

HONORING MARK MORGAN

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to honor Mark Morgan of Laurel, Mississippi today. Mark was returning home one evening when he passed a vehicle that had pulled to the side of a bridge. Despite the dark and his own exhaustion, Mark pulled over to be sure the woman who sat in the car alone did not need any assistance. Little did Mark know he had just answered the prayers of a worried family and community.

Louise Martin had left church to drive home; she'd become confused and lost. Eventually her car ran out of gas, leaving her stranded along a rarely traveled stretch of highway. After Mark stopped, he called Mrs. Martin's family and told them he was going to bring her home. Nearly twelve hours after Mrs. Martin left her church, she was reunited with her husband and family.

Mr. Speaker, Mark Morgan is a shining example of the spirit of concern and the willingness to aid others.

THE 51ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROWN VS. BOARD OF EDUCATION DECISION

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today when civil liberties are under attack, and anti-poverty, anti-immigrant, anti-affirmative action, conservative ideology dictates everything from science to whether social safety nets will continue to exist; we cannot afford to lose the protection of a fair and impartial court.

When minorities and otherwise powerless groups had no other protection of our rights, the courts have been the only refuge and remedy. As we commemorate the 51st Anniversary of the *Brown vs. Board of Education*, we are reminded of the importance of those who are nominated to the judiciary system.

Brown vs. the Board of Education was a landmark decision, whose intention is still being fulfilled. One test that we can use as the Senate comes to the brink of disaster, over the final remaining seven judges, is whether based on their past decisions and behavior on the bench, would we have had such a landmark decision such as "Brown" had they been on the bench in 1954. I think we can say not!

Federal judges are immensely powerful—all cases raising constitutional issues, including school prayer, abortion, and freedom of speech are heard before a single federal judge at the trial level and a panel of federal judges on appeal. All judges are expected to follow the law, not their personal convictions, but one can get a sense of how a judge thinks by looking at previous rulings as well as writings and comments.

The nominees at issue are radical conservatives whose views are far to the right of the mainstream on issues such as abortion, the environment, and the worker protection. And their terms are not two, four or six years.

Should they be confirmed, we would be subject to their dangerous judicial activism for life.

That is why the threshold must be high and their judicial history weighed heavily against the values of this country upon which our Constitution was founded.

SUPPORTING INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE NEA AND NEH

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this amendment and strongly urge its adoption.

Our contributions to the arts and humanities are the standard by which our history as a society will be measured. A strong public commitment to the arts and humanities, along with a dedication to freedom, is the hallmark of great civilizations. History has shown that religious and political freedoms go hand in hand with greater artistic and literary activity, and that the societies that flourish and have a lasting influence on humanity are those that encourage free expression in all of its forms. This is a lesson that resonates with people of every age, background, and belief, and one we can guarantee our children learn.

By sharing ideas and images from a diverse range of backgrounds and through many different media, the arts and humanities help to create a more informed citizenry. We are better prepared to meet the responsibilities of democracy; to ask ourselves the hard questions; to demand of our leaders the full answers; and to judge fairly the actual and potential endeavors of our country.

Our support for the arts and humanities also has a profound impact on our economy. In my Congressional District, there are over 2000 arts-related businesses, providing more than ten thousand jobs. This creates a substantial economic impact. In Fiscal Year 2000, for example, the arts industry contributed more than \$92 million in revenue to Westchester County alone. Nationwide, the figures are even more impressive. The arts are a \$134 billion industry sustaining nearly 5 million jobs. While the federal government spends just over \$250 million on the NEA and NEH annually—approximately 40 cents per person—it collects over \$10 billion in tax revenue related to the arts industry. NEA and NEH dollars are crucial to the arts community, helping them leverage more state, local, and private funds. Clearly, the numbers show that investment in the arts is important not only to our national identity, but also to our national economy.

Mr. Speaker, we must act decisively to commit ourselves to our national heritage and culture, by voting to increase funding for the NEA and NEH. I urge my colleagues to support creativity and reflection, to support our economy, and to support the continued growth and expression of democracy in its fullest form.

