

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGACY OF ROSA PARKS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 59th Anniversary of the day that the civil rights movement was ignited. On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, tired of following societal laws steeped in racism and degradation, became a reluctant hero of the civil rights movement when she refused to surrender her seat and her dignity to a white man on a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

Rosa Parks, a soft spoken, private and hardworking seamstress, was immediately arrested and convicted of violating segregation laws. The incident drew an immediate and passionate response. With the support of the NAACP and civil rights leaders, including Rev. Ralph Abernathy and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., African Americans in Montgomery boycotted the city buses and declared their refusal to ride the buses until the U.S. Supreme Court denounced the Jim Crow laws that continued to strangle the soul of America. Thirteen months later, the boycott ended when, in November 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.

The humiliation experienced by Rosa Parks was reflective of a long line of human injustices directed upon African Americans by the white ruling class since the dawn of our nation. Rosa Parks' simple refusal was a monumental act of courage and dignity that cast centuries of injustice, ingrained in the foundation of American culture, into the clear light of day. She knowingly sacrificed her own safety, the safety of her family and her privacy for the greater good. Rosa Parks' historic refusal to give up her seat on a city bus set the civil rights movement on fire and the power of her simple gesture is as significant and relevant today as it was 50 years ago. She remained dedicated to the civil rights movement and humanitarian causes until her recent death at age 92.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and memory of Rosa Parks, whose singular life forever changed the world by raising the human race into the promise of justice for all. Her quiet refusal to surrender represented a million acts of resistance that came before her and set a path for those who would follow. Rosa Parks became an icon of human rights and her voice joined with a chorus of millions demanding freedom from oppression, echoing from the isle of a city bus to the hallowed halls of the United States Supreme Court. Rosa Parks' quiet act of defiance awoke America from its centuries old slumber of ignorance and oppression and her journey will continue to bring hope and inspiration to those still fighting to walk in the

light of human dignity and justice—in Montgomery, Alabama, across our country and around the world.

HONORING 8TH STREET SANCTUARY

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, during this season of charitable giving, I am proud to highlight the efforts of citizens in my district. In downtown Jacksonville, there is a haven for children living in poverty. The Sanctuary on 8th Street's mission is to encourage and empower children to become strong and independent by ministering to their physical, intellectual, social and spiritual needs.

Last month, the community rallied around this outreach in a remarkable way. When the mother of one of the youths tragically passed away, the community gathered funds to make funeral services possible. Due to their giving, the family was able to say their goodbyes to Latricia Ann Spencer on November 18th.

The Sanctuary on 8th Street received even more money than needed, from which they created the Spencer Fund. This emergency fund will provide funeral services for other families in need. This is an inspiring example of what individuals can achieve for their neighbors, and I commend everyone involved.

JOE CASAZZA: A FIRST-RATE PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, almost exactly 38 years ago, as I was beginning my work as the Executive Assistant to newly elected Boston Mayor Kevin White, who was to take office on January 1. I watched as he went through a very careful and thoughtful process of selecting high officials for his new administration. One of the most important jobs in any municipal government is that of Public Works Commissioner—no city official in Boston has more of an impact on the quality of life of the people who live there. It is a difficult and demanding job, especially in a city like Boston that is one of the oldest in the country and has both the benefits and defects of great age.

There were several very highly qualified applicants for the position of Public Works Commissioner. I remember in particular an individual who had extremely high academic qualifications, and at the time I was myself impressed by the extent to which this individual would bring a full understanding of modern technology to the job. The Mayor was also im-

pressed with him, but he was even more impressed with a—then—young official from a nearby town, who had been Public Works Commissioner in that town. His name was Joseph Casazza. One of the things about Kevin White that made him a great leader was the seriousness with which he approached the appointment of high officials; I was struck also by his good judgment in deciding who would best fit, and in his understanding of the importance of putting together a balanced team where people would have different strengths, in some cases offsetting what might be weaknesses in others.

One result of this process was his selection of Joe Casazza, and it is a tribute to Kevin White's judgment that as Joe Casazza now retires, after 37 years in this very difficult job as Public Works Commissioner of Boston, he is widely recognized for the superb public service he has provided the people of the City.

