

in conjunction with the National Medical Association on Friday, July 22, 2005 at the Sheraton New York Hotel. Dr. Barnes is being honored for his outstanding contributions to cardiology as an acclaimed physician, researcher, educator, humanitarian and spokesman.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Barnes is a native of my hometown of Wilson, North Carolina. His parents were Dr. B.O. Barnes and Flossie Howard Barnes. He graduated from Charles H. Darden High School in 1960, Johnson C. Smith University in 1964, and the Howard University School of Medicine in 1968. While in high school, Dr. Barnes distinguished himself as a scholar and an outstanding quarterback on the football team.

Dr. Barnes' father practiced medicine in our hometown for many years prior to his untimely death in 1956. His patients were the poor and disadvantaged minority citizens of the county who basically could not afford health care but he provided it without reservation. One of the local elementary schools in our community is named "B.O. Barnes Elementary School." Mr. Speaker, it was this family background of public service that has laid the foundation for the great work of Dr. Barnes.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Barnes has held a number of significant positions over the years including that of Founding Member of the Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc.; developer of the Echocardiography, Laboratory at Howard University Hospital; Lead Investigator for ARIES, the first national cholesterol study in African Americans; and recipient of the Favorite Doctor in D.C. Award.

However, it is not the work for which he has already been honored that is most impressive nor is it the numerous accolades he has received from such notables as the D.C. Medical Society, Providence Hospital and President Bill Clinton. Rather it is the work that has received no recognition that makes Dr. Barnes a truly special individual.

Over the last 30 years, Dr. Barnes has acted as a dedicated servant to one of our nation's most disadvantaged communities. As the only Board Certified Cardiologist in Anacostia, Dr. Barnes has devoted his career, his talents and his long list of credentials to fighting the number one killer in our nation, heart disease. Over three decades, Dr. Barnes has stood for dedication, service and compassion in an environment that rarely affords either.

For his steadfast work through adversity and breakthrough accomplishments in the field of cardiology, I call upon my colleagues to join me today in rising to honor this truly great man and praise not simply his individual deeds but the body of his work. Dr. Barnes is a remarkable physician and a credit to his field; I thank him for his service, and thank his lovely wife of decades, Bernadine and their two precious daughters, Tamera and Bridget, for sharing Dr. Barnes with us.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GM POWERTRAIN FLINT NORTH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise before you today to ask my

colleagues in the 109th Congress to join me in celebrating a milestone happening in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. On Thursday, July 21, civic and community leaders will join General Motors and the United Auto Workers to commemorate the 100th anniversary of GM's Powertrain Flint North plant.

Originally a tract of farmland owned by the Durant-Dort Carriage Company, William Crapo Durant and J. Dallas Dort used the site to create a network of factories with the intention of maintaining all aspects of carriage production in close proximity. This network was the basis on which General Motors was formed. On September 4, 1905, a construction contract was signed for the creation of Buick Factory 1, and the company broke ground on November 1 that same year. Other factories followed, including the Weston-Mott Axle Factory and the Imperial Wheel Building, among many others that added to the history of General Motors, and the City of Flint.

The Buick site, where my father worked, became one of America's greatest contributors during both World Wars, producing many engines and parts used by the United States and the Allied Forces. Following World War II, the site experienced a period of growth and prosperity, with the development of new onsite foundries and factories, as well as several administrative and support buildings. The site was also home to Buick City, a multi-million dollar manufacturing project that garnered international attention. Today, under the name of GM Powertrain Flint North, the site remains home to four factories, five support buildings, a Cultural and Diversity Center, and the dedicated men and women of UAW Local 599, which has represented its members for 66 years.

