

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN RIPON, WISCONSIN

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the first meeting of the Republican Party in the town of Ripon, Wisconsin on March 20, 1854. On that momentous day, a group of 54 concerned citizens gathered in the Little White Schoolhouse to protest the extension of slavery into the territories of Kansas and Nebraska. Led by Alvan Bovay, this group of citizens dissolved the local Whig and Free Soil parties and officially declared themselves "Republicans." For this reason, the Little White Schoolhouse has long been known as the Birthplace of the Republican Party.

Since its inception, the Republican Party has stood for Liberty and Equality for all—making the Little White Schoolhouse a symbol of civic responsibility to the residents of Ripon and the nation. On May 30, 1974, the Department of the Interior formally recognized the historical importance of the first meeting of the Republican Party by designating the Little White Schoolhouse as a National Historic Landmark. The structure is significant, according to the National Park Service, because "a meeting in this simple, one story clapboard and frame schoolhouse on March 20, 1854 and another in Jackson, Michigan on July 6" led to the formation of the Republican Party. To this day it attracts visitors from around the world.

In order to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Republican Party, the town of Ripon is holding a celebration entitled, "From Schoolhouse to White House; A Celebration of Active Citizenship" that will promote the importance of civic involvement. This celebration will also honor the leadership that 54 citizens of Ripon displayed on March 20, 1854, in proclaiming themselves Republicans under the banner of Liberty and Equality. The event on March 20, 2004, caps off a two month series of events that have been held in Ripon, including a conference on the accomplishments of Wisconsin women and mock elections held in the Ripon schools to focus attention on this most basic form of active citizenship.

Therefore, I want to once again recognize the 150th Anniversary of the first meeting of the Republican Party at the Little White Schoolhouse in Ripon, Wisconsin.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 16, 2004 and March 17, 2004 I missed rollcall votes Nos. 58 to 63.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 58, 59, and 60. In addition, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes Nos. 61, 62, and 63.

IN MEMORY OF HAROLD YEE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay final tribute to civil rights leader and community activist Harold Yee, who passed away on February 5th in San Francisco. Harold was an extraordinary leader and visionary who empowered San Francisco's Asian American community to dramatically expand and solidify its economic and political strength.

Born in China in 1932, Harold immigrated to the United States in 1939 where he grew up in East Los Angeles. He received his bachelor's degree in pomology from UC Davis in 1956, and his master's degree in economics from UC Berkeley in 1961. Beginning as a researcher for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Harold discovered his passion for community development, eventually leaving the FDA in 1971 to found ASIAN, Inc.

Through ASIAN, Inc., Harold strengthened the San Francisco Asian American community economically, socially and politically. ASIAN, Inc. helped launch many minority-owned small businesses in San Francisco, trained young professionals for the rigors of running their own businesses, and encouraged the development of trade associations. Harold leaves a rich legacy, including more than 100 non-profit organizations and agencies.

Harold was a fierce advocate for the civil rights and equality of Asian Pacific Americans. He founded the Chinese American Voter Education Committee to increase political awareness and participation. His contributions to the Asian American Community and to the City of San Francisco are immeasurable.

Harold's boundless energy and enthusiasm for life were contagious. He was a mentor and a friend to countless people, who greatly benefited from his wisdom, support and friendship. It is with sadness and appreciation that I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Wilma, his daughter, Catherine, and his son, Robert. To his family and friends, thank you for allowing him to give his time to the community he loved.

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCE WILLIAM REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2004 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, each year, the Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce honors individuals for courageous, selfless dedication to public safety. These remarkable men and women have played an important role in the protection and betterment of their community. Their tremendous efforts on behalf of Prince William County have earned them one of the highest honors bestowed upon county public safety officials—the Valor Award. It is with great honor that I recognize the Prince William County Gold, Silver, Bronze, Merit, Lifesaving, Hilary Robinette, and Special Department Valor Award recipients:

Gold.—Officer A.S. Robinson, Prince William County Police Department; Officer M.J. Harman, Prince William County Police Department.

Silver.—Detective J. Lanzafama, Prince William County Police Department; Officer K.K. Kane, Prince William County Police Department; Officer R. W. Kovach, Prince William County Police Department; Officer M.T. Sullivan, Prince William County Police Department; Officer W.F. VanAntwerp, Jr., Prince William County Police Department; Officer W.G. Ward, Prince William County Police Department; Officer M.L. West, Prince William County Police Department; Officer E.J. Barhart, Prince William County Police Department; Officer B.M. Carter, Prince William County Police Department; Officer M.J. Headrick, Prince William County Police Department; Officer C.A. Meurer, Prince William County Police Department, Vehicle Fire; Deputy Animal Control Officer L.A. Thompson, Prince William County Police Department; Deputy Animal Control Officer C.D. Firebaugh, Prince William County Police Department.

