

the songs she performed, feeling that she would better connect with the native audience. By the end of her career she had performed in eight languages and traveled all over the world—living and studying for extended periods of time in Europe. Her voice graced President and Mrs. Roosevelt at the White House and the Inaugural ceremonies for Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy. After hearing her, the world renowned conductor Arturo Toscanini commented that hers “. . . is a voice one hears once in a hundred years.” How true.

During her life, Ms. Anderson witnessed and contributed to some of the greatest changes in history. She lived through two world wars, a depression, and the civil rights movement. As an African-American, female performer during a period of history in which that combination provided particular challenges, she overcame prejudice and social limitations. For example, she was the first black singer to perform on stage at the New York Metropolitan Opera House. One of her most notable concerts was on Easter morning on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Broadcast nationwide via radio, Ms. Anderson sang before a crowd of over 75,000 and millions of listeners after she was prohibited from performing at Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the Revolution.

In addition to receiving awards for her musical talent, like the Grammy Lifetime Achievement, she received numerous other honors for her commitment to peace and equality. She was appointed goodwill ambassador to Asia and a delegate to the United Nations. She received the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award, the United Nations Peace Prize, the NAACP's Spigarn Medal for outstanding achievement by a black American, and the President's Medal of Freedom.

Clearly, Marian Anderson had a resonating and inspiring voice with the heart and conviction to match. Ms. Anderson's voice was a vehicle of communication, and music her universal language. Hers' represented the voice of so many others who were unable to speak out against the injustices they faced.

I am honored to celebrate the issuance of the Marian Anderson commemorative stamp today. Ms. Anderson is quite deserving of this recognition. In doing this we eternalize the courage, conviction, and talent of this remarkable woman.

THE PASSING OF JON DRAGAN

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret that I announce the loss of a true pioneer of whitewater rafting in southern West Virginia. Jon Dragan, dubbed the “Father of Whitewater Rafting,” passed away on Saturday at the young age of 62.

Jon came to Fayette County West Virginia in 1964 to explore our wonderful rivers, the New and the Gauley. By 1968 he had opened the first commercial whitewater rafting company on the New River and the rest is history.

It was my great pleasure to work with him in my early years as a Congressman to establish the New River Gorge as a National River and part of the National Park system in 1978. His efforts in the process were instrumental

and the end result has been a lasting wonder for southern West Virginia.

Throughout his career he continued to take part in exciting whitewater adventures, all while finding time to help out the community. He was a true public servant to West Virginia, and he leaves behind many people who were glad to know him, many fond memories and a great whitewater rafting industry.

Whitewater rafting is a huge part of the economy in southern West Virginia. It is one of the many wild, wonderful things that bring tourists to West Virginia and the entire industry was started by Mr. Dragan. We owe a great debt to him for all of his hard work and he will forever be remembered in Fayette County and across Southern West Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JERRY WARTGOW

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable individual and a personal friend. Mr. Jerry Wartgow recently announced that he will be stepping down this summer as the Superintendent of Denver Public Schools. He will be sorely missed by all who had the pleasure of working with him in his tireless efforts to improve the quality of education and the lives of Denver area youth.

Jerry is a wonderful man who is truly dedicated to education reform. In his four-plus years as superintendent he relentlessly pursued reforms, a pursuit that sometimes put him at odds with the educational establishment and at loggerheads with state and municipal officials.

Mr. Wartgow's dedication to institutional reform and improving results was matched only by his compassion for the children he worked for every day. Jerry was a believer in the notion of education as a lifetime process. He believed that in order to get long term results in childhood achievement, education has to start early—and he brought that thought process to the superintendent's office.

As he told the Rocky Mountain News last week, “Economically, the best possible investment is to put money in early childhood education and kindergarten. There's no question about it. That's the best way to go about secondary school reform—to start early.”

Jerry recently also told The Rocky Mountain News that, “Successful leaders have always been able to resist the pressure to make short-term, quick-fix changes at the expense of sustainable reform.”

Mr. Speaker, without a doubt Jerry has shown himself to be one of those successful leaders.

Rocky Mountain News columnist Mike Littwin recently penned a column about Wartgow that I think did a fine job capturing the kind of man Jerry is, and I would like to submit it here for the RECORD.

When Jerry Wartgow leaves his job as DPS superintendent in June, he'll leave the job undone.

Which is, of course, the only way you can leave that job.

Wartgow will have kept the position for just over four years. In explaining why he's leaving, he notes that the typical urban superintendent lasts only 27 months.

That's not really an explanation—and he didn't offer a better one—but it is a great statistic.

