

In 2002 a wildlife biologist working in the Alaska Maritime Wildlife Refuge found the wreckage, the grave was located and following positive genetic identification, the bodies were returned to their families. Last month, on May 10, these soldiers were buried at Arlington National Cemetery with Full Military Honors.

I met the family of Elwin Alford and learned of their lives. Alford and his parents were from the Bogalusa, Louisiana—Sandy Hook, Mississippi area. Leland Davis was from Hinds County, Mississippi and his sister and brother finally have peace. Alford, Davis and their brothers-in-arms gave their lives over six decades ago and we still feel their legacy today. So many families lost their loved ones in the great crusade against German Fascism and Japanese Imperialism. And for many, closure comes very late.

I want to take this opportunity to commend the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. More than 78,000 Americans are unaccounted for from World War II, another 8,100 from the Korean War and 1,800 from the Vietnam War. But the Accounting Command continues to bring these heroes home and assist with closure for families still bearing the wounds of wars long completed.

Mr. Speaker, today we have brave American men and women fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq and around the world against the forces of terror. In Mississippi, we lost another native son, a lion of liberty, just last week. I hope families know that six weeks from now, six months from now, or sixty-four years from now, those sacrifices will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morris County Park Commission, located in Morris County, New Jersey, a county I am proud to represent! On June 15, 2006, the Morris County Park Commission is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a reception to honor the men and women who have helped shape the first fifty years of the park system.

Established in 1956, the Morris County Park Commission began its rich history with the dedication of 350 acres as Lewis Morris County Park in Morris Township. Today, the park system has grown to over more than 17,500 acres and is the largest park system in New Jersey. The commission manages 38 facilities including historic sites, golf courses, outdoor education and recreational facilities, arboreta, conservation areas, parks, and 150 miles of trails.

The reputation of the Park Commission and its facilities continues to be one of the best in the nation. More than 3.5 million visitors have taken advantage of the programs, special events, and activities provided by a very professional staff. The park system has a positive impact on the quality of life of every Morris County resident and their families, as well as tens of thousands of visitors. The Park Commissions over the years have preserved valuable open space and cultural resources and promoted tourism, conservation and economic

vitality. Consequently, the commission continues to receive national recognition for its facilities and programs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Morris County Park Commission on its Fiftieth Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in the family, I was unable to vote on Rollcall Numbers 251 through 262. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall Numbers 251, 252, 253, 254, 256, 257, 259 and 260, and "no" on Rollcall Numbers 255, 258, 261 and 262.

FLAG DAY

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today is Flag Day. It was established in 1949 by act of Congress for us to take a day to reflect on our flag and past. I was 10 years old when Congress first established Flag Day and I have over the years come to a better realization of the inextricable connection between patriotism, the flag and our soldiers in the field. I don't believe the costs of preserving our flag have ever been as concrete as they are today. I hope that while reflecting on the Flag today we spend some time thinking about the price that has been paid for our flag, our freedom and our country. While we take a moment to think about our flag we cannot do so without giving thanks for our soldiers in the field and the veterans who served under our flag. Francis Scott Key summed it up perfectly in the Star Spangled Banner:

And the rockets' red glare. The bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on June 13, 2006, I was absent for several votes for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Vote No. 263, LaTourette Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 264, Bean Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 265, Israel Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 266, Miller, Gary Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 267, Nadler Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 268, Davis (AL) Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 269, Jackson-Lee Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 270, Harris Amendment to

H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 271, Slaughter Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 272, Waters Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 273, Hooley Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no".

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and praise Congressman JOHN LEWIS for visiting New Bedford, Massachusetts, at the end of May. Congressman LEWIS described for students and community members his important involvement in the American Civil Rights Movement, and he reminded all of us how we need to find the courage to continue the Movement.

I'd also like to thank Congressman BARNEY FRANK for inviting Congressman LEWIS to speak to the people of New Bedford. The friendship between these two Members of Congress spans more than 40 years, and as Congressman FRANK states, Representative LEWIS continues to be "one of the great moral forces in this country."