Mr. Speaker, too often people denigrate those who have chosen to work in the public sector. Knowing Joe Casazza as I do, and having watched him over the years, I have no doubt that he could have been an extraordinarily successful private sector employee, earning far more over his lifetime than he did as the Public Works Commissioner. But his dedication to the well being of his fellow citizens was such that he stayed in the public sector for his entire working career and it is not at all surprising that his understandable decision to retire is greeted with deep regret by those of us who have benefited from his service.

Mr. Speaker, I want to add my words of praise to Joe Casazza—an extraordinary man who has had an extraordinary career in the public service.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MIDWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL SELECT BOYS' CHOIR ON THEIR EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Midway Middle School Select Boys' Choir following their exemplary performance at the White House Monday, December 12, 2005. Out of the 150 choir groups from across the country who submitted recordings to First Lady Laura Bush's office for consideration, the Midway Middle School Select Boys' Choir was 1 of only 40 choirs to earn the right to perform at the White House this Christmas season.

Director Tammy Benton and the Midway Boys' Choir are in select company because of their excellence and achievement and I was proud to support their efforts to sing at the White House for Christmas. During this special time of celebration, it was my privilege to help bring some unique blessings from central

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Texas to Washington. It was also a special privilege to able to give them a tour of our Nation's Capitol, many for the first time.

There is no doubt that their hard work and dedication to choir instilled in them by their director, Tammy Benton, will continue to pay dividends for the rest of their lives.

I sincerely congratulate them and wish them well in all their future endeavors.

HONORING HARRY BOTT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Harold Bott is a lifelong resident of the Bronx, the son of immigrant parents, who has worked to make his home borough a better place for all. He followed his father into the plumbing business, eventually establishing a successful contracting company. But he never forgot his community and his efforts to help were continual and tireless. He moved to Woodlawn in 1972 with his wife Loretta and their two children and he brought that same sense of community to his new neighborhood. He organized the annual 239th Street Block Party, which was a success every year. He worked with the Boys Club, organized and assisted with the June walk, the placement of flags on Katonah Avenue, the Christmas display, and also served as president of the Woodlawn Taxpayers Association. He also organized a 9/11 Memorial Tribute, the annual Veterans Day celebration, and free tennis lessons for children. He has given selflessly of himself and has served as a role model for how to improve a community. Tonight he is being honored for his contributions to the Woodlawn community and I stand with the residents of that neighborhood in thanking him for his many contributions.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
RITA D. LYNCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Rita D. Lynch, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, dedicated public servant, community activist, and dear friend to many, including myself.

Mrs. Lynch's passing marks a great loss for her family and friends, and also for the people of Cleveland's west side neighborhood, whom she served with the highest level of commitment and integrity. For nearly 30 years, Mrs. Lynch volunteered her time and talents as a member of the board of the directors with Cudell Improvement, Inc., a non-profit neighborhood organization, working on projects and implementing programs focused on uplifting all aspects of the community. Her dedication to the organization and to her neighborhood is reflected throughout Ward 18 in the City of Cleveland.

Family, friends, faith and community were central to her life. Mrs. Lynch and her late husband, Robert, often worked together on

issues of neighborhood concern. Her grown children, John and Maryann, were instilled with the values of hard work, kindness and giving to others. Mrs. Lynch's service to others continues to illuminate the hope and promise of a better day for the people of this diverse Cleveland community.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Rita D. Lynch. Mrs. Lynch lived life with a generous heart and great energy for life. Her legacy of activism and spirit of volunteerism will be remembered always, forever reflecting along Detroit Avenue, Edgewater Road and Clifton Boulevard, and she will never be forgotten.

PEDIATRIC CANCER INROADS AT UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, there is exciting news recently from the University of Florida, in Gainesville, Florida, in the fight against pediatric cancer. UF scientists believe that they have linked stem cells to a certain type of childhood bone cancer. This discovery could eventually be the key to treating osteosarcoma, the most common form of bone malignancy among children.

