

WELCOMING NEW AMBASSADOR
OF UGANDA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new Ambassador of Uganda to the United States.

His Excellency Perezzi Kamunanwire presented his credentials to President Bush last month, succeeding the long-serving ambassador, Mrs. Edith Ssempala.

Ambassador Kamunanwire's previous diplomatic experience includes serving as his country's ambassador to Germany (1986–88) and to the United Nations in New York (1988–96).

In his capacity as a senior African diplomat, Ambassador Kamunanwire has also served as chairman of the Committee of African Ambassadors to the UN (1990–91); chairman of the Special Political Committee of the 45th session of the UN General Assembly (1991); chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Committee to Elect the UN Secretary General (1991); vice chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the 1992 UN Conference on Environmental Development (1991); chairman of the Committee for Rationalization and Revitalization of the Work of the UN General Assembly (1993); co-convenor of the Seventh Pan-African Congress in Kampala, Uganda (1994); and vice president of the UN Non-Proliferation Treaty Review (1995).

Ambassador Kamunanwire has also had a distinguished career in the academic world. Since 2003, he has been an adjunct professor at the Center for Conflict Management and Organizational Research at Bulgaria's Sophia University.

From 1997 to 1999, Ambassador Kamunanwire was director of the Black Studies Program at the City College of the City University of New York, where he has also been a lecturer since 1974. Since 1997, he has also served as a lecturer in the International Relations Program of City College's Department of Sociology. At City College, he has developed and taught courses on the United Nations, African politics, human rights, and other related topics.

Ambassador Kamunanwire was educated at Columbia University in New York, where he earned a B.A. in political science and a master's degree in international relations.

Ambassador Kamunanwire is the author of *Education for Development: The Establishment and the Success of Universal Primary Education in Uganda* (2000) and co-editor of *A Study Guide for Uganda* (1970). He contributed the foreword to *We, The PanAfrikans: Essays on the Global Black Experience*, by Professor Kannuti Kiteme (1973).

In 2003, Ignatius College in New York awarded Ambassador Kamunanwire an honorary doctor of laws degree, in recognition of "lifetime achievements in the field of international relations."

On June 14, my colleague (Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) and I, in our capacity as cochairs of the Congressional Caucus on Uganda, hosted a welcome reception for Ambassador Kamunanwire. The Department of State's "Washington File" published an article about that event the next day ("U.S. Lawmaker Hails Uganda as Emerging 'Superstar'"), which,

without objection, I would like to insert in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Ambassador Kamunanwire is a personable human being and an able diplomat. I look forward to working with him on issues of common concern to Uganda and the United States.

[From the Washington File, June 15, 2006]

U.S. LAWMAKER HAILS UGANDA AS EMERGING
"SUPERSTAR"

(By Jim Fisher-Thompson)

WASHINGTON.—Uganda is "emerging as one of the superstars of Africa," in part because of its success in fighting HIV/AIDS, House Africa Subcommittee Chairman Chris Smith (Republican of New Jersey) said at a June 14 reception honoring Ugandan Ambassador Perezzi Kamunanwire.

Smith was joined by fellow lawmaker Edolphus Towns (Democrat of New York). The lawmakers are co-chairmen of the Congressional Caucus on Uganda, formed in November 2004.

Congressional staff members, including Smith's Africa specialist, Greg Simpkins, also attended the evening event, as well as Rwandan Ambassador Zac Nsenga and former U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone Joseph Melrose.

Smith welcomed Ambassador Kamunanwire, most recently Uganda's envoy to Germany, who presented his credentials to President Bush on May 15, noting that he represents a country that has made significant inroads in AIDS prevention.

"Uganda is truly emerging as one of Africa's real superstars, and that is well known to people here on Capitol Hill—on both sides of the [political] aisle," Smith said.

In particular, the nation is setting an example for AIDS prevention, the lawmaker said, because of President Yoweri Museveni and his government's strategy of "working with local faith-based organizations and others . . . especially to reach young people with the message of [sex] deferral and of life for themselves and their loved ones."

Smith, a champion of human rights and health issues in Africa who has visited the continent numerous times, including a recent trip to Uganda, said, "Frankly, I was blown over by the enthusiasm I saw for family values [there] . . . so it was a very remarkable trip."

Uganda is one of 12 African nations targeted in the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), initiated by President Bush in 2003. The program is a five-year, \$15 billion effort aimed at battling the killer disease in 120 nations worldwide using the ABC strategy, which stands for "Abstain, Be faithful and Correct and Consistent use of condoms."

On the treatment front, as of March 31, life-saving antiretroviral medicines have gone to 561,000 people worldwide under the PEPFAR program—61 percent of them women. During that period, 75,000 people received anti-AIDS drugs in Uganda. Antiretroviral prophylaxis was also provided to women for 342,200 pregnancies, preventing an estimated 65,100 infant HIV infections, according to a PEPFAR fact sheet.

On the security front, Smith added, "We're also very encouraged and hopeful about what's happening in northern Uganda with the Lord's Resistance Army [LRA]," the rebel movement that has kidnapped children from villages, forcing them to serve as child soldiers.

