

The liberators brought freedom. They also brought dignity. Men and women in the camps had been treated as less than human. They were given numbers for identification. They were deployed for slave labor and tossed aside when they could no longer work.

When the liberators came, simple acts gave rise to profound joy. A survivor named Gerda Weissman Klein recalled her liberation in an interview recorded in this Museum. An American soldier greeted Gerda and asked, "May I see the other ladies?" After six years of being addressed with insults and slurs, to be called a lady was an overwhelming courtesy. The soldier asked her to come with him, and Gerda said, "He held the door open for me and let me precede him, and in that gesture restored my humanity."

A survivor named Alan Zimm remembers the Allied soldiers who liberated him from Bergen-Belsen. They called to the people inside the camp in many different languages, each time with the same simple message: My dear friends, from now on, you are free.

The liberators themselves remember the scenes. They also became keepers of memories, witnesses to the evil. Few could comprehend what they saw. Young men, many in their teens, hardened by years of fighting their way across Europe, at the camps they wept for the people they met. One American who participated in the liberation of Dachau recalled that with just one look at the survivors, he quotes, "We realized what this war was all about."

Many of the soldiers returned home, unable to talk about their experiences at the camps. The emotions were too raw, the images too painful. Words could not fully convey what happened.

My father's unit, the 104th Infantry, helped to liberate the camp at Nordhausen. My father is no longer living, but when I used to ask him about that time, he couldn't bear to talk about it. I think in retrospect, he couldn't bear to tell his child that there could be such evil in the world.

As survivors and liberators leave us, the work of preserving their memories is all the more urgent. Staff and volunteers from the United States Holocaust Museum have conducted thousands of interviews to gather information from eyewitnesses. The information is available to all who seek it. Over the last 12 years, 22 million visitors have walked through the museum. Each year, 150,000 teachers receive training on how to educate children about the Holocaust. The museum has sent survivors to speak to more than 15,000 members of the armed forces at more than 40 military installations.

The museum is our national effort to honor the survivors, the liberators, the victims and the families affected by the Holocaust. It's fitting that it sits on the National Mall, near great monuments to democracy. The lessons of tyranny and liberty that lie at the heart of the Holocaust remind us that preserving freedom requires constant vigilance.

Other museums and memorials exist throughout America and around the world. Some are small and private, located in the hearts and homes of families who cherish their heritage. Others bring communities together to explore the impact of the Holocaust.

I learned of the efforts of a group of teachers and students in Whitwell, Tennessee. Whitwell is a rural town of about 1,600 people, most of them Christian. Students and staff at Whitwell Middle School began studying the Holocaust to explore, as one teacher described it, "what happens when intolerance reigns and when prejudice goes unchecked."

The students at Whitwell had trouble grasping the magnitude of the Holocaust.

When thinking about the Jews who lost their lives in the concentration camp, one student asked, "What is six million?"

In the course of their research, the students discovered that during World War II, the people of Norway wore paper clips on their clothing in silent resistance to the Nazi aggression. Whitwell's students decided to collect six million paper clips so that they could visualize what a staggering number six million really is.

They ultimately collected 30 million paper clips. The school acquired a World War II-era German railcar, one used to carry people to the camps. Today, the railcar sits on the grounds of Whitwell Middle School, holding 11 million paper clips, to represent the victims of Nazi persecution.

But of course, what's important about the paper clips are the stories that accompanied them. Eyewitness accounts poured in from survivors and liberators, from men and women who had never known their grandparents, or who had lost their siblings. Survivors visited Whitwell to relate their experiences, and to help ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust reached even a small Appalachian town.

A center of Holocaust awareness and memory now sits in one of the least likely places. A movie called "Paper Clips" was produced to document the Whitwell project. Students give tours of their railcar memorial and pass along the knowledge they've gained. Teachers from the Whitwell have spoken to students in German schools, and they visited concentration camps.

When President Bush and I visited Auschwitz, I realized that there are things textbooks can't teach. They can't teach you how to feel when you see prayer shawls or baby shoes left by children being torn from their mothers, or prison cells with the scratch marks of attempted escape. But what moved me the most were the thousands of eyeglasses, their lenses still smudged with tears and dirt. It struck me how vulnerable we are as humans, how many needed those glasses to see, and how many people living around the camps and around the world refused to see. We see today and we know what happened and we'll never forget.

Later this week, President Bush and I will visit the Rumbula Holocaust Memorial in Latvia—the site of the second-largest massacre of Jews perpetrated by the Nazis during World War II. Whenever and wherever we remember the victims of the Holocaust, we deepen our commitment to tolerance and freedom. In Whitwell, Tennessee, in Washington, DC, at Yad Vashem, at Auschwitz—new generations are honoring those ideals simply by looking and learning and listening. The voices of the survivors and liberators will one day be silent, but their testimony will be heard forever. Thank you, and may God bless you all.

