

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PVT. JOSHUA MICHAEL MORBERG, KILLED WHILE SERVING HIS COUNTRY IN IRAQ

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Army Pvt. Joshua Michael Morberg, who was killed on Tuesday, December 27th 2005, at the age of 20, while serving in Iraq. I recognize him today for his dedicated service to this country for the cause of freedom in a global community.

Pvt. Joshua Morberg came from a long line of military veterans. His grandfather had been in World War II and Korea and he had many other family members who have served in every military branch.

As a child Joshua was described as "curious", always asking questions and desiring to gain more knowledge. His uncle stated that he could never own a radio because Josh would always take it apart and never quite put it back together again. Growing up he learned to play the violin and in high school he learned to speak Japanese.

Ever since he was a little boy Joshua wanted to be a soldier. So, in 2004, he graduated early from Washoe High School to join the military. Joshua had only been in Iraq for a few weeks. On Tuesday, December 27th, while on duty in Baghdad, another patrol came under attack. Despite the clear danger, Joshua led the effort to help his fellow soldiers. Tragically, Joshua was killed, along with another soldier, when an improvised explosive device was detonated.

For his brave service and individual act of courage Joshua was awarded a Bronze Star Medal with Valor device, the Purple Heart and a Good Conduct Medal.

Joshua is survived by his parents, sister Grayce and "The Rat Pack", who had been his lifelong friends.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity I have today, to recognize and honor Pvt. Joshua Morberg in front of my colleagues on the floor of the House.

COMMEMORATION OF BOB MARLEY'S BIRTHDAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember once again the timeless reggae musician Bob Marley and to enter into the RECORD an eloquent CARIBNEWS commentary by Michael Roberts commemorating what would have been the singer's 61st birthday February 6 had he not died in 1981 of cancer.

As Roberts mentions in his editorial, Marley's musical genius generated from his hopes of empowerment and political uplifting for his Jamaican people. "Marley was a staunch advocate of conscious lyrics and he urged Black people to think positive and do positive things," Roberts explains. Not only was Marley a lyricist and a leader but he was an international ambassador advocating for

the solidarity of the Caribbean. "His music and lyrics advocated a kind of Black-centered Christianity which would 'free our minds'." Thus Marley, although born in Jamaica, was a citizen of the Caribbean and Third World," Roberts writes.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in remembering the legacy of Bob Marley during Black History Month.

[From the CARIBNEWS, Feb. 6, 2006]

CELEBRATING THE 61TH EARTH DAY OF REGGAE SUPERSTAR ROBERT MARLEY

(By Michael D. Roberts)

Black Ambassador, musical innovator, and gifted with visionary talents, Bob Marley's music today speaks volumes about a man whose every word and sentence was written with the emancipation of his people in mind. And in his own way he identified the problems and offered solutions to them. That is why the music of the supreme Rastaman endures to this day. Indeed, the greatness of Bob Marley is that his popularity and staying quality outlasts all the present crop of reggae artistes.

This Black History Month Marley would have turned 61 years—had he lived. And we can only speculate as to what music he would have concocted in that fertile and creative mind of his as he "trod down Babylon." To my mind the supreme Rastaman still sings getting better with each passing day. In the dancehalls of Brooklyn, the Caribbean basements of Canada, or the open tropical spaces of the Caribbean, Bob Marley's timeless music lives on. His works continue to give new hope to the world's oppressed and solace to the downtrodden as he urges Black people to "Get up, Stand up, Stand up for your rights."

A versatile entertainer, he was singer, songwriter, expert guitarist and above all a pragmatic rastaman. Robert Nesta Marley was born in St. Ann, Jamaica, on February 6, 1945. He died May 11, 1981. Bob Marley, as he is popularly known the world over, was the individual most responsible for taking reggae out of Jamaica and making it international.

With uncanny vision Marley altered indigenous traditional Jamaican roots music making it more acceptable to the international market and consumer. Curiously, before he would win over his critics, and Jamaica music purists, Marley came under heavy fire, in those early days because it was felt that he was prostituting the roots reggae music.

Along with his group the Wailers, that he formed in 1964, and which included two other great reggae leaders in their own right—Peter Tosh and Bunny Livingston, known worldwide as Bunny Wailer—Bob Marley was the great popularizer of reggae. It was he and the Wailers who infused this "island music" with American pop and rock, making it attractive to all music consumers and which gave it its enduring, lasting, "always fresh" quality.

But even when Marley sung so-called lovey-dovey ballads and drew the ire of the "rude boys" of Jamaica's slums and garrison communities, his message was inherently and basically political: he preached an end to racial oppression and urged Blacks to be proud of their heritage. So in his own right Marley was a Third World music pioneer who eventually turned into a superstar.

Marley was a staunch advocate of conscious lyrics and he urged Black people to think positive and do positive things. Nowadays it is fashionable to hear gurus of self-help working their spiel about positive thoughts. You would think that they had listened to the Great Rastaman. Like Malcolm X and Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Bob Marley

was acutely aware of the necessity to deal firmly with situations that demanded strong action. That did not mean that he advocated unbridled, confrontational violence but he understood that the poor and oppressed had a duty to resist these things which were part of "Babylon."

It is perhaps this prophetic quality that has made Robert Nesta Marley a Third World legend and reggae's only superstar. So as we celebrate the anniversary of his birth on February 6, we must remember his passing and pay respect to his works. He was, undoubtedly, Jamaica's most outstanding ambassador and one who yearned for all the people of the Caribbean to come together.

His music and lyrics advocated a kind of Black-centered Christianity which would "free our minds." Thus Marley, although born in Jamaica, was a citizen of the Caribbean and Third World. He transcended the narrow borders of nations moving with his pulsating music to the world community of man.

But Marley was not merely satisfied to simply fight for deliverance from "Babylon" in the Western Hemisphere through his music and powerful lyrics. He preached resistance to all forms of oppression. His songs of protest and of agitation composed after exposure to the inequalities prevalent in Jamaican and Caribbean society have been adopted by people in many countries struggling for, what his talented compatriot, Peter Tosh and fellow Wailer, called "equal rights and justice."

Marley's contribution to Jamaican and world musical culture still stands out as a monumental achievement of human endeavor. It was he more than anyone else who took the indigenous musical art form of a Caribbean island, framed and packaged it to suit international tastes, and then sold it to the world. Today the world still sings "these songs of freedom," as the Dreadlocked One demanded.

Let us always remember that his music and his works were aimed, in the fashion of another great Jamaican, Marcus Mosiah Garvey, at liberating his race. Marley's tenure on this earth was a potent reminder that Black people are still not yet free. His creative genius accomplished what most international politicians dream of achieving and he did it by being just—Bob Marley, humble and sincere.

There is something for everybody in the works of Bob Marley. Some folks love him for his upbeat, uptempo music like "One Love" Jamaica's national song; others like his spiritual side found in such works as "Redemption Song" and "Three Little Birds." And still there are many who cling to the masterful works of protest music in songs like "Bad Card" and "Ambush In The Night."

No matter what people remember Bob Marley for, his works "Idureth for Iver." So "get up, stand up, stand up for your rights," and listen to the Supreme Rastaman who trod into Babylon "inna this generation"—Triumphantly.

Considered today reggae classics, Marley's music never ceases to refresh and reinvigorate each and every time that it is played. Indeed, it is his music's staying power that keeps alive the image and spirit of Bob Marley as fans from all walks of life, and social standing—from the townships of Soweto in South Africa to the plush, affluent home-steads of Beverly Hills—celebrate his 61st earth day.