Mr. Speaker, Flint, Michigan is still known to many as "Buick City." This name signifies the level of pride GM employees, UAW members, and Flint residents have in the Buick name, their product, and the community in which they have invested much of their lives. I have a personal reason to be proud of Powertrain Flint North's centennial; my father was a founding member of Local 599, joining the UAW in the 1930's. From my own family's experience, I know the impact the site's presence has made in the quality of life for many Flint households. As the Member of Congress representing the City of Flint, home of Powertrain Flint North and as the proud owner of a Buick LeSabre, I again ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating General Motors and the UAW.

HONORING ARTHUR A. FLETCHER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. WATT, CBC chairman, and I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and achievements of Arthur A. Fletcher of Washington, DC. Known for his lifelong commitment to advancing civil rights and increasing educational and professional opportunity for African Americans and other minorities, Mr. Fletcher was a true pioneer in the movement for racial and socioeconomic equality in America. He passed away at his home in Washington on July 12, 2005 at the age of 80.

Mr. Fletcher was born in Phoenix, Arizona in 1924, but grew up in California, Oklahoma, Arizona and Kansas due to his father's career in the military. While attending high school in Junction City, Kansas, he organized his first civil rights protest after being told that African American student photographs would only be included in the back of the yearbook. Remaining in Kansas for college, he attended Washburn University in Topeka, earning degrees in political science and sociology, and later went on to earn a law degree and a Ph.D. in education.

Mr. Fletcher served in World War II under General George Patton, earning a purple heart after being shot while fighting with his Army tanker division. He went on to become a professional football player in 1950, joining the Los Angeles Rams and later the Baltimore Colts, where he was one of the team's first African American players.

Mr. Fletcher entered politics in 1954, working first on Fred Hall's gubernatorial campaign in Kansas, and later taking a post working for the Kansas Highway Commission. Central to his work in that position and in subsequent ones was his determination to use his knowledge of government contracts to encourage African Americans to bid on contracts and grow their businesses.

Mr. Fletcher lived in the San Francisco Bay Area during the late 1960s and later moved to Washington, where he served as a special assistant to the governor and was the first black candidate to run for lieutenant governor or any statewide office. In 1969, President Nixon appointed him assistant secretary of wage and labor standards in the Department of Labor. There he became best known for devising the "Philadelphia plan," which set and enforced equal opportunity employment standards for companies with federal contracts and their labor unions.

Given Congresswoman LEE's history as a small business owner, we can personal attest to the positive impact of Mr. Fletcher's work to extend federal contracting opportunities to African Americans has had on the minority business community. As a federal contractor in the SBA 8A program in the 1980s, Congresswoman LEE was able to directly benefit from his vision and foresight with regard to getting minorities involved in business, as have countless others.

In 1972, Mr. Fletcher became the Executive Director of the United Negro College Fund, where he fought to extend equal educational opportunity to African Americans, and coined the slogan "a mind is a terrible thing to waste." Known as "the father of affirmative action," he was later asked to serve on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights under Presidents Ford, Reagan and Bush as a commissioner, and later as chairman, until 1993. Prompted by a series of attacks on longstanding affirmative action policies in the mid-1990s, Mr. Fletcher ran for president in 1996, and later became president and CEO of Fletcher's Learning Systems and publisher of USA Tomorrow/The Fletcher Letter. Mr. Fletcher served as a delegate to the United Nations and as the chairman of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, and spent a great deal of time speaking at venues across the country on the benefits of affirmative action and equal opportunity.

Many have benefited from the affirmative action policies and Mr. Fletcher's unyielding

commitment and work for equal opportunity. Clearly, this giant of a human being has paved the way for the success of countless individuals. For this, we are deeply grateful.

During a time when bipartisanship cooperation is badly needed for addressing the critical issues of our time, Mr. Fletcher stands out as one who truly embodied this spirit. We personally remember his efforts at working "both sides of the aisle," never forgetting what was fair and good for Black America was good for our Nation. We owe Mr. Fletcher a tremendous debt of gratitude for setting this exceptional standard of leadership.

