

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.

For centuries, the people of these countries refused to accept colonialism and fought stubbornly for their freedom in hideaways in cities, mountains, and forests. In 1838, the British gave up and emancipated the peoples of the Caribbean. The love of the Caribbean people for their freedom and the strength of majesties, like Granny Nanny, was too much to overcome.

When I think of the importance of Caribbean Emancipation Day, I think of the struggle and actions of individuals like Granny Nanny of the Maroons, the hero who typifies the spirit of these great nations. They remind me of American warriors such as Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman. Caribbean Emancipation Day belongs to the people of the Caribbean, but the celebration is truly an African celebration.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROSA PARK'S COURAGEOUS OPPOSITION TO SEGREGATION

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. 208, which recognizes the pivotal contribution of Mrs. Rosa Louise Parks. Mrs. Parks is best known as the seamstress who became a courageous activist and changed America forever with bold defiance of segregation. Although she has been portrayed as a quiet woman, her actions have spoken volumes. Her refusal, on December 1, 1955, to yield her seat to a white patron on a Montgomery, Alabama bus resulted in a charge of disorderly conduct. However, her action precipitated the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott, which brought Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to national prominence and prompted the U.S. Supreme Court decision to rule that segregation in public transportation is unconstitutional.

As a result, many regard her as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement." But there is far more to the story of the icon, Mrs. Rosa Parks. She was born on February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama and educated at the Alabama State Teacher's College. Mrs. Parks and her husband, Raymond Parks, were very active in their local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She, in particular, served both as secretary and youth leader. After the boycott, Mrs. Parks' civil rights advocacy did not end. In 1957, she moved to Detroit to continue her work through the Office of Congressman JOHN CONYERS, JR. Then, in 1988, after leaving his office, she started the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development to motivate youth to reach their highest potential.

During the past four decades, she has continued to remind Americans of the history of the civil rights struggle. As a pioneer in the struggle for racial equality, subsequent generations owe her the sincerest appreciation. Although she is the recipient of innumerable honors, including the NAACP's Springarn Medal (1979), the Martin Luther King Jr. Non-violent Peace Prize (1980), the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1996), and the Congressional Gold Medal (1999), we recognize the

need for a national celebration of her contributions to the Civil Rights Movement.

Mrs. Parks is a living symbol of courage and determination and an inspiration to freedom-loving people everywhere. Since 2005 marks the 50th anniversary of her act of civil disobedience and the beginning of desegregation efforts throughout America, Mr. Speaker, it behooves us to recognize her this year. It is my hope that in celebrating Mrs. Parks, this great Nation will continue to uphold her legacy.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BARBARA JOHNSON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Barbara Johnson, a trusted and dedicated member of my staff who has served the U.S. House of Representatives and my constituents with distinction and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

Barbara keeps my district schedule in a meticulous fashion. Due to her efficient ways, I've never missed an official meeting on her scheduling watch. Every constituent seeking an appointment or my assistance receives a prompt and accurate response from Barbara, and visitors leave my office with a smile after dealing with her. Simply put, Barbara is a pleasure for people to work with and she's darn good at what she does.

In over three years of making district travel arrangements for me and my staff, there has never been a glitch. My colleagues can fully appreciate what a significant achievement that is. With a district larger than thirty-three states and my commuting back to my district every week, it is comforting to know that even the most ambitious travel schedule will go smoothly in Barbara's hands.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, many times our constituents receive their first impression of us when they visit our offices. Barbara greets every visitor with a friendly smile and a warm welcome. People walking into my District Office know immediately from Barbara's cheerful demeanor and hospitable nature that they are welcome and are going to receive the best service I can render.

Although I could list many more of her significant contributions to our enterprise, her greatest asset is her ability to work with the fellow members of the team. She is always of good cheer and considerate of her fellow staff members. She is the calming force in stressful times and the mature, steady hand in any crisis. We tease her about being the "Mom," but without a doubt, she demonstrates that quiet and loving leadership that is often associated with an outstanding mother.

Sadly for our office and the residents of southern, central and eastern Oregon, at the end of this month Barbara will be leaving her service post in the United States Congress. Fortunately, she is moving on to new opportunities and a new phase in her very productive life. Although I am very happy that Barbara and her husband, Jim, will be enjoying the many new adventures that lie ahead for them, there is no doubt that Barbara will be sorely missed.

She leaves with my deepest gratitude for her service and the enduring friendship of all

who have had the good fortune to work with her. She may be living in another city, but she will always be a member of our team.

IN SUPPORT OF THE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, on August 6, 2005, our Nation will commemorate a major milestone in our Nation's democracy: the signing of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. This bill, signed into law by President Lyndon Baines Johnson, ended an iniquitous era in our country that we should never revisit.

Mr. Speaker, we celebrate this bill because its mandate speaks to the most essential exercise of American citizenship—the right to vote.

If it were not for the Voting Rights Act, millions of Americans, particularly African Americans and other people of color, would not have access to this precious right.

I remember well the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as he and so many others sacrificed their lives for the creation of this bill: "The most revolutionary action our people can undertake is to assert the full measure of our citizenship."

His words ring with the same truth today.

As a result of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, States with a history of racial discrimination were forbidden from using illegal and biased tactics to determine an individual's eligibility to vote.

The 1965 Voting Rights Act also required these States to obtain Federal approval before enacting any election laws and assigned Federal officials to monitor the registration process in certain localities.

In the 40 years since the passage of this bill, the number of African American registered voters has increased dramatically.

Nationwide, the number of African American elected officials has grown from just a handful in the early 1960s to more than 9,000 today.

In addition, Americans of all ethnic backgrounds have found strength in the promise of the Voting Rights Act.

However, despite these accomplishments, it remains clear that America still has much work to do before the mandate of the 1965 Voting Rights Act is fully realized.

As we saw in the 2000 presidential election and as reported by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, there is a new brand of voter discrimination and intimidation.

As a result of inconsistent State voter registration laws, inefficient voter equipment and in many instances, subjective oversight at the polls, millions of Americans were denied their right to vote in 2000.

As recently as July 2004, it was revealed that Florida State officials were preparing to use an erroneous voter registration list for the November 2004 elections.

Although this voter list was abandoned, it reveals the gross inefficiency that continues to burden our elections process.