works tirelessly and selflessly as a mother, manager, and community leader. She truly cares about her fellow man and considers it an honor to be able to help shape and mold her son into the man that God has called him to be and for the opportunity to positively affect the lives of the girls she works with through the Girl Scouts. She lives her life encouraged and empowered by her favorite scripture, Philippians, 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Mr. Speaker, Geraldine Scott has been actively involved in strengthening our community through her various volunteer efforts at her church, a senior home and with the Girl Scouts. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEISURE WORLD-LAGUNA WOODS

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 24, 2004

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Leisure World in Laguna Woods, California. It was on September 10, 1964 that the first residents moved into Leisure World, a private community designed especially for active, retired seniors. Within a mere 3 years, the community had grown to a population of 10,000, making it one of our country's earliest and largest agerestricted developments.

Today, Leisure World is home to nearly 18,000 residents who enjoy a variety of housing options and social services, an abundance of recreational activities and organizations, and an exceptionally warm and welcoming community. Nestled in the rolling hills of South Orange County, Leisure World existed as an

unincorporated part of the county for more than 3 decades. In 1999, the community made history when its residents voted for cityhood and the area officially became part of Laguna Woods, America's first and only age-restricted city.

I had the pleasure of getting to know the residents of Leisure World when I was first running for Congress in 1988. And, for the past 16 years, it has been a true honor to represent this unique and thriving community. In my experience, Leisure World residents are among the most politically aware and active of my constituency. Local political clubs have included me in hundreds of roundtable discussions, candidate debates, and "Get-Out-The-Vote" events. Leisure World TV has interviewed me on numerous occasions for its local cable show, and the community newsletter has welcomed my columns.

Most importantly, individual residents are always willing to share their informed opinions and suggestions on nearly any issue. Because of their insight, I have authored laws to reduce death taxes for seniors living in communities such as Leisure World, and to ease federal regulations that sought to outlaw age-restricted communities. I truly value my relationship with Leisure World, and I appreciate the opportunity to carry legislation on behalf of this community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere honor to ask the Congress of the United States of America to join me in congratulating Leisure World-Laguna Woods on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA FOR PUBLIC SERVICES PERFORMED ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 853, which expresses the Sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America.

I am appalled that the Department of Defense agreed to warn its military bases worldwide not to sponsor Boy Scout Troops—just because the ACLU is upset that they require their members to swear an oath to God. I wholeheartedly disagree with this decision, and I think the Pentagon should reconsider this short-sighted settlement.

Over the last 30 years, the Department of Defense has been specifically authorized to host Scouts on its installations and to provide equipment, transportation, and other services for both national and international events such as the Boy Scout Jamboree. Furthermore, United States Code Title 10, Sections 4682, 7541, and 9682 authorizes the Department of Defense to sell and donate (in certain cases) obsolete or excess material to the Boy Scouts of America to support its activities.

In the First District of Virginia, the Boy Scout Jamboree is hosted at Fort A.P. Hill every four years. The success of this event is directly attributable to the strong relationship that the