In 27 months as a school superintendent, it's easy to either wear out or to wear out your welcome. Or both.

When Wartgow made his announcement at the Denver School of the Arts in a speech before school principals and staff, he got a standing ovation. That's the way you want to go—before the grumbling gets too loud.

And there is some grumbling, of course: about struggling high schools, about high dropout rates, about potential labor problems, about community schools that are not always accepted by their communities.

In his speech, Wartgow pointed to his accomplishments—one form of education reform following another; money raised, even if never enough money; a district that the governor twice named most improved—and then he told me what he really thought about how much you can accomplish on the job.

It turns out to be a lesson—get out your paper and pencil—for “education” presidents and “education” governors and “education” mayors and school board members and state legislators and congressmen and, yes, superintendents and everyone else who makes education policy.

And so, of course, Jerry Wartgow's lesson turns out to be a lesson even for Jerry Wartgow himself.

It's simply this: “Education reform” and “quick fix” don't belong in the same sentence. And politicians are, by nature of their jobs, addicted to the quicker-than-really-possible fix.

Wartgow put it this way: “We live in a society of instant gratification. People want instant answers, instant solutions, ignoring the complexities of so many of these issues.”

“You take societal problems that can't be solved by legislators and they pass them on to the schools. And then they expect the schools to solve them.”

You know the fixes. Vouchers will fix the schools. Or testing will fix the schools. Or merit pay for teachers will fix the schools. Or charter schools will fix the schools. Or getting back to basics will fix the schools. Or—and, yes, this may be an extreme case—dumping Bless Me, Ultima in the trash will fix the schools.

And that's just from one side of the educational divide.

“We've been working on reform of education since 1978,” Wartgow said. “We've spent billions of dollars. Every state legislature has had its own reforms. There are hundreds of thousands of pages of legislation.”

In his speech, this is what he asked for from the legislature: no more education legislation.

“I've lived through all the cycles,” he said. “You don't give your children soft drinks—you give them fruit juice. Look in the paper today, and there's a story about the dangers of fruit juice.”

“It's the same with education reforms. And it's further complicated because people making the decisions are on a different time frame than the students.”

“If you're a mayor for four years, or you're an urban superintendent for 27 months, or if you're on the school board, what you're trying to do is to make a statement in the time you're there. If you're a young superintendent, with a family to worry about, you've got 27 months. And if you don't show progress. . . .”

It's a story you see played time and again.

“The reform time frame,” Wartgow said, “is out of sync with the policymakers' time frame.”

In Wartgow's time frame, he will quit just after a report on secondary school reform is

completed. One reason he's leaving, he says, is that he couldn't see himself staying long enough to properly implement those reforms.

"We know that economically the best possible investment is to put the money in early childhood education and kindergarten," Wartgow was saying. "There's no question about it. That's the best way to go about secondary-school reform—to start early."

"But here's the problem: The benefit won't be seen for years. I think that's it. I think that's the issue. I don't have the answer, but I've observed the problem."

"The time frame for everything we know about how long it takes for education reform to take hold is a much longer time frame than policymakers and elected officials live in."

In the time it takes to go from kindergarten through 12th grade and, with luck, on to college, a student has lived through a couple of mayors, a couple of governors, maybe three or four superintendents, and all with a farewell speech to deliver.

When Wartgow says he doesn't have an answer for this problem, he is being modest. He does, at the very least, have a suggestion, which would fit nicely on a sampler.

"My quote," he said, "is that successful leaders have always been able to resist the pressure to make short-term, quick-fix changes at the expense of sustainable reform."

Lesson given. Lesson learned?

REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 418, the REAL ID Act. For decades, immigrants arriving at Ellis Island were greeted by the Statue of Liberty, beckoning with the words, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free." Today's legislation would render this motto obsolete, as the United States would turn its back on those escaping genocide; rape, or persecution around the world.

Contrary to the claims of the bill's sponsors, this legislation does little to prevent future terrorist attacks within our borders, while eroding civil liberties. Most troubling to me are the provisions making asylum nearly impossible for those who flee their countries to find a safe haven. Terrorists are already prevented from receiving asylum in the United States under current law, and none of the September 11 hijackers had even applied for asylum.

However, H.R. 418 raises the already difficult burden of proof on legitimate asylum-seekers, requiring that they provide corroborating evidence of persecution due to one's race, religion, national origin, political opinion, or social group. Can we imagine sending a refugee back to face genocide in the Sudan

because he or she does not have a letter from the government explaining that religion was the reason his or her family was murdered? This legislation presents a nearly impossible hurdle for asylum seekers.

