

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO KATHARINE CARR-ESTERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Ms. Katharine Carr-Esters of Attala County, Mississippi. Ms. Carr-Esters was born on April 9, 1928, to Mr. James William McKinley and Ms. Ida Presley Carr.

Ms. Carr-Esters has always played instrumental part in the movement toward equality in Attala County. She has dedicated her time and efforts to Focus.com (Founder), the Attala County Democratic Committee, the Heritage House Activity Center—organizations which benefit the community. Her community service has been recognized through the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Image Award for Community Harmony, NAACP, Inc., the Attala Historical Society and the Black Service Unlimited. Because of her constant service and dedication to her community, the Katharine Carr Esters Group Home in Kosciusko, MS, and the Katharine Carr Ray Esters Group Home in Meridian, MS, was named in her honor. She was also named the Grand Marshall of the Kosciusko Christmas Parade in 2003.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2005 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr.

WOLF, and I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. As many may know, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that are awarded to a public safety officer: The Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze medal of Valor. During the 27th Annual Awards Ceremony, 61 men and women from the Office of the Sheriff, Fire and Rescue Department, and the Police Department received one of the aforementioned honors for their bravery and heroism.

It is with great pride that we enter into the record the names of the recipients of the 2005 Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Receiving the Bronze Medal: Hazardous Materials Technician Ronald G. Bauserman II; Captain I Steven D. Clark; Hazardous Materials Technician William L. Franklin; Firefighter Rudy Iturrino; the Lifesaving Award: Captain I John E. Hart; Technician Richard N. Mitchell; Captain I Gary D. Pemberton; Public Safety Communicator III Scott N. Pierpoint; Master Technician Virgil J. Weber Jr.; the Certificate of Valor: Volunteer Captain II Thomas K. Warnock.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of the Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

DEMOCRACY IN BURMA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the suffering of the people of Burma. They continue their valiant struggle for human rights and democracy despite brutal human rights violations committed by the illegal ruling military regime.

In a few days, Burma's military regime will reconvene a sham "National Convention" under the guise of facilitating a transition to democracy in the country. In reality, the Convention is filled with handpicked delegates of the ruling regime. It is simply an attempt to legalize the regime's grip on power and guarantee the military's permanent role in the future of the country.

Why do I call the Convention a sham? Because the country's democracy movement, led by the world's only imprisoned Nobel Peace

Prize recipient Aung San Suu Kyi, is not invited. Her political party, the National League for Democracy, is similar to the African National Congress in South Africa under apartheid rule in the 1980s and enjoys universal support from the people of Burma. In Burma's last election, the NLD won 82 percent of the seats in parliament, only to have the results annulled by the regime. They are completely excluded from the Convention.

As if that's not bad enough, the Convention is being held at a military camp which is surrounded by several military battalions. Among the regime's hand-picked participants are members of the United Wa State Army, whose leaders were indicted in absentia by a U.S. Federal Court in New York on January 24, 2004. The Department of Justice rightfully stated that the UWSA is one of the largest heroin producing and trafficking organizations in the world and is responsible for the production of more than 180 tons of opium in 2004. It is estimated that the UWSA has exported more than \$1 billion worth of heroin to the United States alone since 1985, as well as vast amounts throughout the world.

The proceeds from this drug money have kept Burma's military regime in power. Burma's regime is a narco-dictatorship, addicted to the proceeds of the international drug trade. The UWSA and the regime have worked together to launder billions of dollars in drug profits into the Burmese economy.

We should not tolerate this orchestrated play by members of the military junta and drug traffickers, at the cost of thousands of lives of Burmese non-violence activists. As a Member of Congress who has been engaged on human rights and promoting democracy for 25 years, I am proud that our country has taken a firm stance against thugs who now control Burma. This pressure has been from both Republican and Democrats in Congress and the last two administrations. We should publicly denounce this sham convention and the drug traffickers that plan to attend.

In late 2004 Congress unanimously passed a resolution calling for the U.N. Security Council to address the Burmese military regime's threat to regional peace and security. I am also encouraged by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's labeling of Burma as an "outpost of tyranny" and I fully support her assessment. Now, I respectfully encourage President Bush and Secretary Rice to follow up on our resolutions and take the issue to the U.N. Security Council, where it belongs.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION REGARDING MILITARY RETIREMENT CREDIT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation, along with Representative

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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.

PETER KING (R-NY), which would ensure that members of the National Guard who served in the counties declared federal disaster areas because of the 9/11 terrorist attacks receive military retirement credit for that service. Many of the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Division of the New York Army National Guard, which is located in my district, served at Ground Zero and in the surrounding counties after the terrorist attacks for almost a year to assist with security, reconstruction, and recovery efforts. These soldiers were serving under state active duty rather than federal active duty. As a result, those days of service currently are not being counted toward their military retirement credit. However, other Companies in the 1st Battalion were activated under federal duty and served at West Point for a similar length of time to help with its security.

