

Joseph Hospital in Mankato, received "Above and Beyond" awards for their ongoing support of reserve employees. More than 475 Minnesota employers were nominated for this national award. Only 23 received this prestigious award.

Mr. Speaker, one of America's great strengths is the unselfish courage of the citizen who steps forward, puts on the uniform and stands ready to face danger. It is that quality, more than any other, which has kept us free for more than 200 years.

We must commend the tens of thousands of American businesses who willingly employ members of the National Guard and Reserve. It is this essential alliance and shared sacrifice that keeps America and much of the world free.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE MAE
CROMARTIE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a guiding light in Columbia, South Carolina that will be deeply missed. Charlie Mae Mays Harrison Cromartie passed away on Sunday, November 6, 2005, but her legacy will remain with us forever.

Charlie Mae Cromartie was born in Greenwood County, South Carolina to John Henry and Myrtle Harrison Mays. She was the niece of renowned educator, Dr. Benjamin E. Mays. She was educated at Bettis Academy and earned her RN degree with a concentration in psychiatric nursing from South Carolina State Hospital and the Columbia Hospital School of Nursing. She served as Head Evening Nurse at the Columbia Hospital School from 1961 to 1970, and was the owner and manager of Cromartie Enterprises from 1977 to 1996.

In addition to her very successful career, Mrs. Cromartie was also active in her community and church. She was the Mother of the Church at Bishops' Memorial A.M.E. Church, where she had been a member for more than 50 years. Mrs. Cromartie had served as the church Treasurer for more than 40 years and was a member of the Trustee Board, Missionary Society, and the Building Fund.

In the community, Mrs. Cromartie served as a poll manager in Ward 9 at Allen-Benedict Court for many years. She had served as PTA President at Waverly Elementary, Carver Elementary, W.A. Perry Middle and C.A. Johnson High schools. She was also a school advocate for the Richland County Board of Education. Her other memberships included the March of Dimes, the League of Women Voters, and she was Past Illustrious Commandress of Daughters of Isis, Cairo Temple #125.

Mrs. Cromartie had been recognized for her community work with a key to the City of Columbia and induction into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame in 2003. In 1987, Columbia Mayor Patton Adams chose Mrs. Cromartie as one of several Columbians to be sketched for a picture presented to Pope John Paul II during his visit to Columbia that now hangs in the Vatican.

Mrs. Cromartie was married to E. W. Cromartie, Sr. for 43 years. The couple has two children, E. W. Cromartie, III and Ernestine Cromartie Moody, and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of a devoted wife, mother, Christian and community activist. Charlie Mae Cromartie made a lasting impression on the City of Columbia and all those who had the pleasure of knowing her.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO FRED V.
MUNOZ AND HIS LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the Munoz family of Delta, Colorado, who recently experienced a tragic loss with the death of Fred V. Munoz. He passed away on October 7th at the age of 63.

Though Fred spent his childhood and was educated in California, he was not only a valued citizen of my district, but a dear friend as well. He served in the Army during the Vietnam War, and I honor him for his service. Furthermore, he was an exceptional leader in the Hispanic community, and served as president of the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association. His extraordinary achievements as a lawyer also included sitting as a member of the California Bar Association and serving on the board of the Hispanic Bar Association.

I grew to know Fred over the last year and he never hesitated to offer his support and assistance to myself and others. He had said he would always be ready to step up and do what he could in the years ahead, and though he may no longer be with us in physical presence, I have no doubt he will keep his word and join us in spirit.

Fred was certainly an inspiration to me and to everyone who had the opportunity to meet him, and I am grateful for the short amount of time I was able to spend with him. I know my life and the lives of those he knew and loved were enriched by his presence, and he will surely be missed.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HARRY
HANCOCK

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special member of the Birmingham community, Harry Hancock.

Harry Hancock has provided compassionate and caring service as the District Manager of the Birmingham Downtown Social Security office for many years. For over a quarter century, Harry has given of his time to ensure that his fellow Americans are treated fairly in their attempts to access Social Security benefits. However, Harry's time with the Social Security Administration is but one aspect of a lifetime devoted to public service, which began with Harry's courageous service as a member of the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring Harry Hancock's career of service to the attention of

my colleagues here today. I join with the residents of the entire 6th Congressional District of Alabama in congratulating Harry Hancock as he retires from federal service. I wish Harry and his wife Rene nothing but happiness in the days ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for legislative business on Friday, November 4, 2005 and Monday, November 7, 2005 due to a family medical emergency. As a result, I missed rollcall votes 569 through 572. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes:

569, Adoption of Conference Report H.R. 3057; 570, H. Con. Res. 260, Recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions; 571, H.R. 1973, the Water for the Poor Act of 2005; 572, H. Res. 444, the Gynecological Resolution for Advancement of Ovarian Cancer Education.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE WAR IN
IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, our men and women in the military continue to make our nation very proud. We are forever grateful for their sacrifice as they protect our precious freedoms and encourage the rise of democracy in the heart of the Middle East. We honor their dedication and admire their resolve under such difficult circumstances.

