

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JOHN H. SCOTT, CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to one of this country's great civil rights leaders, Rev. John H. Scott. On May 7, I had the opportunity to attend a tribute to Rev. Scott, honoring the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the John H. Scott Memorial Fund in Tallulah, Louisiana. This living memorial was started at the request of Rev. Scott at the end of his life, and now provides scholarships to young people, as well as supporting other projects that advance the aims and ideals of the Reverend's life.

Rev. Scott was a minister and a civil rights leader who was devoted to improving the quality of life for African-Americans in this country. He was born in 1901, in a small, almost all-black parish in Louisiana, where black schools, businesses, and neighborhoods were thriving, but existed in almost total isolation from their white neighbors. He came to see that this seeming independence was not commensurate with equality, and he dedicated his life to the pursuit of that equality for all people, of all color, in all places.

He was a farmer, as well as a pastor for twenty-five years, president of the local NAACP for thirty-three years, and chairman of the East Carroll Ministerial Alliance for five, while still finding time to make regular visits to hospitals, senior citizens' homes, and prisons. His twenty-five year struggle for full voting rights for African-Americans is an exemplar of how individual people can indeed change the world. Armed with a passion for justice and ready to fight no matter what the cost, his local, grassroots efforts became a national movement that ultimately convinced Attorney General Robert Kennedy to join his crusade for equality for all. Despite growing up under the oppressive injustice of Jim Crow laws, and knowing the risks it presented to his own life and the lives of his friends, neighbors, and family members, he was unfaltering in his quest for progress.

His book, *Witness to the Truth*, which was compiled by his daughter, Cleo Scott Brown, is a collection of his writings and transcripts of his interviews; and I recommend it to all who wish to know more about the history of race relations in this country. We must understand the truth about our past struggles if we are ultimately to see success, because, in the words of Rev. Scott, "So much of what we will become depends on how we start." And Rev. Scott helped us start well. His life is a testament to the tenacity and courage that daily fortified our civil rights leaders and sustained them in their struggle to ensure human rights for every person, regardless of race, gender, or economic circumstance.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Rev. John H. Scott, and I acknowledge my own indebtedness here today. He once wrote, "History is of little value unless it inspires one to greater endeavors, or serves to guide against the mistakes of the past." As the first African-American elected to this great body from my State, I know that I have been inspired to greater endeavors by people like Rev. Scott, whose lives paved the way for my accomplishments.

I'd also like to thank Dr. Elsie Scott for bringing this extraordinary Foundation to my attention and to commend the other Scott family members including Jewel Scott, Johnita Scott, and Louis G. Scott.

Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor the memory of Rev. John H. Scott, and I know that all of my colleagues here join me in paying tribute to this man of uncommon distinction who history will remember as a great warrior in the struggle for civil rights.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. HUGH FERGUSON

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, one of our Nation's greatest assets is our veterans. When I look around this chamber and see the reflection of our democracy, I can't help but think of those who fought to ensure our safety, our strength, and our freedom.

I rise today to recognize an honored veteran and an extraordinary American, Mr. Hugh Ferguson.

Those who study World War II are aware that the United States was at war with Japan for three months after Germany surrendered. The end of the war with Japan came only after President Harry S. Truman made the brave and difficult decision to use the atomic bomb.

On August 9, 1945, Mr. Hugh Ferguson was piloting the B-29 bomber plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan. This mission required bravery, faith, and discipline in order to see it through. Mr. Ferguson was just a mere twenty-two years old when his country employed his piloting skills to end the battle and forever change the make-up of the world.

As Mr. Ferguson will tell you, he and his fellow pilots knew their acts would end World War II and save hundreds of thousands of American lives. This knowledge made it clear to Mr. Ferguson what his mission was and that his success was necessary—even at its great cost.

It takes a brave and faithful man to carry out the missions of the United States military. It takes an even braver man to test history with the new technology that was the atomic bomb. Yet, Mr. Ferguson's bravery did not stop there. Years later, he again answered the military's call of duty. Mr. Ferguson flew the only plane on site when the United States detonated the world's first hydrogen bomb on Eniwetok Atoll. Not knowing the consequences of this flight, he and his crew bravely documented the power of the hydrogen bomb for United States officials.