IN MEMORY OF PAULETTE COPELAND

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of my constituent Ms. Paulette Copeland, an outstanding educator, a committed labor leader, and an exemplary community activist who lost her battle with cancer May 16, at the age of 61. Ms. Copeland made numerous and profound contributions to the lives of Milwaukee residents. Her death is a loss for the entire community.

A native of Milwaukee and graduate of the Milwaukee Public Schools, Ms. Copeland was devoted to public education. The impact of her commitment is apparent in every corner of this city. As an educator in the Milwaukee Public Schools for 30 years, Ms. Copeland taught hundreds of children. She was widely recognized as an advocate for children, and was especially devoted to serving children with special needs. She believed deeply that every child could learn, and strove, every day, to find teaching methods that would speak to the needs of each child she encountered.

Not only a gifted and brilliant teacher, Ms. Copeland was also a noted community leader and civil rights activist. As the first African-American President of the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association (MTEA), she led with a gentle but insistent style. Under her guidance, MTEA's agenda came to reflect more deeply the concerns and needs of the African-American community. As a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Ms. Copeland led an effort to reduce suspensions within MPS by offering cultural sensitivity training to teachers and other staff.

Working with others from around the country, Ms. Copeland participated in the successful struggle to designate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a national holiday. In Milwaukee, she helped found a writing contest for elementary, middle and high school students, which has become a cornerstone of local King Day celebrations. More recently, she served as chairperson of the Women in the NAACP Committee, reactivating this group even while she battled cancer.

Ms. Copeland was also a devoted wife, mother and sister, and my thoughts and prayers go out to her loving family. We will all miss her wit and wisdom, and her commitment to the Milwaukee's children. Her life and work honor our community.

RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CITY OF TRENTON, IL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of the City of Trenton.

This past weekend, the City of Trenton celebrated the establishment of their city. In 1818,

William Lewis and his brother-in-law, A.W. Casad of Trenton, New Jersey located Lewis' farm at the location where the city now stands. A few years later, in 1825, the first church congregated with others soon to follow.

In 1853 the area found itself in need of a Post Office, which was given the name of Trenton. On May 14, 1855, Trenton, Illinois was established. Less than a year later, on February 16, 1856, the Village of Trenton was chartered with Joseph Hanke as the first mayor. A little over 30 years later, on September 20, 1887, Trenton was incorporated as a city.

In 1955, the year of its centennial, with a population of 1,400, the City of Trenton was given the nickname, the "Friendly City", and went on, in 2003, to receive the Governor's Hometown Award.

Today, the City of Trenton has grown to a city of 2,700 citizens under the current mayor, Robert Louis Koentz.

Here's to the City of Trenton and all who reside there.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 40th year of existence of the Grace Baptist Church of Alpine, Tennessee. The congregation will celebrate the anniversary on May 29, 2004, with a special service.

Grace Baptist Church has grown from its original 25 members to more than 100 members today. The church serves the community through weekly jail ministries, bimonthly nursing home services in Livingston, Tennessee, and Saturday youth activities. Grace Baptist Church devotionals are also heard daily on the local radio station in Livingston.

Grace Baptist Church supports missionaries every month, and members have taken mission trips to Yucatan, Mexico, and Laredo, Texas, to visit the missions they've supported. In fact, Pastor John Copeland has been to Laredo three times. "It's amazing how God can turn lives around," Pastor Copeland has said.

Overton County is a better place because of the work of Grace Baptist Church and its congregation. I am sure the church will continue to make a positive difference in the community for the next 40 years, as well. I congratulate the congregation and Pastor Copeland for all the good they have done. I also want to recognize one of the founding members of Grace Baptist Church, Bruce Ledford, who currently serves as a deacon there. Congratulations to you, too, Bruce for 40 years of service.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNUAL CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 30th Annual Capital Pride Festi-

val, a celebration of the National Capital Area's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender, GLBT communities, their families and friends.

The Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party in 1975 to the current week long celebration. This year Capital Pride culminates with the Pride Parade on June 12th and a street fair on Pennsylvania Avenue in the shadow of the Capitol.

I have marched in the Pride parades since coming to Congress to emphasize the universality of human rights and the importance of enacting federal legislation to secure those rights for the GLBT community. Each year the Parade stops for a moment of silence to remember those who have died in the preceding year. That quiet will be particularly poignant as will remember local two women, who, in confronting injustice, were never silent: Wanda Alston and my frequent marching and running companion, Sister Maria, O.W., the Blue Nun.

This year's theme of "Honor Our Past, Fight for Our Future" holds special meaning for the citizens of the District of Columbia and its GLBT community in particular. Eleven years ago the District of Columbia lost the first vote it ever won on the floor of the House of Representatives, the delegate vote in the Committee of the Whole. The Republicans retracted the District's vote when they assumed control of the House. Our city of nearly 600,000 residents, who pay more taxes per capita than 49 of the 50 states, remains the only jurisdiction in the United States subject to Taxation Without Representation. Our Nation's Capital is entitled to that vote on the House floor now and to our birthright as American Citizens of full voting representation in Congress.

The joy of the Capital Pride Festival contrasts with the unhappy lot of GLBT soldiers who volunteer to protect our country with their lives, but must serve in silence and without the open support of their chosen families and communities, neither asking nor telling. The Armed Forces' homophobic policies, especially as they apply them to their own speakers of critical languages cannot continue to compromise our national security. Congress must pass The Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2005 this session.

IN HONOR OF ST. ADALBERT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Adalbert Roman Catholic Church, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. To begin the year-long celebration, the parish will hold its opening ceremony event on May 21, 2005, in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Founded in 1905, St. Adalbert was developed from the hopes and dreams of Polish immigrants in the Elizabeth area. Longing for a place of worship that would serve the needs of Polish-speaking Americans, the original members each contributed their own money to purchase land and construct the church. As it prepares for its centennial celebration, we look

back and honor the innumerable contributions that St. Adalbert has made to the Elizabeth community. Though the building was constructed in just one year, this parish has spent the last century providing strong spiritual support for its members.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring St. Adalbert Roman Catholic Church for 100 years of religious commitment and excellence in serving the people of Elizabeth, New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE WARREN "CLIP" SMITH

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to the late Warren "Clip" Smith, a veteran broadcast personality and civic leader who touched the lives of thousands through his career and work in the Western New York community. The life-long Lockport resident is fondly remembered by thousands following his unexpected passing on August 21, 2004.

From the 1960s on, the "Clipper," as he was commonly referred, was a respected name in the radio and television industry, earning a reputation for his strong opinions, as well as his quick wit and one-liner quips. His career began as Operations Manager and Director of News and Sports for WUSJ Radio, now known as WLVL in Lockport. He went on to serve as anchor, reporter and sports play-by-play announcer with WKBW-TV Channel 7 in Buffalo, New York, from 1971 to 1989, later working as a reporter and talk show host with WGR Radio in Buffalo from 1991 to 1995. Clip was also a widely recognized commentator and reporter with WBEN Radio in Buffalo. Finally, from 1990 until the time of his death, Clip served as anchor, reporter and in public relations for the Empire Sports Network in Buffalo.

The multi-talented Clipper also was a musician. He was a member of the Lockport Federation of Musicians and a professional member of the American Federation of Musicians; Clip was a concert soloist on the trombone, euphonium, tuba and string bass.

But above all else, Clip will be remembered for the active civic role he played, always ready to take up the citizens' cause on a variety of issues. Clip served on a local board of education from 2003-2004, was active with Lockport Rotary Club, Literacy Volunteers, Buffalo City Mission, New York State Recycling Congress, and the Niagara County Republican Committee. He also was a member of several local unions.

Western New Yorkers will always remember Clip as a respected community leader and a dear friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in honoring the late Warren "Clip" Smith, and recognize his years of service to the community and broadcast industry.