MARCUS GARVEY—HAPPY
BIRTHDAY TO A LEGEND

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on August 17th a very important occasion will be observed—the 118th birthday of Marcus Garvey. Marcus Garvey is widely considered a monumental figure in world and American history. In the 1920's, his message of unity, cultural pride, and self-sufficiency inspired millions of people around the world.

In this country, Garvey's message of pride in heritage and identification with African roots inspired African Americans at a time when we were oppressed by the impact of slavery and segregation. The Harlem based movement he started with the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) during the early 1900's is still the largest that the modern Black world has ever seen.

His efforts would be a major impetus in the later movements that would free black peoples from the shackles of colonization and legalized discrimination. Indeed, his life and philosophy were embraced by influential Black leaders of the 20th century such as Kwame Nkrumah, Malcom X, and Martin Luther King. He is a national hero of almost mythic proportions in his native Jamaica, and was an inspiration for the Rastafarian movement in Jamaica during the 20th century. Indeed, his praises have been sung in reggae songs up to the present day.

Despite his future impact, the America in which he lived was a much different place then it is today. African Americans did not have rights, and were expected to accept their inequitable position in society. Many became threatened by the size and implications of Marcus Garvey's movement, and he soon became the target of significant government harassment, led by a young J. Edgar Hoover. Eventually, Mr. Garvey was convicted on a single charge of mail fraud—a charge that experts agree was spurious.

Marcus Garvey has been an inspiration to me since I was a child. I was born, raised, and still live in Harlem, where Garvey established the Headquarters for the Universal Negro Improvement Association. Though I was born three years after Garvey was, deported from the United States, his imprint on Harlem was still evident throughout my childhood and adolescence. I often met followers of Garvey's movement, known as Garveyites, who would preach his philosophy. Their words encouraged me to do my own research. As I grew older, I came to fully understand the importance of Garvey and the injustice of his wrongful conviction.

Since 1987, I have endeavored to restore the good name of Marcus Garvey, and my effort is continuing in the 109th Congress. I now have the support of an ever-increasing number of individuals, organizations, constituencies and legislators. Cities from Hartford, Connecticut to Lauderhill, Florida have passed resolutions calling for Mr. Garvey's exoneration, and Rep. Rangel's current Marcus Garvey resolution, H. Con. Res. 57, has garnered the most House support since it was first introduced in 1987.

A Presidential pardon is the final and most important step in restoring the good name of Marcus Garvey and preserving his legacy for future generations. To that end, I sent an official request to President Bush this week urging the granting of a posthumous Presidential pardon to Marcus Garvey. It is my hope that President Bush will take the time to investigate the merits of my request, as such consideration on behalf of Marcus Garvey is long overdue. I will also attend a ceremony in St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica—the birthplace of Marcus Garvey—in August, to commemorate the 118th anniversary of Mr. Garvey's birth.

We here in the House recently passed a resolution, H. Con. Res. 175, which acknowledged African descendants of the transatlantic slave trade in all of the Americas and recommended that the United States and the

international community work to improve the situation of Afro-descendants in our hemisphere. That was one of the goals of Marcus Garvey—the improvement of Afro-descendants. As we continue to make progress on that front, we must continue to remember Marcus Garvey, and restore to him the honor which he deserves.

RECOGNIZING THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANDMARK VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of H. Con. Res. 216, which seeks to advance the legacy of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Ninety-five years after the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment, African Americans in the South still faced tremendous obstacles to voting, including poll taxes, literacy tests, and other bureaucratic restrictions designed to disenfranchise them. In addition, they risked harassment, intimidation, economic reprisals, and physical violence when they tried to register or vote. As a result, few African Americans were registered voters, and consequently wielded little, if any, local or national political power.

In the aftermath of “Bloody Sunday”, where the rights of nonviolent civil rights marchers were brutally abridged, our nation recognized that democracy was not yet fulfilled for African-Americans. President Lyndon B. Johnson was then prompted to encourage Congress to draft a comprehensive voting rights bill. The outcome was the Voting Rights Bill of 1965, enacted on August 6, 1965. It took direct aim at black disenfranchisement in the South by targeting areas, such as Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia, where fewer than 50 percent of eligible voters participated in the election. In these areas, the Federal Government was then authorized to appoint examiners to conduct the registration process, in the place of local officials. It has been argued, by the Department of Justice, that the influx of “federal registrars represented the ultimate triumph of national policy toward minorities over state and local policies.” Mr. Speaker, I contend that it was the long overdue enforcement of the rights provided in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments.

It is clear that the effects of the voting rights law were immediate and extensive. By 1967 black voter registration in six southern states had increased from 30 percent to more than 50 percent. There was also a correspondingly sharp increase in the number of blacks elected to political office in the South. Furthermore, in 1976, when Democrat Jimmy Carter was elected President of the United States by a narrow margin, the “newly-enfranchised southern blacks” were deemed to be largely responsible.