This year marks Mr. Ferguson's 82nd birthday. I wish to congratulate and honor him for his service to this country in the face of war. As a member of Congress, as a proud citizen of the United States, and as a person who enjoys the freedom this great Nation offers, I officially recognize Mr. Hugh Ferguson.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF DR. JEFFREY CHARLES KELLER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER THIRTY-THREE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE DUBLIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to one of Ohio's finest educators. After thirty-three years, Dr. Jeffrey C. Keller is retiring from the Dublin City School District. Dr. Keller, who for three decades has directed the Dublin Coffman High School instrumental music program, has been a leader in education and an inspiration to the community.

Raised in Prospect, Ohio, Dr. Keller began his career at Dublin High School in 1972, after earning his bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University. After three years, Dr. Keller returned to The Ohio State University where he earned his Masters and Doctoral degrees. After his graduate education, Dr. Keller returned to Dublin as director of music education, a position he has held ever since.

For more than 30 years, bands under Dr. Keller's direction have enjoyed a superior reputation in the State of Ohio. He has shared countless hours developing the talents and enjoyment of music in each of his students. For his efforts, Dr. Keller was recognized with the 2002 Ohio Music Educators' Association's Ohio Music Educator of the Year Award. In addition, Dr. Keller has been recognized by Capital University and Prescott High School in Arizona for his education and performance clinics. Dr. Keller was also awarded The School of Music Society of Alumni and Friends Award by his alma mater, The Ohio State University, for excellence in teaching in the music education division.

Beyond his deep commitment to the students of Dublin Coffman High School, Dr. Keller has also given greatly of himself to the community. As a result of his efforts as a community leader, Dr. Keller has been a recipient of the Dublin A.M. Rotary Signature Award, the Dublin Jaycees Golden Shamrock Award and the "God and Country" Music Award from the Greater Columbus Area Salvation Army.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Dr. Jeffrey C. Keller in recognition of his superlative service to the students, parents and friends of the Dublin Coffman Music Education Program. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize his many accomplishments. We wish Jeff, his wife Gail, and their daughter Kristany, all the best as we salute one of Ohio's finest citizens.

HONORING THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sumner High School, the first school west of the Mississippi river to offer secondary

education to African Americans. This year marks the 130th anniversary of the school's founding as "The High School for Colored Children." Originally housed in the former Washington School at 11th and Spruce streets in downtown St. Louis, the school was renamed on October 12, 1875, in honor of Charles Sumner, a Massachusetts Senator who was an ardent supporter of African-American rights. In 1861 Senator Sumner was the first U.S. Senator to call for full emancipation. The decision to name the school in his honor reflected the school's role as a preeminent institution for African Americans. Dropping "colored school" in favor of Sumner High occurred fifteen years before local African-American leaders succeeded in persuading the St. Louis Board of Schools to designate names for all segregated schools.

In the aftermath of the Civil War, Missouri passed a new state constitution requiring all school boards to support education for African Americans. However, the Board of Education for Colored Schools occupied only rented space and its schools moved often. Sumner was no exception. In 1895 it was relocated to 15th and Walnut streets, near the saloons and pool halls of downtown St. Louis. Concerned citizens petitioned school officials to move the school again and in 1910 Sumner was relocated to The Ville neighborhood, where it occupied a new structure at 4248 Cottage Avenue. The new Sumner High strengthened the neighborhood's status as a center for middle-class African-American life in St. Louis.

Another historical landmark tied to Sumner High School involved the hiring of African-American teachers. Initially, Sumner had an all white faculty, but the parents requested that a special effort be made to recruit African-American teachers. Two years later, in 1877, the school's first African-American principal took charge.

Sumner High School further enhanced educational opportunities for African Americans in Missouri when, in 1890, it established an extension called the Sumner Normal School to train elementary school teachers. In 1925 the Sumner Normal School became a college; it was known as the Sumner Teachers College until 1930 when it was renamed Harriet Beecher Stowe Teachers College. In 1940 the Teachers College moved to new facility on Pendleton Street where it remained until 1954 when, in one of St. Louis' first efforts to desegregate its public schools, the St. Louis Board of Education merged Stowe College with the all-white Harris Teachers College.

