

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.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, many civic organizations are disturbed by the release of the "Memín Pinguin" series and the subsequent comments made by the Mexican government. The NAACP has called the stamps "injurious to black people who live in the United States and Mexico." The Mexican Negro Association, which represents some 50,000 blacks, said "Memín Pinguin rewards, celebrates, typifies and cements the distorted, mocking, stereotypical and limited vision of black people in general."

These groups, in addition to various other civil rights groups have demanded, but to no avail, that President Fox apologize for his actions. I agree with these groups and support their efforts to not only have President Fox immediately cease the circulation and production of this stamp, but to also hold himself accountable for the inflammatory statements he has made against African-Americans.

In response to the public outcry, the Mexican Ambassador to the United States Carlos de Loaza released a letter. In the letter Ambassador de Loaza writes, "Mexico acknowledges and recognizes the relationship of mutual respect that it has with the African-American community, based on the struggle to protect our communities against discrimination and in the promotion of human rights and diversity."

While I appreciate the sentiments expressed in his letter, I believe that actions speak louder than words. If President Fox wants to show the level of respect that he has, for not only the African-American community, but for all people, I would request that he issue a formal apology and halt all sales and production of the "Memín Pinguin" stamps.

The insensitivity embedded in the circulation of the "Memín Pinguin" stamps are a clear indication that we still have a long way to go in improving race relations globally. It is truly disheartening when a world leader possesses apparent racial and cultural insensitivity and lacks the humility to apologize when there is nothing to lose.

The 750,000 stamps that were sold out after two days represent 750,000 symbols of ignorance and bigotry. Since the civil rights era, we have worked hard on healing as a Nation—we must not revert to the hatred and injustice of the past. These stamps are a haunting memory of America's iniquity that we should never revisit.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY ELLIOTT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Shirley Elliott, an exceptional Kentuckian. Elliott, a 72-year-old deputy sheriff, has served and protected the people of Knox County with distinction for 35 years. A man this committed to the safety and well being of his community deserves our recognition.

Like many eastern Kentucky teenagers from his generation, Elliott was prepared to work in the dark coal mines of Appalachia. He began

helping his father haul coal out of the mines at the age of 15. In 1970, while he worked at a coal tippie in Knox County, he received an offer from then-Sheriff Jim Matt Mooneyham to become deputy sheriff. After a short time on duty, Elliott knew he had found his lifelong calling.

Thirty-five years later, Elliott is a pillar of the community that he serves and protects. The community and law enforcement officers in Knox County hold him in high regard, and he has earned a reputation as a mediator. Current Sheriff John Pickard recently told a Kentucky paper, "He's probably the best I've ever seen at calming a dangerous situation." Elliott says his strategy involves simply giving people time and space to cool off. During 35 years of service, he has never had to fire his .44-caliber Smith & Wesson during a potentially dangerous encounter.

Deputy Sheriff Elliott no longer works the night shift, which leaves more time for him to work in his garden and spend time with his wife Nikki and their children and grandchildren. He has considered retirement, but, for now, continues to proudly wear his badge.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to thank Deputy Sheriff Shirley Elliott for his sacrifice and service on behalf of the people of Knox County, Kentucky. His dedication and integrity are an inspiration to us all.

CARIBBEAN EMANCIPATION DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in the Caribbean celebration of the 167th anniversary of their emancipation from slavery, which was achieved on August 1, 1838. This day of celebration and love for freedom is commemorated by the former British colonies in the Caribbean in appreciation of their collective independence. No longer were the inhabitants of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, or the rest of the West Indies held in bondage as slaves in their homeland. No longer were they unjustly enchained at the hands of the European colonists.

Emancipation Day in the Caribbean is akin to Juneteenth Day for African-Americans. It is a time to recognize and celebrate our independence and freedom. Emancipation Day provided the Caribbean people with opportunities to direct and control their daily lives and to live and strive for greater independence.

I have long believed that the struggles for freedom of African-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans were connected. Slavery and injustice have been our common experience. Slavery drew lines between slaves and masters that would be difficult to break. We—African-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans—still struggle with breaking those barriers, stereotypes, and misperceptions that are the vestiges of the transatlantic slave trade. The major difference is the history and mechanisms at our disposal for the erosion of these ill effects.

For Afro-Caribbeans, Emancipation Day has emerged as an important reminder of their

struggle and a significant enforcer of their dreams to be a better people. It is a reminder of their strength, determination, and willpower in fighting against their oppressor.

There is a famous story in the Caribbean that I like to tell around this time. It is about a young lady who was brought to the shores of Jamaica to work as a slave by the British in the early 1700s. Like the Caribbean countries themselves, her roots were African. Her name was likely Ashanti as she hailed from that great African kingdom, but upon arriving she was stripped of her given name and was known among her fellow slaves simply as "Nanny." The loss of name, heritage, and history is a practice that has long afflicted Africans in the Americas as a result of the brutal and tragic transatlantic slave trade.

While slavery existed outright in the Caribbean until 1834, and then under the name of "apprenticeship" until 1838, Nanny resisted it at every opportunity. Soon, after her arrival in Jamaica, she displayed that Caribbean proclivity for cutting her own path and escaped from her master's plantation with her five brothers. Granny Nanny of the Maroons, as she is popularly referred to today, traveled around the countryside organizing free Africans in the towns of Portland, St. James, and St. Elizabeth. She eventually established Nanny Town and based the community's governance on the Ashanti society. She held fast to her culture and incorporated into her new world.

Nanny was small and wiry, like many of the Caribbean nations. She was also singularly focused in her pursuit of self-determination. The vast British military presence on the island launched numerous attacks on Nanny and her comrades, hoping to force them back into slavery. For nearly 20 years, Nanny evaded the British and withstood their aggressions. She placed guards at lookout points, sent spies to live among the slave populations, and ordered her fighters to dress like trees and bushes to avoid detection. Slave resistance and rebellions were not just an American phenomenon.

In 1737, the British offered Nanny a truce. The maroons would be given land and rights as free men, but only if they promised to help capture and return runaway slaves, assist the government in putting down revolts, and cease their battles with the British. Their alternative would be to continue in their campaign against the massive British military, pitting 800 former slaves against the strongest army in the world at the time.

To proud, determined, and resourceful Nanny, this was an easy decision. She flatly turned down the British offer. Her freedom and the freedom of her people could not be bought. It would not be traded. It would not be negotiated away. She fought to her dying breath for that freedom and remains a powerful legend and force in the Caribbean today.

In that same vein, the nations of the Caribbean will not and have not wavered from their commitment to freedom. Go to Barbados, Nevis, the Bahamas, Antigua, Barbuda, Montserrat, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent, Grenada and St. Lucia. There you will find the tales of Granny Nanny and her fight for freedom.