"I know the government of Uganda is doing everything it can to try and mitigate and hopefully end that despicable activity by [LRA leader] Joseph Kony in abducting young children," Smith told the gathering.

Turning to Kamunanwire, the lawmaker pledged: "We will work with you. Our com-

mittee is a workhorse committee. We write a lot of laws" in areas such as human trafficking, and "we want to work with you on trade, environmental protection, humanitarian and human rights issues."

Kamunanwire, who described himself as "the new boy on the block," thanked the caucus for the welcome and pledged to work closely with Congress, as his predecessor Ambassador Edith Ssempala had done, on issues of interest to both Africa and the United States.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
HILA "DUTCH" BUCHER NEWMAN

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to my dear friend Hila "Dutch" Bucher Newman for being recognized and honored by the City of Kansas City, Missouri in naming a segment of Westport Road, the Honorary "Dutch" Newman Drive. A special on-site event will be held on Wednesday, June 28, 2006, so that family and friends can participate in the official christening of "Dutch Newman Drive," a fitting tribute to a lovely lady that has contributed so much to our community.

Dutch and her family have woven the fabric of the history of Westport, Missouri, now a vibrant neighborhood incorporated into the City of Kansas City, Missouri. Their family's connection to Westport dates back to the 1800's family patriarch, Sam Bucher, who helped settle the small frontier town. Her great-grandfather, Robert Bucher, served the city as Marshall. It could be said that Dutch learned a tradition of service most directly from her father, Harry Bucher, who protected the city as Chief of the Vice Squad for the Kansas City Police Department. He also helped stimulate the Westport economy by opening three businesses in the area, including "The Wrestlers Inn" which was located in the oldest building in Westport.

Dutch continued the family legacy of making Westport home while immersing her energies into enhancing her beloved community by providing direction through her leadership skills. Dutch was born in Westport, educated in Westport, married in Westport, owned a business in Westport, and continues to live in Westport. During World War II she served on the Civil Defense Program, planning the Blackout Tests. She holds memberships in the Daughters of Westport, The Westport Historical Society, and the Westport Neighborhood Crime Watch.

As U.S. Representative for Missouri's Fifth District, I am keenly aware and appreciative of Dutch's political contributions, knowledge, and experiences. As any elected official in our region can attest, if you need sound advice, political or otherwise, you count on Dutch. I proudly selected Dutch to represent the State of Missouri as a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging in 2005. She is a strong advocate for promoting dignity, health, independence and economic security for current and future generations of seniors. Dutch has a gift for examining you with her intense blue eyes and then providing you with the straight scoop.

Currently, Dutch serves on the Missouri Democratic Party's State Executive Board; is a Missouri State Committee Member; Chairperson of the 10th Senatorial District Committee; and has been the 5th Ward Democratic Committeewoman for over 30 years. Dutch is the Founder and President of the Westport Landing Democratic Club, former founder and Past President of the 5th District Women's Democratic Club, former Vice Chair of the Fifth Congressional District Committee, former Vice Chair of the Jackson County Democratic Committee, Past President of the State of Missouri Women's Federation Democratic Club, and was the first woman appointed by the Governor of Missouri to serve on Senatorial Redistricting Committee. Dutch has represented the State of Missouri as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention eight times. She has received many honors, including the Harry S Truman Award, Women's Fifth District "Woman of the Year Award", the Rodger A. Gooden Award for her strong commitment to social justice and inclusiveness, and the Combat Community Mother's Award. As an institution in the local Democratic Party, Dutch has stood prominently beside U.S. Presidents and other officials during their visits to Kansas City.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the matriarch of Westport, Hila "Dutch" Bucher Newman, for her unyielding commitment to the Westport area and the Fifth District. With this honorary naming of Westport Road, we pay tribute to a lifetime of work and dedication to the betterment of her community. I urge my colleagues of the 109th Congress to join me in congratulating Dutch on her well-deserved honor.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DAVE
AND LINDA HARMON TO THE
GUAM COMMUNITY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of two individuals, who, for the last 11 years, have dedicated themselves to exceptional service to our community. David and Linda Harmon, Majors in the Salvation Army, are recognized in the Guam community for their boundless benevolence and enduring commitment to serving the disadvantaged, feeding, clothing and housing those in need, and helping individuals recover from substance abuse.

David and Linda Harmon first arrived on Guam in July 1995. The Salvation Army Guam Corps has become an integral part of Guam's disaster recovery and relief system under their leadership. Dave and Linda have helped the people of Guam recover from several natural disasters since their arrival on Guam, including Supertyphoon Paka in 1997, and Typhoon Chata'an and Supertyphoon Pongsona in 2002. The Salvation Army donated thousands of dollars of food, clothing, and supplies through their efforts to many residents who lost everything as a result of these natural disasters. The organization under their leadership also assisted in providing humanitarian assistance to the Kurdish refugees who were evacuated from Iraq to Guam as part of Operation

Pacific Haven in 1996, and to Burmese refugees who came to Guam to seek political asylum in the United States in 2000. Additionally, the Salvation Army Guam Corps, under the Harmon's leadership in 1997, provided critical assistance in the aftermath of the tragic crash of Korean Air Flight 801 on Guam.