Bronze.—Police Officer First Class Esteban Jordan, City of Manassas Police Department; Deputy Kim El-bisi, Prince William County Sheriff's Office; Officer G.D. VanDyke, Prince William County Police Department; Officer S.M. Peak, Prince William County Police Department; Lieutenant Michael Nazionale, OWL Volunteer Fire Department; Technician II Brett Hamby, Prince William County Fire and Rescue; Technician II Jeff Howdyshe, Prince William County Fire and Rescue.

Merit.—Deputy Ricki Booth, Prince William County Sheriff's Office; Sergeant G.H. Howard, Prince William County Police Department; Officer R.A. Arce, Prince William County Police Department; Officer C.M. Begley, Prince William County Police Department; Officer M.J. McCauley, Prince William County Police Department; Officer J.G. Medawar, Prince William County Police Department; Officer R.W. Minnick, Prince William County Police Department, River Run Fire, Shell Station Fire; Officer S.C. Mercer, Prince William County Police Department; Officer C.A. Meurer, Prince William County Police Department, Shell Station Fire; Lieutenant B.L. Finn, Prince William County Police Department; Sergeant R.D. Larkin, Prince William County Police Department; Captain David Halman, OWL Volunteer Fire Department; Sergeant Eric Craven, OWL Volunteer Fire Department; Technician II Scott Richardson, Prince William County Department Fire and Rescue.

Lifesaving.—Sergeant R.D. Grinnell, Prince William County Police Department.

Hilary Robinette.—First Sergeant R.A. Cantarella, Prince William County Police Department, Excellence and Integrity for Investigative Work.

Special Department.—Dale City Volunteer Fire Department for Exceptional Firefighting and Lifesaving, February 8, 2003, River Run Senior Apartments; Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department for Exceptional Firefighting and Lifesaving, February 8, 2003, River Run Senior Apartments.

All of these individuals have provided invaluable community service, truly deserving these prestigious awards. I congratulate and commend them.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank all the men and women who serve Prince William County. These strong, brave, determined

individuals make sacrifices daily to preserve our safety. Their countless acts of heroism merit our highest praise. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding these outstanding individuals.

RELATING TO THE LIBERATION OF
THE IRAQI PEOPLE AND THE
VALIANT SERVICE OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES
AND COALITION FORCES

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution before the House of Representatives today that commends the members of the United States armed forces and coalition forces for liberating Iraq, and expresses the gratitude of the American people for their valiant service.

On a plane coming home to Kansas recently, I had a conversation about the situation in Iraq with a man who served our country in Vietnam. The veteran noted the contrast in the treatment of soldiers returning home today compared with what he had faced. He didn't provide details, but the memories of his own homecoming still brought tears decades later.

March 20th will mark the one-year anniversary of our intervention in Iraq. I'm thankful time has changed the way we treat veterans who have served our country. While I hear differing opinions from Kansans about this issue, we can all agree on the need to support the thousands of men and women in harm's way who protect our freedom and stand up for us in the war on terrorism.

Last September, I met with family members of the over 300 reservists and National Guard members from units based in my district deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Many reservists and members of the National Guard left behind jobs and families with reduced income and limited support networks. Some have lost their homes and small businesses in order to do their duty. To show our gratitude for their sacrifices, I believe we must do everything we can to address the needs of our military. Troop strength, equipment, supplies, and care they need when they come home are an absolute.

Too often Congress pays lip service to our veterans and military personnel, yet fails to deliver on solid votes and programs that would demonstrate our recognition of their sacrifice. I listened to military personnel and their families, and I'm proud my legislative proposals are helping troops and veterans. In November 2003, my proposal to relieve the travel burden on troops coming home for Rest and Recuperation (R&R) was signed into law. The new law provides funding to cover all travel costs necessary to return service personnel home to their families. Another bill I introduced that will protect the growing health care needs of our veterans became law in December 2003.

In January, I was part of a small congressional delegation to Iraq. I heard firsthand from those serving on the front lines, including Kansas military personnel who are upbeat and proud of their efforts in Iraq. I was pleased to learn that many of the concerns about equipment and supplies have been corrected. I re-

turned from Iraq more confident about the condition of American troops and their morale.

