

Charles Taylor faces 17 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and violations of international humanitarian law. Charles Taylor's time is up. We are asking that you make a concerted effort to see that he is brought before the Special Court.

The despotic rule of Charles Taylor in Sierra Leone, while president of Liberia, represents his tyrannical influence in fueling Sierra Leone's ten-year civil war. He is accused of providing financial support, military training, and other support and encouragement to the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) to destabilize Sierra Leone in order to gain access to her diamond wealth.

Charles Taylor also organized and ordered widespread and systematic attacks to terrorize the civilian population in Sierra Leone. Disturbing examples include abductions, sexual slavery of women, and children, large scale physical violence and unlawful killings, notably hacking off of limbs, facial and bodily mutilations, body carvings, gang rapes, and hacking and burning to death those whom he felt did not sufficiently support the RUF.

As you know, the three-year mandate of the Special Court for Sierra Leone expires June 30, 2005. Since its inception, the Special Court has been collecting and analyzing evidence against Charles Taylor. Just last week, the Special Court courthouse officially opened its doors.

Time is of the essence. Charles Taylor needs to be brought to justice before the three-year mandate expires. It is intolerable that Charles Taylor is living with impunity in the lap of luxury in Nigeria, with just about anything he needs at his disposal, including a cell phone. There is growing evidence that Charles Taylor continues to meddle in the political affairs of Liberia. He has expressed a desire to return to Liberia. We must not be blind to the fact that he has not lost his thirst for the political power he once had before his exile.

We have no doubt that you find Charles Taylor's brutal cycle of violence as abhorrent as we do. We urge you to act swiftly to ensure that Charles Taylor is held accountable for his actions. There should be no safe harbor for tyrants like Charles Taylor. We must act now.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf; Edward R. Royce; Joe Baca; Howard L. Berman; Robert A. Brady; John A. Culberson; Peter A. DeFazio; Jim DeMint; Vernon J. Ehlers; Lane Evans; Sam Farr; Trent Franks; Virgil H. Goode, Jr.; Michael M. Honda.

Patrick J. Kennedy; James R. Langevin; James P. McGovern; Bobby L. Rush; John Shimkus; Christopher H. Smith; Vic Snyder; Thomas G. Tancredo; Ellen O. Tauscher; Patrick J. Tiberi; James T. Walsh; Jerry Weller; Curt Weldon; Albert R. Wynn.

TRIBUTE TO VELMA M. WEBBER BOUCHARD ON HER INDUCTION INTO THE UPPER PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF FAME

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of Velma M. Webber Bouchard, who will be honored for her service to the cause of American working men and women with induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Marquette, Michigan on April 17th.

Velma, who grew up in Luce County, began her outstanding service to workers of the U.P. and the Democratic Party in 1975. That was the year when she started her job at the Newberry Board of Water and Light and joined Local 2530, Council 55 (now Council 25) of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

Her service in AFSCME includes a long list of leadership positions. She served as Local President for two years; Secretary-Treasurer for four years; Recording Secretary for three years; Delegate to the Eastern U.P. Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO for seven years and Vice-Chair of the U.P. AFSCME Political Action Committee.

Velma also traveled extensively through the region teaching Labor History and representation skills to AFSCME members. She served her local union in AFSCME Council level governance functions, periodically serving as a delegate from her local to the Council 55, 11 and 25 Annual Conventions, as well as being a delegate to the Michigan State AFL-CIO Conventions.

As a trade union leader, Velma spent time working to make her union even more effective by serving on the U.P. AFSCME Community Services Committee and by serving on the Union Women/Minorities Leadership Training Program Board during the 1980s.

Beyond her union, Velma's involvement in political activities is also a reflection of her nonstop efforts to protect and represent Michigan workers. Since 1988, she has served as Chair of the Luce County Democratic Party and served as its Vice-Chair before then. Velma has also been an Officer-At-Large of the Michigan Democratic Party for four years; was elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1992; and has served as an alternate delegate to the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee. During the Blanchard Administration, Governor Blanchard called upon Velma to take several appointments, including the Controlled Substance Advisory Committee and the International Trade Board.

Despite all of the time devoted to organized labor and politics, Velma still found time for civic duty. She is a lifetime member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 74, serving as its President and District President. She has served as a member of the Michigan Selective Service Board No. 17 since 1985.

Velma retired from the Newberry Board of Water and Light in 1993 after 18 years. We cannot thank her enough for her endless energy and dedication fighting for the rights of Michigan workers.