The Harmons helped establish the substance abuse recovery program which eventually became known as the Lighthouse Recovery Center. The Lighthouse Recovery Center has grown from meager beginnings to a 16-bed residence today, and has helped start over 200 men down the road to recovery from substance abuse and addiction. With guidance from the Harmons the Corp's Thrift Store was expanded. And after acquisition of the former Navy Chapel at Tiyan, the Salvation Army developed its Food Bank and Education Center as their Family Services and One Stop Homeless Assistance Center.

The Harmons have been active citizens in the Guam community outside of the Salvation Army as well. They are members of the Guam Symphony Society, the Rotary Club of Tumon Bay, the Guam Homeless Coalition, the Council on Homelessness, and Linda is a past president and member of the Guam Women's Club.

Mr. Speaker, over the years, I have come to personally know the Harmons. I helped welcome them to Guam as Lieutenant Governor when they first arrived on the island, and as a Charter Member of Guam Corps, I have worked closely with them in the activities of the Salvation Army. David and Linda are kind, self-sacrificing, and have a genuine, passionate love for Guam and its people. They are dear friends to many, and we will all miss them when they leave Guam for their next duty station. I am only comforted by the fact that the Salvation Army Santa Monica, California Corps will be in very capable hands under their leadership.

Therefore, on behalf of a grateful island, I join their children, Joel, Fred, Holly, and Lisa, and all the people of Guam in extending a heartfelt "Dangkulo na Si Yu'os Ma'ase" to David and Linda Harmon for all the good they have done for the people of Guam and for their service to our community.

SIKHS IN PUNJAB DEMAND INDEPENDENCE WHILE OBSERVING
ANNIVERSARY OF GOLDEN TEMPLE
MASSACRE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, June 3 through June 6 marked the anniversary of a very dark chapter in history, the Indian government's military invasion of the Golden Temple, the seat of the Sikh religion, in 1984. That atrocity was commemorated by Sikhs and others all over the world. There were demonstrations here in Washington and in many cities.

At the Golden Temple in Amritsar they had a ceremony to commemorate the occasion. The Jathedar of the Akal Takht, Joginder Singh Vedanti, the highest Sikh religious leader, led the commemoration. During his remarks, he did not mention Saul Jamail Singh Bhindranwale, the leader of the Sikhs who

was murdered at the Golden Temple, or General Shabeg Singh or any of the others who were murdered. This displeased the crowd.

The Sikhs in attendance, hundreds of them, chanted slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad," which means "Long live Khalistan," Khalistan is the Sikh homeland which declared itself independent from India on October 7, 1987. These chants show that the movement to liberate Khalistan is still alive in Punjab. Last year, there were speeches and flag-raising on the Golden Temple anniversary. There were similar events this past January. Those events resulted in arrests and criminal complaints, even though the Indian courts have ruled that speaking out [or Khalistan is not a crime. In spite of these intimidation tactics, the Sikhs spoke out again for Khalistan.

Over 20,000 Sikhs were killed in the Golden Temple attack and the attacks on 37 other Gurdwaras around Punjab, known as Operation Bluestar. During Operation Bluestar, the Indian army shot bullet holes in the Sikh holy scriptures, the Guru Granth Sahib. Young boys were taken outside and summarily shot. The Golden Temple itself was ransacked and severely damaged. Do these sound like the acts of a democracy?

If India were truly committed to democratic values, at the very least, the Indian government would issue a public apology to the Sikhs and pay compensation to the victims' families.

The Golden Temple attacks show that there is no place for Sikhs in India, and other minorities also feel the massive repression of "the world's largest democracy." More than a quarter of a million Sikhs have been killed and over 52,000 continue to be held as political prisoners. India has killed over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland and tens of thousands more in the rest of the country, as well as more than 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, thousands more Muslims around India, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. For minority peoples and nations, India is one of the world's worst tyrannies. It is a democracy for the Brahmins and a police state for the minorities.

This is not acceptable, Mr. Speaker. I would like to express the sympathy of the Congress to the Sikh Nation for the Golden Temple massacre. In light of this atrocity and the ongoing atrocities of the Indian government, I wonder why the United States continues to fund such a country. The time has come, Mr. Speaker, to stop our aid and trade with India and to support self-determination for all peoples and nations in South Asia. This is the best way to bring about stability, peace, freedom, and prosperity in the subcontinent, to defuse the troubles there, and to make sure that every person's rights are protected.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place a couple of very good articles on the chanting of Khalistan slogans at the Golden Temple into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

[From the Tribune (Chandigarh), June 7, 2006]

RADICALS RAISE KHALISTAN SLOGANS

AMRITSAR, June 6.—Activists of various radical Sikh organizations raised slogans in favour of Khalistan on Ghallughara divas (genocide day) to mark the 22nd anniversary of Operation Bluestar in front of Akal Takht here today.

Mr. Parkash Singh Badal, president, SAD, distanced himself from it.