This legislation will correct this inequity. Because all of these National Guard members clearly aided in the federal response to the 9/11 attacks, I strongly believe that they should have those days counted toward their military retirement credit. The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, were an unprecedented event in American history. We should show our gratitude to these brave men and women by giving them the retirement benefits to which they are entitled.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
EDNA PULLIAM CARPENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Mrs. Edna Pulliam Carpenter of Tunica County, Mississippi, born on April 11, 1934. Mrs. Carpenter graduated from Coahoma Agricultural High School and was in the first graduating class at Coahoma Junior College.

Carpenter has taught in Robinsonville, MS at Bowdre School, and she began teaching at Rosa Fort High School in 1962. During her teaching career, she taught various courses including English, Physical Education, Math and Black History, as well as Elementary Education. She also introduced the sport of basketball in the Tunica School System. In addition she coached volleyball, tennis, track, and softball. In 1980, her Lady Lions basketball

team made their first of seven appearances at the State Championships in Jackson, MS. In 1984, she was the first black female to coach the North Mississippi Girls Basketball All-Star Team in Jackson, MS.

She also taught classes at Coahoma Community College. In 1990, she retired from Tunica County School System, but continued to teach and coach for 2 years. She still tutors and works occasionally within the system. In 2003, she was named Hometown Hero by Lifetime Television in New York City at the Lifetime Achievement Awards. In 2003, she was also given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Tunica Teens in Action.

As a result of her hard work and dedication in Tunica County, in 2004, the Tunica Middle School renamed their gymnasium in her honor.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MILTON DAVIS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Chicago's unsung heroes, the late Mr. Milton Davis who sadly passed away on February 11, 2005. His untimely death will truly leave a deep void in the Chicago community.

Mr. Speaker, the City of Chicago has lost a giant. My condolences and the condolences of my family are extended to Gertrude Davis and to her entire family.

Mr. Milton Davis was born in Jasper, Alabama and graduated from Morehouse College. He moved to Chicago in 1958 and worked with Ronald Grynswinski and Mary Houghton on an experimental minority lending program at Hyde Park. In 1973, Mr. Davis was part of a group that purchased South Shore Bank in order to prevent its move to downtown Chicago.

A true pioneer, Mr. Davis dedicated the Shore Bank institution to serving low-income and middle-income African-Americans on the South Side of Chicago. Mr. Davis believed that you can empower the African-American community if you can provide them with the economic resources they needed to prosper. With that commitment in mind, Mr. Davis dedicated his life to making sure that his bank allowed the undeserved to gain a piece of the economic pie.

Mr. Davis' keen business sense or astuteness cannot be forgotten. From 1983 to 1996, he was chairman of Shorebank, which grew \$40 million in assets to more than 1.5 billion today. Until, his death, Mr. Davis was on the bank's board and served as chairman emeritus.

Mr. Davis' courage to be independent, to speak his mind, and to fight for the under-represented in the South Side of Chicago will surely be missed. My fellow colleagues please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Milton Davis, a true beacon of the Chicago community.

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It is with great pride that we enter into the RECORD the names of the recipients of the 2005 Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Police Department. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: Charles F. Angle; Police Officer First Class Paul A. Basham; Detective Tina L. Brook; Police Officer First Class Douglas E. Coulter; Police Officer First Class Christopher W. Edmunds; Police Officer First Class Thea M. Haddix; Police Officer First Class James F. Kirk; Sergeant Shawn C. Martin; Master Police Officer Scott F. Moskowitz; Sergeant Trafton C. Parr; Police Officer First Class Louis A. Robinson Jr., Police Officer First Class Rimothy B. Schilling; Police Officer First Class Keith W. Shook; Police Officer First Class Mark J. Smith; the Bronze Medal: Lieutenant Roger E. Arnn; Police Officer First Class Richard W. Buisch; Detective Lincoln Kieffer; Police Officer First Class Kristi D. Kiernan; Police Officer First Class Carlos M. Lama; Police Officer First Class Kirk A. McNickle; Police Officer First Class Kenyatta L. Momon; Officer Mohammed S. Oluwa; Police Officer First Class David A. Parker; Police Officer First Class Michael A. Wheeler; the Certificate of Valor: Second Lieutenant Christopher C. Cochrane; Officer Lance A. Hamilton; Police Officer First Class Jason C. Herbert; Public Safety Communicator I Kathy A. Kaehler; Sergeant Paul J. Norton III; Officer Dana L. Robinson; Police Officer First Class Vincent M. Scianna; the Silver Medal: Police Officer First Class Mark J. Kracun; Sergeant Justin P. Palenscar.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.