In addition, I am disappointed in Section 102, which allows the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive any Federal, State, or local law to ensure construction of physical barriers to deter illegal border crossings. This overly broad provision would give unprecedented power to the Secretary to undertake large construction projects without any accountability or judicial review. Under this legislation, the Secretary could waive labor laws such as the minimum wage, public health laws like the Clean Water Act, or eminent domain laws requiring repayment for property seized, all in the name of homeland security. While I understand the need to prevent unauthorized border crossings, this provision grants far too much power without any oversight, setting a dangerous precedent for the future.

H.R. 418 also contains new national driver's license standards, which completely overhaul the bipartisan requirements unanimously recommended by the September 11th Commission and signed into law just a few months ago. These new Federal standards for issuing state drivers' licenses could result in a flurry of privacy and civil liberties concerns.

Most disturbingly, the provisions in H.R. 418 go far beyond the recommendations of the bipartisan September 11th Commission, disguising an assault on our Nation's freedoms and principles with a false claim of security. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposition to this egregious and unnecessary bill.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY CHISHOLM: AN AMERICAN HEROINE

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary woman in American history. Shirley Chisholm, an outspoken advocate for women and minorities during her seven terms in the House of Representatives, passed on January 1st. This iconoclastic political figure has been lost and forgotten in many of today's civic classes in this country but her ideals have seen a rebirth.

Born in 1924 to parents that emigrated from the West Indies, Chisholm was raised in an American society that told African Americans to stay in their place and women to stay at home. Chisholm vehemently rejected this canon which ultimately shaped and fueled her political career—becoming both the first African American woman elected to Congress and the first black or woman to wage a serious campaign for a major party's presidential nomination in 1972.

Shirley Chisholm excelled in academics at Girls High School in Brooklyn, New York, from which she graduated in 1942. After graduation she attended Brooklyn College where she majored in sociology. It was there that she experienced blatant racism. When black students at Brooklyn College were denied admittance into social clubs, Chisholm formed alternate ones. She would go on to graduate with hon-

ors in 1946 but found herself turned away by employers time and time again. During this time many black graduates found it difficult to obtain employment commensurate to their education. It was a culmination of these events in her life that led Chisholm to vow to fight against injustices everywhere. After graduation, she would earn a masters degree in child education from Columbia University and later served as director of the largest nursery school network in New York.

In 1949, Chisholm participated in local politics, helping to form the Bedford-Stuyvesant political league. She also became active in the Brooklyn chapter of the National Urban League and in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where she debated minority rights. Chisholm's political career took off in 1964, when she won, by a landslide, her campaign for the New York State Assembly. As an assembly person (1965–1968), she sponsored legislation that instituted programs which provided college funding to disadvantaged youths, and successfully introduced a bill that secured unemployment insurance for domestics and day-care providers. In 1968 Chisholm won a seat in the House of Representatives becoming the first African American woman to be elected to Congress. She found herself one of ten women and nine African Americans in the prestigious body.

Representing an entirely inter-city constituency, Chisholm protested her relegation to the Agriculture Committee, an assignment she considered insulting. She would often criticize Congress for being too clubby and unresponsive. It was during these challenging times that Chisholm exemplified one of the most important characteristics of a pioneer—the determination to strive for more and to not accept "no" for an answer. With a character that she has described as "unbought and unbossed," Chisholm became known as a politician who refused to allow her colleagues, including the white male-dominated House of Representatives, to deter her from her goals. She remarked that, "Women in this country must become revolutionaries. We must refuse to accept the old, the traditional roles and stereotypes." She subsequently served on a number of committees, including the Education and Labor, and campaigned for a higher minimum wage and increased federal funding for disadvantaged communities. In her first term in Congress, Chisholm hired an all female staff and was an unyielding advocate of social justice, women's rights, the underprivileged and people of all races, nationalities and faith.

On January 25, 1972 Chisholm became the first African American woman to campaign for the presidency. She admitted that she stood no real chance of winning but wanted to galvanize minority communities, working class whites and young people into a sizable political force. Chisholm ran as "the candidate of the people," receiving 151 delegate votes at the Democratic National Convention that year.

During the campaign, she experienced resistance from her colleagues, including the Congressional Black Caucus for which she was a founding member, and was attacked four times on the campaign trail. Chisholm's bid for the presidency was not fruitless—her legacy and work has ushered in a generation of exceptional leaders—from presidential candidate Jesse Jackson, to former U.S. Senator Carol Mosley Braun to Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI.