

during tournaments. I applaud Nike for sponsoring this award in the name of Casey Martin because he embodies the beliefs that we as Americans all hold dear—the importance of diversity, a commitment to sports, and the fact that everyone should have the right to participate.

I've had the great pleasure of spending time with Rachael and, like countless others, am tremendously inspired by her strong sense of determination and amazing successes. It is my honor to represent Rachael in the U.S. Congress, and I congratulate her for her outstanding achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Friday, October 28, 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted on the following votes: On rollcall vote No. 555 I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 556 I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO ROSA PARKS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of the distinguished Civil Rights leader, Rosa Parks who died Monday, October 24, 2005 at the age of 92. A woman of great character and conviction, Rosa Parks inspired a generation to change the course of history.

For half a century, the story of Rosa Parks—of a woman with the courage to challenge an unjust system, has been marked in history as a lesson for both young and old. While riding a bus home from her job in Montgomery, Alabama on December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks defied the segregation laws of the time and refused to give up her seat to a white passenger. She was then arrested and fined \$14. Her bold and single act of defiance sparked a 381-day boycott of the Montgomery bus system by the African American community and ultimately the breakdown of segregation in the south.

Born Rosa Louise McCauley on February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama, she married Raymond Parks in 1932 after briefly attending Alabama State College in Montgomery. As the first female member of the Montgomery chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Rosa Parks worked tirelessly with her husband to encourage and increase voter participation in the African American community. Following the couple's move to Detroit, Rosa Parks began her 20-year service to the 14th district of Michigan as an administrative assistant in Congressman JOHN CONYERS, Jr.'s office. She also founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development to encourage leadership among Detroit's youth in 1987.

Although modest about the pivotal role she played in the Civil Rights movement, Rosa

Parks has been recognized with some of the most prestigious awards and honors in the country. Among her many awards, she was the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is our Nation's highest civil award for merit and integrity, and the Congressional Gold Medal, which is the highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions. She was also awarded the Springarn award by the NAACP that recognizes the highest achievements amongst African Americans and the Martin Luther King Jr. Award that recognizes those who work for social change through nonviolent means.

The longest journey begins with the smallest step. Rosa Parks' actions seemed small on that December day, but they accelerated the Civil Rights movement and enkindled a passion for equality in a generation. I had the honor of joining our colleague from Georgia, Mr. LEWIS, in March to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights March in Alabama and the many heroes who were inspired by Mrs. Parks. I was moved by their struggles and motivated by their strength. However, the journey towards true equality remains unfinished and the most fitting tribute to Mrs. Parks would be for us to continue that fight in her memory.

And so today, I join the country in bidding farewell to a true American hero and inspirational leader. Mrs. Rosa Parks will be greatly missed by her family, the Nation and the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF SYLACAUGA, ALABAMA: ONE OF THE 100 BEST COMMUNITIES IN AMERICA FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the City of Sylacauga, Alabama, a unique town in the Third Congressional District that was recently named by America's Promise as one of the 100 best communities in America for young people.

As its 13,000 citizens know, Sylacauga still retains that old-fashioned charm which defines small town America. Yet it's also a forward-looking community that prides itself on its schools, and recognizes that the children of today are our leaders of tomorrow. In that regard, the city has created a variety of programs geared for children and teens, including a program known as BRIDGES. This unique initiative, which was identified by America's Promise as one of the city's crown achievements, provides school age children special opportunities to participate in recreational activities while under supervision of volunteers and staff. It also gives older children the opportunity to do volunteer work and give back to their community.

Mr. Speaker, this is indeed a proud achievement for the City of Sylacauga, and further demonstrates the importance its citizens place on educating its children. I am proud that one of East Alabama's small towns has made this prestigious list, and salute the citizens and local officials who helped make this achieve-

ment possible. I thank the House for its attention to this important matter today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 28, 2005, I was unable to vote on agreeing to the conference report for H.R. 2744, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (rollcall No. 555); and on agreeing to H. Res. 523, Condemning Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's threats against Israel (rollcall No. 556). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

IN HONOR OF ROSA PARKS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the legendary Rosa Parks, who passed away last week. I had the great honor of meeting Rosa Parks several times throughout her life. The first time was in the late seventies when she was a guest speaker at Monterey Peninsula College in my district. I was also on hand when she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999.

