

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HAYS COUNTY COMMISSIONER WILL CONLEY

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hays County Commissioner Will Conley for his contributions to the community.

Will Conley was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana and then went on to attend high school in Houston, Texas. After graduating from high school, Conley spent one year ranching and outfitting in Uvalde, Texas before attending Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. During his college tenure, Conley was involved in the Student Body Council, South West Texas Ducks Unlimited and Pi Sigma Alpha. Conley graduated in 2000 with a degree in Political Science and a minor in Business.

After receiving his bachelor's degree, Will demonstrated his entrepreneurship abilities when he founded Conley Enterprise Incorporated and the environmentally conscious business of Conley Carwash and Detail. It was working with Conley Carwash and Detail that Will's concern for the environment shown through with the company's policy of recycling 85 percent of the water used for operations. Over the years, Conley's companies have received numerous awards for environmental-soundness such as the Water Efficiency Achievement Award.

After producing great results as an entrepreneur, Conley became the youngest elected County Commissioner of Hays County in 2004. As County Commissioner, Conley has promised to work for the improvement of Hays County by focusing on economic development and instilling a more fiscally responsible policy when it comes to the appropriating of tax payer's dollars. During his short time in office, he has already shown the results he has been known for; he has improved road conditions, extended park development and done so much for the better of Hays County.

Mr. Speaker, Will Conley has a rare youthful spirit that is dedicated to improving Hays County's quality of life for its citizens and I feel greatly privileged to recognize his accomplishments.

**TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DOCTOR WILLIAM RAYMOND WHITAKER, JR.**

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Reverend Doctor William Raymond Whitaker, Jr., in recognition of his dedication to his church and community.

Reverend Doctor William Raymond Whitaker, Jr., was born in Newport News, Virginia on November 12, 1959. The Whitaker family moved shortly thereafter to Brooklyn, New York. Dr. Whitaker is a product of the Bedford Stuyvesant Tompkins Project community. He attended Carter G. Woodson Public School 23, Mark Hopkins Junior High School

33, Fort Hamilton High School and graduated from the former Eastern District High School. Furthering his education, he attended Adelphi Academy, majoring in Business. Pastor Whitaker obtained his Bachelor of Theology degree from Community Bible Institute in Brooklyn in May 1999 and his Master of Theology from Chelsea University in London, England, where he graduated with the highest academic distinction, *summa cum laude*, in May 2004. On October 4, 2004, the Hope for All Bible College bestowed upon Reverend Whitaker the Honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree.

Dr. Whitaker was called to the Ministry at the young age of 16 and preached his initial sermon in October 1976 under the leadership of Reverend Joseph Stiff, Jr., of Bethel Church of God in Christ. He served faithfully as an usher, choir member and Sunday school student. In June 1985, he was licensed by Greater Free Gift and ordained in November 1986. On December 13, 1994, Rev. Whitaker was called by the Lord to serve as Pastor of the Greater Free Gift Baptist Church and since then, the ministry has and continues to multiply. He preaches the Word of God in a manner that can be applied to everyday life.

Dr. Whitaker answered yet another call on his life, which was to establish the Greater Free Gift Bible Institute where he diligently shares his knowledge and wisdom as president and teacher. Under the leadership of this great visionary, hundreds have been blessed, encouraged, inspired and delivered. He continues to lead the Greater Free Gift Baptist Church to make even greater strides in its growth and development, including the formation of the Drama and Dance Ministry and "Serenity on Stockton Street." Rev. Whitaker's sole desire is to help people reach their ultimate potential spirituality by developing a personal relationship with God.

In addition to being dynamic preacher and teacher, Pastor Whitaker is a world-renowned vocalist. He has recorded songs with legendary gospel artists such as "The Godfather of Gospel" Elder Timothy Wright and performed throughout the world including in Paris, France. His commitment to the community is evident by his service as the Former Chair of Evangelism for the Eastern Region of the Progressive National Baptist Convention and his involvement in the National Baptist Convention Housing Staff USA, Inc. He is the former Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees, former Director of the Music Department of the New York Missionary Baptist Association as well as the former Ecumenical Director to Congressman ED TOWNS. Additional community affiliations include Central Brooklyn Churches, Police Benevolent Association, 303 Vernon Board of Managers and AIDS Awareness seminar (graduate of ARRIVE where he received his license as counselor). He also serves as a mentor to the students at IS 33.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Doctor William Raymond Whitaker, Jr., has dedicated his life to his church and community. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

PASSING OF FRED T. KOREMATSU

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2005*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my fellow California Representatives MIKE HONDA, BARBARA LEE, DORIS MATSUI, and PETE STARK, I rise today to pay tribute to a true champion of the civil rights movement, Fred Korematsu. Mr. Korematsu passed away on March 30, 2005 at the age of 86.

As a Japanese American facing internment during World War II, Fred Korematsu challenged government authorities by standing up for his rights as an American citizen and refusing to back down. He has earned a place in American history among our most determined fighters for justice. We will miss him greatly.

Born in Oakland, California in 1919 to Japanese immigrants, Fred Korematsu's early life was similar to many other hard-working Americans. He held a job as a welder in the San Francisco shipyards and had dreams of getting married and starting a family. Two months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, however, his dreams were suddenly taken away.

Under baseless fears of Japanese American disloyalty, Executive Order 9066 was signed, authorizing the removal of more than 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent from their homes along the West Coast to guarded camps in the interior of the United States. It displaced families and uprooted entire communities.

On May 30, 1942, Fred Korematsu was jailed for evading authorities. He was sent to Topaz Internment Camp in Utah for 2 years. He bravely filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government, and took his case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, however, unjustly declared that the internment of Japanese Americans was necessary in a time of war and that allegations of racism by the government were unfounded. Mr. Korematsu, though, did not give up, and, 40 years later, he was vindicated in a ruling by the Federal District Court in San Francisco.

Mr. Korematsu's dedication to protect civil rights did not end with his own exoneration. His courage prompted lawmakers to right the wrongs committed against Japanese Americans during World War II, and in 1988, an official apology and reparations were issued by the government. His work was recognized in 1998 when President Clinton awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks, Mr. Korematsu continued to fight the backlash against Arab, Muslim, and Middle Eastern communities, recounting his own struggle against discrimination.

Today, we honor Fred Korematsu for his courage and recognize him as a symbol of justice, determination, and the true American spirit. His passing leaves the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities with a profound sense of loss.

I hope it is a comfort to his family and friends that so many people share their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.