On July 21, 2005, Mr. Fletcher's wife Bernyce, his three children and the rest of his family and friends will gather in Washington, DC to celebrate his extraordinary life. Mr. Fletcher's work as a presidential adviser and a champion of civil rights and affirmative action shaped the course of countless individual lives. Mr. Fletcher's tireless advocacy for equal opportunity made higher education and professional success possible for entire sectors of our society that otherwise would not have had those chances, and the effects of his activism will continue to be felt for generations to come. On behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, we thank Mr. Fletcher for his truly invaluable contributions to our society, and for his work in making success, opportunity and the American dream possible for all people.

SUSPEND RESTRICTIONS TO CUBA TO ALLOW FAMILY ASSISTANCE IN AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE DENNIS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support a resolution to temporarily suspend restrictions on remittances, gift parcels, and family travel to Cuba in order to allow Cuban-Americans to assist their relatives in the aftermath of Hurricane Dennis.

I have long opposed the embargo against Cuba, as I strongly believe that restricting travel and trade is a failed policy that harms the people of Cuba, and works against the promotion of democracy on the island. This is clearly evidenced in the wake of Hurricane Dennis when due to political sanctions Cuban Americans are powerless to reach out and assist their loved ones in a time of need.

Hurricane Dennis was a disastrous force that killed 16 people, destroyed numerous buildings and homes and left Cuba with \$1.4 billion in property damage. The embarrassingly small \$50,000 in aid offered by the U.S. is not nearly enough to address the needs of the millions of Cubans who have been left without food, clean water, electricity, and shelter caused by the devastation of Hurricane Dennis.

It is unfortunate that the U.S. government is unwilling to make a substantial contribution to the humanitarian mission in Cuba, but to deny Cuban Americans the right to help their families in a time of overwhelming need is an outrage. It is a policy that is both unethical and un-American.

The Cuban people are the ones who are suffering and it is time to put politics aside and

ease restrictions to allow Cuban-Americans to help their families and assist in disaster relief. This disaster is a prime example of why U.S. policy towards Cuba must be reevaluated. As it stands there is no exception in the law for emergency situations on the island and is therefore inhumane and serves as punishment to the people who are most vulnerable: Cuban citizens.

The recent case of Sgt. Carlos Lazo and his inability to visit his sons in Cuba is another example of why rigid U.S. policy towards Cuba must be reevaluated. Sgt. Lazo deserves the opportunity to visit his sons in Cuba. His story has become well known to many in Congress through his activism in trying to change Cuba policy. He has served in war for his adopted Nation, and the fact that he is denied the ability to see his sons more often than once every three years is absurd and indefensible.

For years Cuba policy has been driven by the Cuban-American community in Miami. It is clear, however, that the community no longer supports a hard-line approach. Many Cuban-Americans feel betrayed that their government dictates which family members they travel to see and how often they may do so. Cuban-Americans should have the right to visit their families, send them gifts, needed supplies, and money without the government restrictions now in place.

Developing a relationship with Cuba is an important foreign policy goal and in order to achieve this goal a new and rational approach to relations between our countries is urgently needed, based on dialogue, open travel and increased trade.

[From the New York Times, July 6, 2005]

FLORIDA'S ZEAL AGAINST CASTRO IS LOSING HEAT

MIAMI.—Fidel Castro is not dead, but he has haunted Miami for nearly 50 years. This is a city where newscasters still scrutinize Mr. Castro's health and workers conduct emergency drills to prepare for the chaos expected upon his demise. Spy shops still flourish here, and a store on Calle Ocho does brisk business in reprints of the Havana phone book from 1959, the year he seized power. But if Mr. Castro's grip on Cuban Miami remains strong, the fixation is expressed differently these days. The monolithic stridency that once defined the exile community has faded. There is less consensus on how to fight Mr. Castro and even, as Cuban-Americans grow more politically and economically diverse, less intensity of purpose. Some call it shrewd pragmatism, others call it fatigue.