Sumner graduated its first class in 1885 and over the years its alumni list boasts a number of accomplished African Americans, including the opera singer Grace Bumbry, activist Dick Gregory, musician Tina Turner, tennis great Arthur Ashe, Liberian Ambassador Lester Walton, educator Julia Davis, rock history legend Chuck Berry, performer Robert McFerrin, actor Robert Guillaume, Yankee catcher-outfielder (and the American League's first black Most Valuable Player) Elston Howard and local newscaster Julius Hunter, to name just a few.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep pride that I recognize Sumner High School, a symbol of progress in African American history for its distinguished record of achievement in public education. As a community leader and elected official, I am proud to salute Sumner and all Sumner students and alumni on this very special anniversary. Sumner High School is a

source of pride for St. Louisans and a model for public schools across the nation.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX CREDIT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today with my good friend and colleague from the Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. ENGLISH, to introduce the "Affordable Housing Tax Credit Enhancement Act of 2005." Mr. ENGLISH and I share a passion for and commitment to ensuring that Americans have access to affordable, quality housing in which to live, to prosper and to raise their families. I am grateful for his continuing leadership in this area, and I am honored that he joins me today in introducing this important piece of legislation. I also am very pleased that 51 of our colleagues, including members from both sides of the aisle and several from the Committee on Ways and Means, join us today in introducing this measure.

Mr. Speaker, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, LIHTC, program was created as part of the Tax Reform Act of 1986. Today, the LIHTC program is widely regarded as the nation's most successful housing production program resulting in the construction and rehabilitation of more than 1.3 million housing units for lower income households. As a direct result of the LIHTC program, 130,000 new affordable housing units come online every year.

In addition to producing housing, the LIHTC program is unparalleled in contributing to the revitalization of distressed neighborhoods and communities throughout the United States. LIHTC properties are frequently among the first investments in a concerted revitalization strategy. The credit drives and catalyzes public/private/community partnerships that replace blight with safe, affordable housing, attract private capital, and prime the market for other activities, including increased homeownership and expanded retail development.

The redirection of capital to affordable housing through a tax incentive creates net economic efficiencies, because the housing credit more effectively marshals private sector capital than would be accomplished through any direct spending program. Because it sets up competition among developers for credit allocations and among corporations for access to investment opportunities, the LIHTC is considerably more efficient than a direct spending program.

The success of the LIHTC program is virtually unmatched. However, as a Nation, we still confront a serious affordable housing deficit—a gap that we must bridge to ensure that our most vulnerable families have access to quality, affordable housing and safer neighborhoods in which to live and prosper.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Enhancement Act of 2005. This legislation would make two important changes to current law. Most significantly, the bill would double the current LIHTC from \$1.85 per capita to \$3.70 per capita beginning in 2006, which would yield twice the number of affordable housing units annually and begin to close the current

gap. Second, the legislation would rename the LIHTC the "Affordable Housing" tax credit to remove any negative connotation and more accurately describe this effective program.

If this legislation were to pass, we are assured by affordable housing advocates, investors, syndicators, and developers that there is more than enough capacity in the market to effectively use these additional credits. In fact, the need for affordable housing throughout the country virtually assures the continued success of this program.

In addition, this legislation is a jobs creator. According to industry estimates, 112 jobs are created during the first year of construction of every 100 units of affordable housing, 46 of which morph into permanent positions. Based on that estimate, because doubling the current LIHTC would create 130,000 additional units annually, that translates into 145,600 new jobs nationally—59,800 of which would be permanent.

America is confronting an affordable housing crunch, and many hardworking men and women continue to seek employment. This legislation would make significant strides to address both problems. Therefore, I call on my colleagues to support this important measure and to ensure its consideration and passage.

STATEMENT IN HONOR OF THE HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City. Founded in 1977 by 25 Hispanic business leaders, the Chamber was the first physical office of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Since its inception, the Chamber has worked towards the development of its members, and worked to develop strong business relationships between Hispanic and non-Hispanic businesses in Kansas City. As one of the principal advocates for Hispanic businesses in the City, the Chamber provides an invaluable resource as it helps local businesses build capacity and develop business skills. Their programming includes the how-tos of business planning, advertising, sales and marketing, procurement and certification. In today's competitive business environment, their work is more important than ever.

Today, the Chamber represents the interests of twelve-hundred Hispanic-owned businesses in Metropolitan Kansas City and currently has five-hundred members, having grown by three-hundred percent in the last three years.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City, and I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to this historic organization.