I also want to acknowledge Joe King, Velma's good friend of many years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in acknowledging Velma Webber Bouchard's lifetime of contributions to organized labor and her community, and in celebrating the accomplishments that have earned her the distinction of becoming an honored member of the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame.

THANKING JAMES JOYCE OF CHICAGO

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank outgoing Chicago Fire Commissioner James Joyce for his 39 years of noble service to the department and to wish him well in his retirement.

Commissioner Joyce enjoyed a remarkable rise through the ranks of the Chicago Fire Department before being appointed to the top post by Mayor Richard M. Daley in 1999. During his more than four years as commissioner, Commissioner Joyce spearheaded important changes to the department, including building new firehouses, replacing and updating firehouse equipment, and improving coordination with suburban fire departments. His tenure as Commissioner was also noteworthy for the respect he garnered from rank and file firefighters throughout the department.

His steady leadership also was apparent after the Sept. 11 attacks, when Commissioner Joyce committed the department to aiding disaster prevention efforts and oversaw changes in policies and procedures to protect the people of Chicago.

Commissioner Joyce was born in 1942 and was educated at Chicago State University. He received his master's degree in public administration from Governor's State University.

Commissioner Joyce began his career within the Chicago Fire Department as a firefighter assigned to Truck 4 in Chinatown in 1965. After serving as engineer, lieutenant and captain he was promoted to battalion chief in 1979. Later his administrative posts included District Chief and Deputy Fire Commissioner.

The Joyce family's commitment to firefighting and to protecting the lives of Chicago's citizens began long before the Commissioner joined the force. Commissioner Joyce is a third-generation Chicago firefighter, whose maternal grandfather, father and brother all served. His grandfather gave the ultimate sacrifice, dying as a result of battling a 1934 blaze at the old Chicago Stockyards.

Commissioner Joyce and his wife Janet reside in St. John Fisher Parish on Chicago's South Side and are the parents of four children. I wish Commissioner Joyce the best as he begins his well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I join in all of Chicago in thanking James Joyce for his long record of achievement in serving our city. His dedication and passion will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO TOM CATLETT

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, our county courts are a key component of the example America sets for the rest of the world; but it is only as admirable as the men and women who serve within it. I am honored to rise today to pay tribute to a proud servant of the Monroe County Court, Tom Catlett, for the positive mark he has left on Monroe County and the courthouse he has dedicated his life to serving.

Mr. Catlett has served Monroe County for nearly 40 years, making him the longest serving county judge in Arkansas. Unfortunately for us, he has recently announced his intent to retire at the end of this year. This will end a journey which began on July 26, 1966 when Judge Catlett won the Democratic primary and was sworn in later the same year—he was 40 years old.

Since then, Judge Catlett has served 19 terms as county judge and has always called Monroe County home. He has shown the courthouse unmatched respect, specifically through a major renovation which raised the standard for beautifying county courthouses in Arkansas and across this country. It cannot be debated: Tom Catlett was a citizen who worked tirelessly for the growth and prosperity of Monroe County.

Perhaps his service is best summarized by a statement he recently made when he announced his retirement, "I am sure that when I look back on my life, I will see the last 38 years as the happiest times of all." Judge Catlett is a man who took pride in his work and is honored to be in a position to help his county excel. Judge Catlett's thirst for improving his community remains unquenched and I expect even after his retirement this year, the name Tom Catlett will permeate the accomplishments of Monroe County for years to come.

On behalf of the Congress, I extend the utmost respect and deference for a man befitting such titles as county judge, community leader and example to us all. Tom Catlett is a roll model and I am honored to recognize him in this Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COMMUNITY OF STOCKTON, MISSOURI

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the citizens of Stockton, Missouri, for their efforts in recovering from a tragedy. On the evening of Sunday, May 4, 2003, this small Missouri community was struck by a powerful tornado. It has taken months to restore what took minutes to destroy, but this community has shown strength and resolve in the face of great challenges.

The utter destruction visited upon Stockton is difficult to grasp unless seen. It is measured in terms of what is no longer there. The absence of businesses, homes, churches, even 100 year-old trees, act as a daily reminder of what happened. The Stockton town square was particularly hard hit. Like most town squares in small communities throughout Missouri, Stockton's was an important center of economic activity. Most of the buildings leveled in the downtown area were businesses. The local business owners took it upon themselves to form the Downtown Business District Committee. This committee, open to all business-owners, created a means of mutual support and a forum for discussion of common problems and issues. One important task was to set up guidelines for reconstruction of the town square. The first building on the square to reopen was the pharmacy of Ray Zumwalt. The rebuilding of the pharmacy, along with all

of the other buildings in Stockton, did not happen overnight. It was a gradual process. But as bricks were laid and roofs repaired, the mending of the spirit of this town could be seen, not just in the buildings, but in the people as well. The return of hope to a community that has lost so much is a very important thing.