Representative LEWIS, a great hero of mine, spoke to 1400-plus students and teachers at New Bedford High School, sharing his experiences growing up in the segregated South, and his eventual involvement with nonviolent protests.

Congressman LEWIS told the students "that it was the young, like himself and many others who formed the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee," who led the way in the Civil Rights Movement.

I would like to place into the RECORD, the following editorial, Timely Message from JOHN LEWIS, which appeared in the June 1, 2006, edition of the New Bedford Standard-Times, which describes why the words of our friend and colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, have such meaning and resonance in all of our communities today.

[From the New Bedford Standard-Times,
New Bedford, MA—June 1, 2006]

TIMELY MESSAGE FROM JOHN LEWIS

Whether it was the hand of the Almighty or simply the good sense of our local congressman, Barney Frank, yesterday's visit to New Bedford by U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., one of the great heroes of the American Civil Rights Movement, could not have been timed more perfectly.

The 56-year-old Rep. Lewis, who is the son of a sharecropper born in segregated Alabama, brought a message of hope and healing to a city preparing to bury Bernadette DePina, who was shot to death in her home last week, just days after her 23-year-old son David DePina II's arrest on charges of murdering a 20-year-old man.

Rep. Lewis didn't talk about crime or punishment or politics. He talked about growing up poor in the segregated South, about being inspired as a 15-year-old listening to the radio by the actions of the late Rosa Parks and the soaring words of a young black minister, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to stand up for the dignity of all and "to find a way to get in the way" of those who would deny others that dignity.

And that's what he did.

Arrested scores of times in nonviolent protest of discriminatory voting practices, segregated schools, lunch counters and public

transportation, he was threatened, beaten, spit upon and hated by Southern whites trying to maintain the legalized segregation of the Jim Crow south. He has faced trouble, counted losses and continued his fight as what Congressman Frank—his friend for more than 40 years—calls “one of the great moral forces in this country.”

“I am not bitter today, and I am not going to be bitter tomorrow,” Rep. Lewis said.

And then he said something important to the community of New Bedford, which some fear has split along racial, ethnic, neighborhood and economic fault lines.

“We are one people,” he said in the soaring voice of the preacher he grew up wanting to be, with the same simple conviction that powered Dr. King. “We all need each other. We all live in that same house.”

He cautioned 1,400 sophomores and juniors at New Bedford High School not to grow bitter but to become involved in their own mission to make things better for all. He urged the students to register to vote and to vote when they turn 18, a privilege he marched for four decades ago.

The congressman told the students that it was the young, like himself and many others who formed the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, who led the way in the Civil Rights Movement.

“And it will be the children in New Bedford who will say, ‘We’re going to live in peace because we are all brothers and sisters.’”

His words inspired a standing ovation in the packed high school hall. They stirred the imagination of Stephanie Houtman, 15, a sophomore. “He was talking about how they burned his back with cigarettes,” Yet he did not relent. He did not stir from the segregated lunch counter.

Dominick Baptiste, 16, walked out of the auditorium with a broad smile on his face at the end of the speech. “It made me feel good to know that people can fight racism,” he said. “The fact that he was able to find the courage to sit at the white table. The fact that he was able to go back again and again.”

The congressman’s visit reminded the city of what we all know.

What happens to a family on Ash Street or at Monte Park or the United Front or County Street happens to all of us. And unless we let our own bitterness go, unless we reach across the way to our neighbor, we will never be what we want to be, what we should be.

It ought not take a visit by a congressman from Georgia to remind us of that. Deep down, we all know that. Having the courage to do something about it is the real test.

REMEMBERING MAJOR GENERAL DENVER BRACKEEN

HON. CHARLES W. “CHIP” PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, today I ask Congress to join me in remembering and saluting the life and legacy of Major General Denver Brackeen: a soldier, a sportsman, an administrator, and a coach. Denver passed away at his home in Union, Mississippi on May 29, at the age of 75.

