

TRIBUTE TO ROSA PARKS

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, in February of 1913, an extraordinary lady was born and 42 years later she refused to give her seat up on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Her actions had an extraordinarily positive impact on America and on focusing Americans' attention on the fact that they were, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, not fulfilling our Nation's promise of equality and justice. And so we note the passing of Rosa Parks at the age of 92. She made an extraordinary contribution, not just to our country, but to the concept of equality and dignity of human beings around the world.

Rosa Parks was a civil rights icon and a national treasure. Her simple, dignified act nearly half a century ago—defiance of a racist law that denied her humanity—helped galvanize the civil rights movement and delivered a moral body blow to segregationist laws that stain our Nation's history.

Ms. Parks' life is a testament to the truth that one person with courage and an unshakable will can change a Nation and begin to right wrongs. Her legacy will endure not only through her personal acts of courage and strength, but also through the thousands of activists who were inspired by her.

Ms. Parks risked everything, including her life, for a cause that she knew in her heart was right. We are a better Nation today as the result of her courage and vision. And, we should honor her memory by continuing the fight for equality, decency and basic human rights.

HIAWTHI WILLIAMS—SALUTE TO HURRICANE VOLUNTEERS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute those individuals and organizations that opened their hearts and dedicated both financial and emotional support to evacuees of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. All of the States along the gulf coast have endured terrible hardships during this hurricane season, and I know that the generosity of North Texans played a vital role in bringing some peace into their lives.

Today, I want to specifically thank one man, his company and his donation. Hiawthi Williams, the owner of Williams Chicken donated 200 pieces of chicken for volunteers during hurricane Katrina.

Williams Chicken was first opened in 1987 and has rapidly grown since. Today, with over 50 stores in operation, the company continues to grow. Notwithstanding the market research, the chain admits the real secret to the company's success is staying true to their philosophy, "To Serve, Grow and Give Back to the Community."

I stand here today to sincerely thank Hiawthi Williams for his donation. It is people like him

that I am proud to call a fellow Texan. Through his contribution, he not only stands as a devoted and giving American citizen, but he serves as an inspiration to others.

HONORING HERMAN WOLF FOR HIS LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2005

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life and legacy of a dear friend, Herman Wolf. In a career that spanned eight decades, his influence on State and national politics garnered him a respected reputation with Democrats and Republicans alike. At the age of 93, Herman passed away this past week, marking the end of an era in Connecticut politics.

A gifted public relations guru and a talented political strategist, Herman spent a lifetime working to improve the quality of life for all people. His dedication and commitment to social justice never wavered—in fact he never stopped, working up until the time of his passing. Herman was an activist, advocate and leader who provided a strong voice to those most in need.

In his earliest years in Connecticut, Herman was best known as a top advisor to Governors Abe Ribicoff, John Dempsey, and Ella T. Grasso. He served as an executive aide to then Governor Ribicoff and was an integral part of his successful election to the United States Senate. In addition to his involvement with local campaigns, Herman was also an advisor to State and National Democratic Party Chairman John Bailey. Working with some of our State's most powerful modern political leaders, Herman helped to shape decades of public policy.

In addition to his role as a political strategist, Herman also ran a successful public relations firm, Herman Wolf Associates. He represented over 100 clients including prominent labor unions like the AFL-CIO, businesses such as United Technologies and Guinness Stout, and non-profit organizations such as the Ford Foundation, the NAACP, and the American Shakespeare Festival. Herman would later become executive vice-president of the Design Science Institute of Washington, DC, a group dedicated to furthering the work of inventor and philosopher R. Buckminster Fuller. Local projects also received the attention of Herman. He was involved with a number of projects in the Bridgeport area including several at Action for Bridgeport Community Development where he had been working up until the time of his passing.

For Herman, his work was about more than promoting an agenda. He had deep convictions and indisputable integrity. His work reflected his strong belief in leveling the playing field for all Americans. He firmly believed that the government had a responsibility to provide for our most vulnerable citizens and ensure that their needs received the same attention as those more fortunate. Herman's energy, enthusiasm, and excitement not only made him a success but inspired others to greatness as well. He left an indelible mark on our communities, the State of Connecticut, and our

Nation—a legacy that will undoubtedly be remembered by history.