In May, Luis Posada Carriles, a militant anti-Castro fighter from the cold war era, was arrested here on charges of entering the country illegally and was imprisoned in El Paso, where he awaits federal trial. Barely anyone in Miami protested, even though many Cuban-Americans consider Mr. Posada, 77, to be a hero who deserves asylum.

A month earlier, two milestones—the 25th anniversary of the Mariel boatlift, which brought 125,000 Cubans to the United States and transformed Miami, and the fifth anniversary of the seizure of Elián González—passed almost quietly.

When a Miami Herald columnist went to Cuba in June and filed dispatches critical of Mr. Posada, who is suspected in a deadly airline bombing and other violent attacks, indignant letters to the editor were the only protest. In the past, Cuban-Americans boycotted The Herald and smeared feces on its vending boxes to protest what they considered pro-Castro coverage.

This city where raucous demonstrations by exiles were once as regular as summer

storms has seen few lately. One theory is that the people whose life's mission was to defeat Mr. Castro and return to the island one day—those who fled here in the early years of his taking power—have grown old and weary.

"We are all exhausted from so much struggle," said Ramón Saul Sánchez, leader of the Democracy Movement, an exile organization that once ran flotillas to the waters off Cuba to protest human-rights abuses. Mr. Sánchez, 50, also belonged to Alpha 66, an exile paramilitary group that trained in the Everglades, mostly in the 1960's and 70's, for an armed invasion of Cuba, and later protested around the clock outside Elián González's house. Now, he said, he prefers less attention-grabbing tactics, quietly supporting dissidents on the island from an office above a Laundromat.

The subtler approach is gaining favor. Cuban-Americans have grown more politically aware since the Elián González episode, many say, when their fervor to thwart the Clinton administration and the boy's return to his father in Cuba drew national contempt. Americans who had paid little attention to the policy debate over Cuba tended to support sending Elián home, polls showed, and were put off by images of exiles blocking traffic and flying American flags upside down in protest.

"Elián González was a great lesson, a brutal lesson," said Joe Garcia, the former executive director of the Cuban-American National Foundation, a once belligerent but now more measured exile group. "It woke us up."

Mayor Manny Diaz, a Cuban-American whose political career took off after he served as a lawyer for Elián's Miami relatives, said he decided afterward it was more important to heal the wounds in Miami than to criticize the Castro government. Mr. Diaz did not mention Cuba in his State of the City speech this spring—an absence the local alternative newspaper called "downright revolutionary." In fact, Mr. Diaz said he had never used Mr. Castro's name to rouse support.

"I wish he'd get run over by an 18-wheeler tomorrow," Mr. Diaz said of Mr. Castro. "But as mayor, I'm supposed to fix your streets and your parks and your potholes."

Also revolutionary is that Cuban-Americans, solidly Republican since President John F. Kennedy's decision not to support the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion, are reconsidering their allegiance. Most still stand by President Bush, which helps explain their silence after the arrest of Mr. Posada. Yet they also say Mr. Bush has repeatedly let them down.

He has continued the "wet foot, dry foot" policy that President Bill Clinton adopted, letting Cuban refugees who make it to shore remain in this country but sending back those stopped at sea. Mr. Bush also adopted new restrictions last year on visiting and sending money to relatives in Cuba, which all but the most hard-line exiles say hurts Cuban families more than Mr. Castro.

More recently, the Bush administration discussed reassigning to Iraq a special military plane it bought to help broadcast TV and Radio Marti in Cuba, a priority of exile groups.

"The Cuban-American community helped elect this guy," Mr. Garcia said, "and even then Cuban-Americans get short shrift."

Mr. Garcia made waves last fall by resigning from the Cuban-American National Foundation to join a Democratic advocacy group. José Basulto, the leader of Brothers to the Rescue, a group that flew over the Florida Strait in the 1990s seeking rafters in distress, held a news conference in 2003 to announce that he was abandoning the Republican Party.