Although this legislation is of particular significance to African Americans, it is truly a landmark law, which secures the franchise for all Americans regardless of “race, color, or previous condition of servitude.” As we approach the 40th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, it is important that we remember to

uphold and strengthen the tenets of this Act and in doing so preserve our constitutional rights.

We should never forget the sacrifices made by the activists of the Civil Rights Movement, and therefore strive to continually advance their legacy in this era.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EARL
MACPHERSON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, I rise to pay special tribute to the life and spirit of an outstanding community leader, Mr. Earl MacPherson. Earl passed away on July 10, 2005, at his home in Medford, Oregon. He is survived by his wife, Lyn; daughters, Laura and Adrienne; son, Ronald; and step-son, Robert. On behalf of the constituents of Oregon’s Second Congressional District, my family, and myself, I offer deepest condolences to his family for their loss.

Earl’s passing, after a life replete with civic accomplishments, concludes a remarkable string of military and volunteer service that set a commendable standard for other leaders and volunteers to follow. His legacy and contributions to southern Oregon veterans and seniors will live on for generations to come.

With service in the United States Marine Corps, the Oregon Army National Guard and the Oregon State Defense Force, Earl dedicated 50 years of service in defense of our Nation during World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars. In 1944, following the Battle of Saipan, he received the Purple Heart medal for wounds sustained during an enemy grenade attack.

Ever the warrior, Earl spent the past 30 years championing the causes of, and lending his voice to, his fellow veterans. He was the founder and chairman of the Jackson County Allied Veterans Council, organized and started Medford’s annual Veterans’ Day parade and was instrumental in establishing the annual Southern Oregon Stand-down event to aid homeless veterans. In addition, Earl was an active member of some fifteen different veterans’ organizations, including his beloved Marine Corps League. Mr. Speaker, I cannot begin to list all of his accomplishments as a volunteer. In fact, I last had the pleasure of seeing Earl at the dedication of the Medford Veterans Park Memorial, a fitting final project for an unparalleled veterans’ advocate.

Earl’s focus on community involvement extended beyond veterans’ concerns. Since 1991, he had served on the Board of Directors of the Medford Senior Center. Under his guidance, this vitally important facility became a well spring for the mental, physical, and social health of thousands of Jackson County seniors.

Samuel Logan Brengle, the legendary leader in the Salvation Army, once spoke the following words that reflect Earl’s character and life. He said, “The final estimate of men shows that history cares not an iota for the rank or title a man has borne, or the office he has held, but only the quality of his deeds and the character of his mind and heart.” Indeed, Earl MacPherson has exemplified these ideals

through his service, sacrifice and commitment to his country and his community.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield back the balance of my time.

MEXICAN POSTAL SERVICE’S
ISSUANCE OF THE “MEMIN
PINGUIN” STAMPS

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Representative CLEAVER and the Congressional Black Caucus for bringing focus to this sensitive issue.

The Mexican government’s decision to release the “Memin Pinguin” stamp series has rekindled many memories of past racism in this Nation and abroad. I am outraged and disappointed that Mexico’s President, Vicente Fox, has allowed such a negative racial depiction to circulate throughout Mexico.

Growing up during the heart of the Civil Rights Movement, I saw firsthand the struggles of my parents and many others more famous, like Representative JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, and many others that fought for the equal and fair treatment for all people, not just African-Americans. To publish a stamp that celebrates a stereotypical image of people with African ancestry is offensive to those who have fought and to those who are still fighting for the equal treatment of all people.

The “Memin Pinguin” depicts a young boy with much exaggerated features including large lips and bulging eyes. These depictions have served as a source of distasteful comedy for far too many years. This Mexican stamp series does nothing but hinder the ongoing efforts to remove racial barriers worldwide. The ideology expressed in this stamp shows the world that it is okay to mimic and belittle people, which is something that I know this Congress and this country do not condone.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard for me to explain to the constituents of Maryland’s 7th District, which includes a growing South American population, as well as a sizeable African-American population, how the Mexican government justifies the distribution of such a derogatory stamp—that could possibly be mailed worldwide.

Our own administration has stated that these racially insensitive stamps have no place in the modern world.

Conversely, Mexico’s President Vicente Fox has stated that he does not feel that the stamps express racial stereotypes and has ignored all calls to pull them from circulation. Additionally, he has stated there is absolutely nothing discriminatory about this stamp collection.

In May 2005, President Fox said that, “Mexican migrants in the U.S. did jobs even blacks don’t want.” President Fox’s comment was a slap in the face to all American citizens who believe in justice and equality worldwide. Today, as we face the new world on terror, people of all races, nationalities and backgrounds are forming powerful political and economic coalitions. The comments and actions of President Fox do nothing to strengthen the bonds in these communities.