In times of crisis like the past year, our nation looks to the men and women of the armed forces. America must honor their sacrifice and courage by living up to her promises to service personnel, whether active duty, reservists, members of the National Guard or veterans. This anniversary is a time for all of us to reflect, by remembering the sacrifices our veterans are making and working for a more peaceful future.

IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. In 1987, Congress passed a resolution designating the month of March as Women's History Month as a time to honor, "American women of every race, class and ethnic background [who] have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways."

For 2004, the theme of Women's History Month is "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility." To celebrate this month, I would like to honor four of the numerous women from Wisconsin's history who inspired hope and possibility through their selfless efforts in gaining suffrage for women in America.

First, I would like to recognize Ada James, who served as president of the Political Equality League from 1911 to 1919. As a dedicated women's suffrage advocate, Ms. James spent these eight years preceding the ratification of the suffrage amendment to the U.S. Constitution on an automobile tour through Southern Wisconsin. She spoke at state and county fairs, and to farmers and workers in factories with her fellow suffragists. Ms. James was a native of Richland Center, a city in Wisconsin's Third Congressional District, and I am honored to be able to share Ms. James' story here.

Reverend Olympia Brown resided in Racine, Wisconsin, where she was elected president of the Wisconsin Women's Suffrage Association, holding this post for 30 years. Reverend Brown lived a life of activism, and after being refused at Wisconsin polls, she took her case to the State Supreme Court. Despite a decision rendered in favor of the election inspectors, she never accepted defeat. She continued to fight for women's right to vote, and was one of the few suffrage leaders who lived to be able to cast a vote in the Presidential election of 1920—the first in which women could vote.

As the first Wisconsin-born leader of the state's suffrage movement, Theodora Winton Youmans was able to help the movement gain momentum by writing a regular column for the *Waukesha Freeman*. She used her column as a platform to educate the public about suffrage and women's rights. After leaving her post as assistant editor in the 1890s, Ms. Youmans worked to create the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs, serving as its president in 1900. In 1924, she lost a bid to Congress, and it was not until nearly 75 years later that Wis-

consin would see its first Congresswoman with the election of TAMMY BALDWIN in 1999, who continues to represent Wisconsin women today.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I would like to honor the achievements of Carrie Lane Chapman Catt. As a native of Ripon, Wisconsin, she played the largest role in the final passage of the 19th Amendment. Her campaign was successful because she pushed for reform in the states, instead of focusing solely on a constitutional amendment. In 1900, she succeeded Susan B. Anthony as the president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. Following ratification of the amendment, her leadership abilities were not forgotten as she helped establish the League of Women Voters, which is still active today. I think I speak for all people from Wisconsin when I say that we are fortunate to have had such a remarkable woman in our history.

These four women, along with so many others, inspired hope and possibility not only in Wisconsin, but across the United States. I have no doubt that their devotion to the cause was the sole reason why Wisconsin was the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment on June 10th, 1919. I am honored to share these women's stories today, as their efforts made Wisconsin a leader in this landmark roll call of democracy. In many ways, their hopes are still with us today. As a reflection of this, I will end my statement with a quotation from Carrie Chapman Catt: "Everybody counts in applying democracy. And there will never be a true democracy until every responsible and law-abiding adult in it, without regard to race, sex, color or creed has his or her own inalienable and unpurchasable voice in government."

IN HONOR OF MIGUEL RIVERA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Miguel Rivera for his years of outstanding work and service with Verizon Communications. Mr. Rivera will be honored by the Friends of Mike Rivera Committee for 35 years of dedicated service to Verizon Communications and the Hispanic Community at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 19, 2004, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in North Brunswick, New Jersey.

Mr. Rivera is retiring from Verizon Communications after 35 years of service. Mr. Rivera started his career with Verizon as Facilities Engineer from 1968 to 1972. He also held the position of Systems Equipment Engineer from 1972 to 1977. From 1977 to his retirement, Mr. Rivera was Director of External Affairs, serving as the face of Verizon Communications to local government, consumer relations, and Hispanic relations in New Jersey.

As Director of External Affairs, Mr. Rivera was able to dedicate a great deal of time and resources to the enhancement of the Hispanic community in New Jersey. Serving as Corporate Representative of Verizon Communications with the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Rivera was able to bring increased prosperity to Hispanics throughout the state by forming new partnerships with Latin