Because of the valor of our troops, there is cause for great optimism in Iraq. On October 15th, nearly 10 million Iraqis traded bullets for ballots and voted on their draft constitution. The constitution was approved by an overwhelming 79 percent. This is a remarkable feat and an important milestone on Iraq's path toward democracy. The next step is a December 15th vote for the first government under the new constitution.

After the constitutional vote, the Washington Post quoted a 53-year-old Iraqi shoe salesman who said: "[Before], no one showed us the draft of a constitution. None of them. This is the first time. Since the days of the monarchy until now, this is the first government willing to put the constitution before its people."

Another Iraqi, who planned to mark his ballot with his own blood, said this about voting for the constitution: "It will bring all that is good for the people, such as stability, democracy and peace. With such a charter, we will show the world that we are a civilized nation, not a bunch of . . . bloodthirsty extremists."

The election day itself was a resounding success. Violence was minimal and did not affect voting at the more than 6,000 polling places. Nearly 200,000 Iraqi security forces

took an active and lead role in ensuring the safety of their fellow citizens on the day of the vote. For Iraqis, this was truly a national effort to determine the future of their nation.

The increasingly Iraqi-dominated security operations are a huge boost in our efforts to defeat the terrorists. After a recent trip to Iraq, Retired Army Major General Robert Scales commented: “[The Iraqi forces] are better able to gather intelligence. They can spot insurgents by their body language and by how they act and the language they use.”

The Iraqi security forces are gaining the trust and respect of the Iraqi people. In fact, the number of tips to security forces rose from 442 in February to over 3,000 in August. The increasing capability of the Iraqi security forces is essential to our strategy for victory.

Mr. Speaker, the trial of Saddam Hussein is yet another very positive development. This is a trial by Iraqis, for Iraqis—and for justice long denied to the victims who suffered under his murderous rule. The Iraqi Special Tribunal operates under Iraqi law and shows the solid foundation being built for law and order in Iraq.

There has also been significant progress resulting from U.S. and Iraqi reconstruction efforts. Unfortunately, these signs that point to a revived society, economy and culture have not received much attention. Consider this:

There were no independent newspapers or magazines in Saddam Hussein’s Iraq—today there are more than 100; before the war, there were no cell phone subscribers—today there are over 3.5 million; over 3,400 schools have been renovated; local governments are conducting town hall meetings; the Baghdad real estate market is booming; and, the court system is coming to life—Iraqi judges have conducted 387 trials since 2003.

There remain terrorists committed to derailing democracy in Iraq. But Iraqis have already experienced the conditions that terrorists seek. They are conditions of hopelessness, violence, intolerance and repression. As we saw by the constitutional vote, nearly all Iraqis reject this dark existence.

Mr. Speaker, we know that more tough days lie ahead for the American military. Their mission is dangerous, but their cause is just. And because of their courage and sacrifice, they are making significant progress toward supporting a free and democratic Iraq. This is great news for the people of Iraq—and great news for our own national security.

TRIBUTE TO ROSA PARKS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this past week, America laid to rest Ms. Rosa Parks, preeminent civil rights leader of the 20th century. Ms. Parks embodied the clarion call of Sojourner Truth to champion the rights of those dispossessed and marginalized. Through her acts of courage and inspiration, she, as woman, awakened the conscience of a nation and moved us to be better than we had been, indeed to form a more perfect union. In her memory, a homegoing memorial service was held in Detroit, Michigan, her adopted hometown, on Nov. 2, during which the Reverend

Jesse Jackson, Sr. of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, rendered these words of comfort. It is my privilege to enter them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as a living testimony to her life and the world and nation she helped transform.

ROSA PARKS: WORDS OF COMFORT

We are here this morning for serious business. On so many occasions, negroes have been intimidated and humiliated and oppressed because of the sheer fact that they were negroes. Just the other day, just last Thursday to be exact, one of the finest citizens in Montgomery—not one of the finest negro citizens, but one of the finest citizens in Montgomery—was taken from a bus and carried to jail and arrested because she refused to get up to give her seat to a white person.