Denver was born on February 10, 1931 in Hickory, Mississippi. At Hickory High School he twice achieved All-State honors for basketball, leading his Bulldogs to a 51–1 record his senior year. He went on to play basketball at East Central Community College and the University of Mississippi. At East Central he was

selected the nation’s most valuable player and earned All-American honors. At Ole Miss he received All-American honors from the Helms Athletic Foundation, was chosen most valuable player in the Southeastern Conference, twice named to All-SEC teams and selected as the most valuable player for the Southern states.

Denver was drafted by the New York Knickerbockers but soon returned to East Central Community College to begin 28 years of service as coach, guidance counselor, admissions director, dean of students and academic dean. From 1955 to 1963 he coached East Central’s basketball Warriors to a 137–52 record, with his final season finishing 22–3 after advancing to the state tournament semi-finals. In 1982, East Central chose Denver as their Alumnus of the Year and the College’s physical education building bares his name.

Denver was inducted into the NJCAA Men’s Basketball Hall of Fame, the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and the University of Hall of Fame. Mississippi Governor Ronnie Musgrove appointed Denver to the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges.

While amassing records and notability on the hardwood courts, and teaching and training a new generation of Mississippians, Denver also served his state and nation in the Mississippi National Guard including a stint in the Korean War. After years of exemplary service he was appointed Mississippi’s Adjutant General and retired from military service with the rank of major general.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this Congress joins me in remembering Major General Denver Brackeen’s determined leadership and championship character. Mississippi will miss this cherished native son, as will his wife Charlotte and his surviving son Morgan, and his grandchildren Jonathan, Sable, Dillon and Ashlee.

COMMENDING DONALD L. LANGHAM ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LA- BORERS OF SOUTHWEST ALA- BAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend Donald L. Langham of Mobile, Alabama, for his service to south Alabama. For 40 years now, Don has represented the interests of some of Alabama’s finest citizens as a labor negotiator.

Don Langham was born in Prichard, Alabama, and educated in the Mobile County public school system. After high school, Don attended the University of Southern Mississippi. He began his distinguished career in labor in Dothan, Alabama, before returning to Mobile to represent the interests of paper mill workers.

During his time in labor negotiations, Don traveled throughout Europe and South America to support the efforts of organized labor. He has met and worked with many of the most important leaders of Alabama and our country.

Due to his recent work with several multinational corporations, Don has gained a keen

insight into some of the major issues facing our nation. Don has also done outstanding work as the chairman of the board of trustees of the University of South Alabama, where he has worked tirelessly to raise funds for the South Alabama Cancer Center.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Mr. Donald L. Langham and commend him for his outstanding service to the people of Alabama. He has dedicated 40 years to improving the lives of workers throughout south Alabama. I know his family and many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the citizens of the First Congressional District and the state of Alabama.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4939, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DE- FENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RE- COVERY, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Conference Report of the “Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006.” This is the largest supplemental spending bill in the history of the United States—and all of this spending is off the books. All supplemental bills by definition are deemed “off-budget” and thus the dollars spent are not counted by the General Accounting Office when compiling annual deficit figures, nor are they included in annual budget figures. They thus obscure the true levels of spending and debt, and much of the “emergency” spending is not at all in response to any emergency.

When this bill was first before the House, I offered an amendment to redirect to Texas for Hurricane Rita recovery some \$546 million from such non-emergency “emergency” items funded in this bill as the State Department “Democracy Fund,” aid to foreign military forces, international broadcasting funds, and others. This spending was not in any way a response to legitimate emergencies and therefore I believed it would be better spent helping the Texas victims of Hurricane Rita. I also redirected some of this nonemergency spending to go toward our crippling deficit. Unfortunately this amendment was not allowed. Thus, recovery from true emergencies that have caused terrible destruction to the lives and property of American citizens is woefully underfunded while pork-barrel projects and wasteful foreign aid are funded most generously.

Mr. Speaker, our priorities in this are really backward. We need to look seriously at this incredible—unimaginable—level of spending. We are driving this country toward bankruptcy and it is bills like this that put us in the fast lane.