I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Monica; his children, David, Bill, Fay, and Louise; and their families. Herman Wolf was an extraordinary individual with a unique dedication to public service that touched the lives of many. Though he will be missed, his legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. N. RAO CHAVA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. N. Rao Chava of Montgomery, Alabama. Dr. Chava is a highly accomplished medical doctor and administrator, and will soon be retiring as Director of the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System hospital in Macon County.

In 1974, Dr. Chava began his career with the Department of Veterans Affairs as an internal medicine resident. As a naturalized United States citizen, he has devoted himself to VA Medical Centers in both West Virginia and Alabama. Dr. Chava was certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and received a Certificate for Added Qualifications in Geriatric Medicine. He is also a Fellow for the American College of Physicians and a member of the American Geriatrics Society, the American College of Physician Executives, and the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Our nation's veterans deserve the highest quality care available, and I know Dr. Chava has spent much of his career caring for their needs. He will be missed. I congratulate Dr. Chava for his many accomplishments over the years, and wish him all the best in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF HISPANIC LEADERS AND IN COMMEMORATION OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2005

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives in commemoration of Hispanic Heritage month to recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of remarkable leaders of the Hispanic community. I am honored to acknowledge the wonderful contributions of Margarita Rosa Esq., Frances Lucerna, Dr. Maria Montes, Elizabeth C. Yeampierre and Rev. Jorge L. Roa, Jr. These individuals have been a true inspiration, working tirelessly to better the lives of New Yorkers and the Hispanic community by making a positive impact in our community.

Through devotion and commitment, these enthusiastic role models have excelled in their strong community service and diligent work to improve the quality of life in many disenfranchised neighborhoods, encouraging

the next generation of Latino leaders. A living example of this arduous dedication is Ms. Margarita Rosa who is the Executive Director of Grand Street Settlement, a New York based community organization whose primary vision is to improve the lives of those less fortunate or disadvantaged by encouraging self-determination through learning advocacy, support and community building.

Margarita has been a steadfast, passionate advocate of human rights, as the first Hispanic woman to be appointed to the New York State Commission on Human Rights in the early 1990's. Working at the local government level gave her the unique perspective of understanding how public policy affects diverse communities. Margarita's accomplishments have been plentiful—being honored for her eager public service dedication, she received a prestigious teaching fellowship award, and is currently an active member of several Boards of Directors for organizations such as the Public Interest Law Foundation at New York University (NYU) Law School, the New York Civil Liberties Union, and the Lower Union East Side Family Union. These endeavors are a mere representation of Margarita's achievements and willingness to continue empowering those in need.

Another notable and distinguished leader has been an energetic force and true pioneer in the world of cultural and performing arts. Ms. Frances Lucerna founded the Williamsburg Arts and Cultural Council for Youth, a community performing and visual arts program for youngsters. She later became the co-founder and Executive Director of El Puente Academy for Peace and Justice, a Brooklyn youth-based community development organization nurturing leadership for peace and social justice. Frances' leadership and artistic vision motivated her to develop one of the most comprehensive Latino arts and cultural center, which provide young students with the opportunity to express themselves artistically.

As a strong advocate for education and a loving artist, Frances has broken barriers by channeling the talent and skill of thousands of youngsters into a bright path and a hopeful future for many within the community. As a visionary with an artistic soul, Frances has achieved many high recognitions highlighting her efforts, such as the 1998 Heinz Award for the Human Condition, and being appointed to the Advisory Committee to the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, and the Community School Task Force for the White House Conference on Character Building for a Democratic, Civil Society. She has also served on the Boards of Directors of the Arts Center of the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Community Youth Development Guide Team of the National Network for Youth.

Among the list of remarkable thinkers impacting higher education is Dr. Maria Montes Morales, Vice-President and Dean of Academic Affairs at Boricua College. Dr. Montes Morales understood the critical value of education and how peoples' lives could be transformed. She lived and realized the educational injustices faced by Latinos, which allowed her to make a difference and change the traditional college learning environment. Her vision and commitment to educate and empower Latinos in New York City motivated her to help establish the first Boricua College campus in Williamsburg, Brooklyn which opened in 1974.

This was a tremendous achievement for the community, especially since many of the Wil-

liamsburg residents were Spanish speaking and interested in furthering their education at an institution that was culturally sensitive, community based, competitive and accessible. Since its creation, thousands of students have graduated from this Boricua College campus, with many remaining in the community and providing professional human services.