Each time I saw Rosa Parks, I was again impressed that a woman of such slight stature started such a large scale movement for civil justice. Rosa Parks' decision not to give up her bus seat to a white man during the time of segregation was a courageous act, simple and without violence. Rosa Parks did not yell, swear or wave her hands around dramatically to get the Nation's attention. In fact, she did not even move. Today, the consequences of her choice can be seen throughout our society. I continue to believe that a more just society will not be achieved by water hoses, tear gas, night sticks and hostility, but through peaceful means including compromise and fairness.

Fifty years later, Rosa Parks' actions don't seem radical or risky, but when you are the first one to take a stand, it is lonely. Indeed, Rosa Parks' death has given us the opportunity not just to remember her life and her actions, but also to remember the actions all of those who have stood up in the face of injustice.

My mother was one of these people, like Rosa Parks. Though she died when I was a young adult, my father often told me of a bus ride my mother took in New Orleans in the mid 40s. My sister and I were young children at the time, and we all used the bus system to get around the city. Buses in New Orleans were segregated at that time, but during one ride my mother decided to seat us in the "colored" section, although there was room in the "white" section of the bus. When the bus driver saw what my mother had done, he told her that she and her children had to move to the

white section. My mother refused, so the driver told her to get off the bus. Rather than change our seats, she shepherded my sister and me off the bus.

I had a chance to share this story with Rosa Parks when I finally met her and she enjoyed hearing about my mother's actions. Though my family did not live in a segregated state, both my parents realized they still had a duty to combat prejudice.

As a member of Congress, I have been honored to visit the heartland of the civil rights movement with fellow colleague and civil rights champion, Representative JOHN LEWIS. During a trip with the Faith and Politics Institute, we visited the Voting Rights Museum in Birmingham, AL, the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery, AL, and reenacted the march across the Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL. I cannot fully express how much I gained from visiting these sites with some of the original participants in the civil rights movement. Hearing about the pain and suffering they endured throughout those times was tempered by the joy we felt in our mutual support for a just cause.

I was honored to join my colleagues by attending Rosa Parks' memorial service and supporting the unprecedented resolution that allowed her body to lie in honor in the Capitol Rotunda. Rosa Parks is one person who made a difference and whose actions will forever call on all of us to stand up—or remain seated—for civil justice.

HONORING MRS. WILLIE JEAN
YOUNGBLOOD ON HER 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a special tribute to Mrs. Willie Jean Youngblood in honor of her 90th birthday.

Mrs. Youngblood was born on November 7, 1915 in Bullock County, AL, and was the third of eight children of the late Cleveland and Julia Dennis. She later married Monroe Youngblood, a construction worker, of Bullock County. In search of better opportunities, the couple moved to Birmingham where they raised eight children. Mrs. Youngblood earned a living as a cook at the Thomasine Café and a service worker at the historic Tutwiler Hotel.

Mrs. Youngblood was a nurturing mentor for young mothers in her community. The Youngblood home was also the gathering place for many young children in the community, including the current mayor of the city of Birmingham, the Honorable Bernard Kincaid.

While Mrs. Youngblood may not have had an abundance of material wealth, she passed on a wealth of love and hope to her children and her community.

May God bless Mrs. Youngblood and her family on her 90th birthday and for many years to come.

COMMEMORATION OF ROBERT H.
HINCKLEY, JR.

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to recognize the life and contributions of Robert H. Hinckley, Jr.

A lifelong resident of the State of Utah, Mr. Hinckley's 88 years were distinguished by his optimism, energy, and a commitment to public service.