Today, the community of Stockton is busy preparing for a four-day event commemorating the one-year anniversary of the tornado. This event will serve as a reminder of that day, and as a celebration of all that has been accomplished in such a short period of time. Some questioned whether the town could survive. With this city-wide event, scheduled to take place May 1 through May 4, the people of Stockton will answer with a resounding "yes".

The following individuals deserve special recognition for their efforts to help the people of Stockton: Jerry Uhlmann, Charles May, Gayla Weber, Dick Hainje, Dennis Moffett, Dan Best, Brad Gair, Jonathan Hoyes, Fred May, Jeff Wall, Peggy Kenney, R. Bruce Martin, Kristi Perrin, Richard Barnes, Sheila Johnson, Cynthia Davies and Gale Roberts. These individuals from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the State Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Natural Resources provided direction and support in the community's efforts to rebuild.

Mr. Speaker, there are days such as the May 4, 2003, when we are reminded of the awesome and unforgiving power of nature. In minutes, lives, families, and whole communities can be uprooted. The people of Stockton made the decision to rebuild, not retreat. It takes strength and courage to face the challenges posed by such a disaster. They have faced this time of trying with such great resolve, have overcome setbacks with such perseverance, they serve as an example to us all of what can be accomplished when the people of a community based on strong traditions of support, compassion, and dedication come together to help their neighbors. Stockton has a lesson to teach us all: the values of family, community, and helping those in need are still alive and well in this country. I am sure my fellow Members will join me in honoring the citizens of this outstanding community and thanking those who have done so much to help.

COMMENDING MIKE PACINI

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike Pacini. Mike Pacini is currently a Boulder City Council Member and has sat on the council since 1997, when he was the youngest candidate elected to that position. In 2003 Mike Pacini was elected President of the Nevada League of Cities and received the Honor of Nevada's 2003-2004 Public Official of the Year. I urge the House to join with me in congratulating him on his recent honors.

CONGRATULATING PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS DAVID L. BROWN, UNITED STATES NAVY, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RECEIPT OF THE PURPLE HEART

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to Petty Officer Third Class David L. Brown, former member of the United States Navy, on the occasion of his receipt of the Purple Heart.

This recognition—long overdue—was made last week as the result of injuries Petty Officer Brown received during the Vietnam Conflict in 1968.

On January 3, 1968, Petty Officer Brown, who served as an equipment operator in country for a total of 13 months, and his unit were involved in action with enemy combatants near Hue City during the Tet Offensive. During the engagement, a lieutenant positioned nearby was wounded by enemy fire. Petty Officer Brown rushed to his aid and while trying to drag this officer out of the line of fire to safety, he was hit in his hands by an enemy mortar round. He immediately received aid from a corpsman, but he and his unit continued to be pinned down by enemy fire for eight days. Petty Officer Brown was eventually evacuated from Hue City and continued his naval service, serving for a period of ten months aboard the *USS Ranger*.

Following his return to the United States, he served as a ship superintendent at Northrop Grumman Ship Systems' Ingalls Operation in Pascagoula, Mississippi, until his retirement. However, he never received the recognition he was due as a result of heroic services rendered during the Tet Offensive.

In an effort to determine his eligibility for the Purple Heart and other medals and decorations associated with the injuries he sustained in Hue City, Petty Officer Brown contacted my predecessor, former Congressman Sonny Callahan, and requested his assistance in contacting the appropriate officials on his behalf.

Over the next two years, Mrs. Kay Williams, a member of Congressman Callahan's district staff and now a member of my district staff, worked diligently with officials with the National Personnel Records Center, the Department of the Navy, and the National Archives and Records Administration on this issue.

Without question, Mrs. Williams tirelessly pursued every possible avenue in an attempt to secure this recognition for Petty Officer Brown, and in recent weeks was able to contact Mr. Glenn Morichika. Mr. Morichika, a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii, is the only surviving witness to the events of January 3, 1968. Thankfully, Mr. Morichika was able to provide an eyewitness testimony as to Petty Officer Brown's actions.

As a result of this testimony, and the tremendous efforts of Mrs. Williams, Petty Officer Brown was finally awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation. This recognition, while long overdue, is certainly well-deserved and is a testament to the dedication to duty and concern for his fellow troops that marked Petty Officer Brown's exemplary service in the United States Navy.