Maria's contribution to higher education for all students, especially Latinos, is highly commendable. Her leadership at Boricua College successfully promotes student learning through active participation in meaningful and planned service experiences in the community that are directly related to course content. With a humanistic approach, such as a sense of civic responsibility, self-awareness, and commitment to the community, Dr. Montes Morales makes Boricua College an outstanding and unique higher learning institution in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I am also proud to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by recognizing the great efforts of Mrs. Elizabeth C. Yeampierre, Executive Director of the United Puerto Rican Organization of Sunset Park (UPROSE), Brooklyn's oldest Latino community-based organization. Under Elizabeth's leadership, UPROSE has become the frontier organization on multiracial environmental justice issues impacting the community. Its "Youth Justice" program has set the path to several victories advocating on behalf of low-income and minority communities that are environmentally overburdened.

Elizabeth's dedication and endeavors at UPROSE have included promoting youth, family and community empowerment, and creating awareness for environmental issues impacting the living conditions of residents in Sunset Park. Her accomplishments range from successfully leading UPROSE in opposition to the Sunset Energy Fleet 520—a power plant proposal to place two power plants in the area—to campaigning against the placement of a sewage sludge treatment plant in Sunset Park, and advocating the prevention of child lead paint poisoning.

Elizabeth has also created an effective "Youth Justice" program which provides young environmental activists across the country with opportunities to promote environmental issues. As a result, these young leaders were able to organize the first environmental justice conference in Sunset Park. The outstanding work and contributions of UPROSE under Elizabeth's leadership has had a valuable impact on the residents of Sunset Park.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to commend and acknowledge the highly regarded work of Reverend Jorge L. Roa, Jr. a native of Brooklyn and a devoted pastor who committed his life to God, and assisting those most in need, including youngsters and the Hispanic community. Rev. Roa has been a true inspiration who has excelled in promoting youth programs within his church, "the Missionary Christian Church," in Manhattan where he preaches and is very pro-active on social and justice issues.

Rev. Roa has touched many lives by helping his community seek spiritual guidance and a path, collaborating in missionary projects such as rebuilding churches, and collecting donations for relief efforts for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. He has been a humanitarian champion in this country and abroad,

taking part in missions providing food, water, medicine and other resources to impoverished communities throughout different countries, including Latin America and Africa.

Rev. Roa, is also the program director of a radio and TV show known as "En sus Pasos" or "In Your Steps," which is transmitted in Manhattan. He is also the author of a renowned book, "Una Luz de Dios, La Historia de la Iglesia Cristiana Misionera," "A light of God, the History of the Christian Missionary Church." Rev. Roa's true vocations have enlightened the community and changed the lives of many youngsters throughout his 24 years of ministry. His excellence in leadership and service is laudable for Latinos and residents of the Manhattan community and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor for me to rise today and recognize these wonderful Hispanic leaders who I firmly believe possess key elements that strengthen our culture, community and nation. In commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month, it is essential and truly important to emphasize the life-time commitment these remarkable persons have demonstrated in breaking down stereotypes about Latinos, and empowering the Hispanic American community.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. HENRY
MCGILL, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute today to the extraordinary pastor of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church of Marion, South Carolina. For more than 40 years of dedicated service and compassionate leadership, Reverend Dr. Henry McGill, Jr. has served his parishioners and community with great respect and dignity. He has spent decades reaching out to those in need of strengthened faith and fellowship.

Reverend McGill grew up the son of a deacon and quickly incorporated strong values and understanding of others in his everyday life. His education started in a one-room schoolhouse in Lake City, South Carolina. He went on from that meager beginning to achieve degrees in social studies and divinity at Morris College in Sumter, South Carolina. He heard and heeded the call to the ministry at an early age and focused his life on the teachings of peace and cooperation among all people. Reverend McGill's expertise on theology has also earned him positions among some of the most prestigious public service boards, as well as university and ministerial committees. He continues to be a devout advocate of the church in sharing his thoughts on fairness and finding the good in every person. Because of his widely-honored achievements in academia and religious education the Manhattan School of Theology in New York awarded him an honorary degree.

A successful businessman, Reverend McGill owned the funeral home founded by his father-in-law, Henry L. Jackson, for many years. He has since passed the family business, Jackson & McGill Funeral Home Service, to the third generation of owners.

I am pleased to join the parishioners of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church and so many other