Robert Hinckley, Jr. was born as the first child of Robert H. Hinckley Sr. and Abrelia Clarissa Seely Hinckley in Mt. Pleasant, UT, although he grew up in Ogden, UT and always considered that his home. Growing up during the Depression era, Hinckley began working in the family's business, Hinckley Dodge. After graduation from Ogden High School, he attended Stanford University and then the United States Military Academy from which he graduated in 1942. He married Janice Scowcroft, his high school sweetheart, in 1944 and described their 63 years of marriage as the "very best part of my life." During World War II and Korea, he was a decorated pilot earning the U.S. Air Force's Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze Star. Following a 13-year military career, he returned to Utah to manage the family's automobile business in Salt Lake City, UT. Outside of business, Hinckley loved horses and owned Arabian horses. He counted his greatest success as his four children, all of whom survive him.

Hinckley's life demonstrated commitment to his community. In 1988, he built upon his father's legacy becoming board chairman of the Hinckley Institute of Politics at the University of Utah. In this capacity, he was a champion for intelligent, thoughtful, and ethical engagement in the public arena. He encouraged students of all political persuasions to approach public service and politics with a sense of purpose and diligence. He worked hard to create opportunities for all students, regardless of socioeconomic status, to have access to internship opportunities. He dramatically stepped up the activities of the Hinckley Institute and oversaw the doubling of its endowment.

This year the Hinckley Institute of Politics is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Over 4,000 interns have served local, State, and Federal offices, interest groups, polling firms, and campaigns since 1965. The Hinckley Institute pioneered the Utah State legislative internship program, and interns now serve in critical staffing capacities during every general session. The Hinckley Institute internship program has been studied by colleges and universities across the United States. The Hinckley Institute sponsors the Hinckley Journal of Politics, an undergraduate research publication. It is one of only four undergraduate political science journals nationwide.

The Hinckley Institute has influenced countless local, State, and Federal elected officials, party activists, lobbyists, journalists, and citizens. Recent studies of former Hinckley interns demonstrate an incredibly high degree of civic engagement, through many avenues, for years after graduation. The Institute has provided a needed center for intelligent, thoughtful, dynamic conversation about important issues, where students can test their beliefs

and access opportunities for empowerment within their community and government.

Robert Hinckley's philanthropic commitment to education and students extends beyond the on-going value of the Hinckley Institute of Politics, including the establishment and funding of scholarships at the University of Utah, Utah State University, Weber State University, and Brigham Young University. In this capacity, as well, he and his family have helped create a large community of educated, actively engaged, ethical, and interested citizens.

In all his endeavors, Hinckley was noted for his positive outlook and energy. His contributions will long benefit the students and people of Utah. He was truly an asset to his community and will be greatly missed.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
MARINE CORPORAL JONATHAN
"J.R." SPEAR, KILLED IN IRAQ
OCTOBER 23, 2005

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Marine Corporal Jonathan "J.R." Spears, was lost to us in Iraq on October 23.

He was a proud Marine and an exceptionally fine man who joined the greatest military service in the world.

I had the solemn honor of attending Corporal Spears funeral today and meeting his incredible family and friends. I now know how blessed they are to have known such a fine man. His parents, Timothy and Marie and his sisters Jennifer and Jessica display courage, dignity and strength that is moving and inspirational. I wish I could have known him as they did as he seemed like a truly amazing person.

J.R. used to work in a sandwich shop and he selflessly gave a portion of each pay check he received to buy food for the homeless. While playing football in high school he got up to 265 pounds. In order to fulfill one of his life dreams, joining the Marines, he had to lose nearly eighty pounds, which he did.

He was a young man who, by the time of his death at 21, had already planned out his life. He wanted to go to college after leaving the Marines Corps and then go on to be an FBI or Secret Service Agent. I know very few young people who have their life plan set by the time they reach 30, let alone 21. J.R. was a driven man who knew what he wanted and made it happen.

A stanza in the Marine Hymn written over a century ago says: "If the Army and the Navy ever gaze on Heaven's scenes, they will find the streets are guarded by United States Marines." I know that J.R. is up in heaven guarding the streets for all of us. I am certain he has been welcomed with God's saving grace.

His sacrifice is a solemn reminder to us of the risks that all of our men and women in uniform make every day to keep us safe.

I know that our Marine Corps will hold him in their hearts forever, as will we all.

May God bless Corporal Spears, his family and all of our men and women in uniform.