When the history books are written in the future, somebody will have to say, “There lived a race of people—, a black people, a people who had the moral courage to stand up for their rights!”—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Montgomery, Alabama, December 1955

ROSA PARKS: FREEDOM FIGHTER—LIBERATOR

The Book of Esther. Chapter IV, Verses 12-16:

12: And they told to Mordecai Esther’s words.

13: Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king’s house, more than all the Jews.

14: For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall their enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou in thy father’s house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

15: Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer.

16: Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day: I and also my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

Isaiah, 40 chapter, 31st verse, “but they shall wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.”

The 2005 freedom bound train is full of giants. John Johnson, Johnson Publishing, who illuminated our way. Vivian Malone Jones who opened up closed doors at the University of Alabama; C. Delores Tucker, first African American Secretary of State of Pennsylvania, a pacesetter. Judge Constance Baker Motley along with justice Thurgood helped to brake backbone of legal segregation. And now Rosa Parks, our morning star, the star that led us by night; when it’s real dark, one light will challenge all of the darkness, and give us hope and direction.

For such an awesome force in history, we wrestle with the countless ways, “how do we express ourselves, our thanks, her meaning, her impact.

The question was once raised in Micah, how do you worship? Do you give the Lord fatted calves and rams and rivers of oil? Meaningless sacrifices. The answer was, “O man, you know what is good; you know what matters. Do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Perhaps for Sister Parks, a statue in the great Hall of Congress as projected in a legislative bill by Congressman Jackson, as a founding mother of the new America. Surely if Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee, leaders of the Confederacy who led the drive for se-

cession, sedition, segregation and slavery and treason, could be there, why not have the guardian angel there to keep an eye on them, and to protect the true character of the American Dream.

Perhaps the extension of the voting rights with enforcement powers, 50 years later.

Perhaps a White House conference on civil rights. 50 years later—post Rosa Parks and hurricane Katrina, a White House conference on civil rights is needed. We must say to Mrs. Parks, your legacy is secure, your sacrifice is not in vain, but your work is unfinished and under attack. You lifted us up; we will not let you down.

We often reference her qualifications for this huge role in history—her vocation as a seamstress, her civil rights membership, her humility and temperament. But her biggest quality is she was available.

One of the outstanding attributes of Mrs. Parks is that she was available. Her humility, her steeled courage, her non-negotiable dignity, speaks to us in the fullness of time, after 336 years of struggle—from the hull of ships to the back of the bus—in the fullness of time, she said, here am I, send me. I am available.

God uses the strength of the available. He is not bound by the credentialed and the unavailable. Each time I go back across the bloodstained Edmund Pettus bridge in Selma, Alabama—the battlefield of our modern day voting rights act—I recall the struggle led by Hosea Williams, a shot up war veteran, and Congressman John Lewis, a student, on that Sunday. There were no pastors of major churches, no convention presidents, no bishops, no doctors or lawyers, no political party leaders, no scholars, no elected officials, judges or business leaders. Just ordinary people.

Mrs. Boynton, Mrs. Foster, Sunshine, Lester Hankerson, Cottonreader from Mississippi. Ordinary people, available to do God’s will. Ordinary people.

They upended the Congress, the White House, and the world. They captured the imagination of the world by absorbing the blows and suffering us into a new day. Your success and reputation and status are not bargaining chips with God.

Calvary teaches, suffering breeds character, character breeds faith, and in the end, faith will prevail.

Who are the available?

(a) It may be some teenage boy, a great underdog with a slingshot, taking on some giant Goliath. He emerges the winner, an unlikely hero. He was available.

(b) It may be some rescued baby, Moses, avoiding a death warrant by the King, an edict of genocide, aided by some ingenious prayer warrior mother, who grew up in the King’s household but comes unto his highest self and says, “Let My People Go.”

(c) It may be some Esther, some orphan, after prodding by her uncle, moving beyond the political law and risking personal comfort for the common good, who rises up realizing her people are in jeopardy, declaring if I perish, let me perish. I am going to meet the King. God uses the available.

(d) It may be some freedom fighting seamstress, unarmed without guns or bullets, but with a breastplate of righteousness in the heart of the confederacy which says “Like a Tree Planted by the Rivers of Water, I Will Not be Moved.”

I will defy the unjust state law that defies federal law. You may fire me, you may jail me, and you may kill me. But like Esther, if I perish, let me perish. Enough is enough!

If you need somebody, I am available. Here am I, send me.

Rosa Parks: It is not her passing, but in her living, the timeliness of her actions, that bring us here today. It has captured the attention of the world.