Osteosarcoma is a highly aggressive cancer that kills 40 percent of the children diagnosed, most of whom are between the ages of 10 and 20. Currently the only treatment is year-long doses of chemotherapy and radical surgery. Scientists contend that these stem cells, which have also been linked to cancers such as leukemia and more recently breast cancer, are the only cells that freely replicate and the ability to target these cells will allow doctors to develop new forms of therapy that are much less toxic and far less invasive than existing treatments. Good work and a hopeful prognosis, UF researchers.

CLEAVER EXPLAINS CIVIL RIGHTS-BASED OPPOSITION TO ALITO CONFIRMATION

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the most thoughtful Members to join us in recent years is the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) who as a former Mayor of Kansas City makes very significant contributions to the work of our Committee on Financial Services, which has jurisdiction over urban affairs.

The gentleman from Missouri is also a civil rights leader, and as a minister is very much in the tradition of those in that profession who have provided moral leadership in the long and continuing fight against racism and its effects. Recently, in the Kansas City, Missouri newspaper, *The Call*, in the issue for the week of December 9th–December 15th, our colleague laid out in a very persuasive and reasoned fashion the objections to the confirmation of Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court that

arise from his record on civil rights. I believe that this very useful analysis makes a significant contribution to the national debate on this question and I ask that it be printed here.

[From The Call, Dec. 9–15, 2005]

ALITO: A THREAT TO CIVIL RIGHTS
(By Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II, 5th
Congressional District)

KANSAS CITY, MO.—In a almost every news story about President Bush's latest Supreme Court nominee, Samuel Alito, the subject of *Roe v. Wade*, the Court's 1973 decision guaranteeing women the right to choose to have abortions has been the focus. Unfortunately, minorities are not receiving "much information on Alito's awful" attitudes on issues of civil rights. In fact, a November 14 edition *Newsweek*, which earned a seven page story on Alito, did not bother to discuss civil rights.

One case that sheds badly needed light on Alito disgraceful civil rights record involved Beryl Bray; an Africa American house-keeping, manager at a Park Ridge, N.J. Marriott Hotel. Ms. Bray appealed to a trio of federal judge's that she had been turned down on a promotion in the Marriott operation because she" was black. Two judges wrote that enough evidence had been presented to, justify a jury trial. You guessed it, Samuel A. Alito Jr. dissented.

He downplayed the whole matter by writing that the hotel had simply made "minor-inconsistencies" in how they handled hirings; Alito went further in, saying that it would be unfair to allow "disgruntled employees to impose the cost of trial of employers who, although they have not acted with the intent to discriminate, may have treated their employees unfairly."

The two judges with a different view of the case felt so strongly about their evidence that they broke. With tradition and actually criticized Alito's written opinion. According to this fellow judges in *Bray v. Marriott hotels*, Alito's position would have "eviscerated" legal protection under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. The majority said that Alito's position would protect employers from suit even in situation where "the employer's belief that it had selected the "best" candidate "was the result of conscious racial bias."

In a 2001 racial discrimination case, Alito, cast the deciding vote and wrote the opinion in a 2-1 ruling that rejected claims by African American defendant who had been convicted of feloy murder by an all-white jury from which black jurors had been impermissible struck because of their race.

The full Third Circuit reversed this ruling, and the majority specifically criticized Alito for having compared statistical evidence about the prosecution's exclusion of blacks from juries in capital cases to an explanation of why a disproportionate number of recent U.S. Presidents have been left-handed: Judge Dolores Slovitar, in *Riley v. Taylor* wrote that Alito overlooked the obvious fact that there is no provision in the Constitution that protects persons from discrimination based on whether they are right handed or left-handed. To compare the striking of jurors based their race is to minimize the history of discrimination against prospective, black jurors and black defendants.

My colleague, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, a former head of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and a distinguished constitutional scholar in her own right, told me that Alito, in her opinion is dangerous to civil rights.

Ms. Norton has studied Alito's, opinions and has led the Congressional Black Caucus in its opposition to the extremely conservative judge. Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-