

however, support was lukewarm at best; many saw efforts to apprehend and bring to justice those responsible for heinous crimes as too far-reaching, perhaps unachievable, and potentially detrimental to efforts to end the conflict through diplomacy.

The Coalition for International Justice was a tireless advocate of another view, one that saw no true peace, nor the resulting long-term stability, in Bosnia or anywhere else, without appropriate consideration of justice. Time has since shown how correct that view has been. Bosnia and Herzegovina has come a long way since the mid-1990s, in large part because those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide were instead removed from positions of authority and made accountable at the tribunal located in The Hague. Many of those people might still be at large had the Coalition, among others, not advocated a tough policy toward those powers who were harboring and protecting them. Many of us can remember the State Department's hesitancy, let alone that of many European foreign ministries, to these tough measures. Today, however, the United States maintains an effective conditionality on assistance to Serbia and, along with the European Union, on Serbia's integration efforts due to the particular failure to transfer Ratko Mladic to The Hague. Similar linkages apply to another at-large indictee, Radovan Karadzic.

Representatives of the Coalition for International Justice participated in numerous briefings and hearings of the Helsinki Commission on this subject, and were always available to provide useful information when justice in the Balkans became part of our policy debates.

The Coalition similarly assisted the international criminal tribunal established for Rwanda in its efforts to be fair, responsible and effective in the provision of justice. Its mandate later expanded to help the investigation and prosecutions process in East Timor, to establish a tribunal for Khmer Rouge crimes in Cambodia, and to create a Special Court for Sierra Leone. It helped track the finance of such notorious figures as Charles Taylor, Saddam Hussein and the Khartoum elites, in addition to Slobodan Milosevic and Radovan Karadzic. Most recently, the Coalition has been part of the international effort not just to hold those responsible for the genocide in Darfur accountable from the crimes already committed but to protect the civilian population there from continuing to be victimized.

Mr. Speaker, I have appreciated the work of the Coalition for International Justice as a resource of accurate information, and as an advocate to a reasonable, practical approach to the sometimes controversial subject of international justice. While its board and staff may have concluded that the Coalition has largely accomplished the tasks it was created to address, they know, as do we, that horrible crimes continue to be committed against innocent people in conflicts around the world. I am confident that the dedicated individuals who made the Coalition such a success will continue, through other organizations and offices, in the struggle for international justice.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HEIGHTS PLAYERS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a talented and distinguished community theater group, the Heights Players, as they embark upon their 50th anniversary. It is an honor to represent the Heights Players in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to such an outstanding community organization that has brought the art of performance to adults and children throughout Brooklyn.

Mr. Speaker, the Heights Players were founded in 1956 by a small collection of theatre-lovers and successfully produced their first production, *Hasty Heart*, in February of 1957. The Heights Players eventually established themselves as a nonprofit educational corporation of New York, offering a workshop program and expanding the group to extend opportunities to new performers and directors.

For the past 50 years, the Heights Players have continued to assume an active role in the community by presenting performances for homeless groups, senior citizens and hospital-bound children. In 1962, the Heights Players moved to their current location at the historic 26 Willow Place in the basement of the Alfred T. White Community Center. The Heights Players, under their Board of Directors, continuously seek to enhance the quality of their performances, facilities, and organization.

The Heights Players now enjoy a large membership of 200 subscribers and a group mailing list of 2,500 supporters, including those from the Brooklyn Heights Community along with the tri-state area. The Heights Players also continue to provide special Theater for Children performances, traveling entertainment to Brooklyn hospitals, nursing homes, and Hale House in Manhattan, and special performances to nearly 1,000 homeless New Yorkers annually. They have been awarded for their ongoing laudable community efforts by Brooklyn Borough President Abe Stark, the Brooklyn Heights Association, the City Council, and Borough President Howard Golden, who designated April 4, 1987, as "Heights Players Day."

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the achievements and committed service of the Heights Players as they continue to offer their artistic talents and performances for the benefit of the community.

Mr. Speaker, may our country continue to benefit from the actions of altruistic community leaders such as the Heights Players.

AFRICA'S LEADING LADY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first elected female president of Liberia, for her straightforward opinion that addresses jurisdictional control for prosecutorial legal action against

Charles Taylor, the accused butcher and mutilator of thousands of Africans during one of the deadliest and bloodiest regimes of modern day Liberia and four other African states.

I enter into the RECORD an article from the New York Daily News entitled "Africa's Leading Lady" which reveals that African women are coming to the fore, trying to right all of the wrongs put and held in place by a succession of brutal and corrupt African men. Emphasis is placed on the atrocities carried out by Taylor and his followers and mentions how Taylor's greed has "casually" reduced Liberia to a pauper state.

I personally believe that Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, also known as the "Iron Lady" for her determination and tenacity, is the very best person to lead Liberia from its dark, tormented past into a bright and productive future.

[From the New York Daily News, Mar. 30, 2006]

AFRICA'S LEADING LADY: PRESIDENT'S GUTSY MOVE VS. WARLORD TEACHES VALUABLE LESSON

(By Stanley Crouch)

When Charles Taylor, the ex-Liberian thug president, was arrested in Nigeria trying to escape the clutches of international law, he was in a car with 110-pound bags of embezzled money. Well, he was not traveling light.

Taylor had risen to power after seven years of civil war, had won an election with 75% of the vote and had casually reduced his country to a pauper state. He is accused of starting conflicts in four other African states and encouraging the chopping off of hands, feet, lips and noses in Sierra Leone so that the terrified population would not hinder the sale of stolen diamonds.

Taylor is one of those African butchers who could have modeled himself on King Leopold II, the 19th-century Belgian king. Leopold's colonial policies in the Congo resulted in countless slaughters and many mutilations in the interest of producing a profitable rubber crop.

Leopold became a pariah among European courts, but naturally black-faced variations in Africa have wielded iron-fisted power without compunction, worrying only about being overthrown by some ambitious fellow monster in the military. If given the time, these monsters have fled to another African country, or to the Arab states, or even to the French Riviera, where they have been able to cool out and impress everyone with their pilfered riches.

As the Taylor case has proven, that trend in African politics may be coming to a screeching halt. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first elected female president in all of Africa, had requested that Nigeria hand over Taylor to the authorities in Sierra Leone, where he would have to face charges of individual butchery, mutilation and crimes against humanity.

African women are coming to the fore, trying to right all of the wrongs put and held in place by a succession of brutal and corrupt African men. African justice has been as porous as Swiss cheese for more than 40 years and the African people have suffered enormously while black Americans in or out of elected office, in or out of the civil rights establishment, have either ignored the horrors wrought upon the people or have figured out ways to blame it all on others.

The women of Africa are more interested in dealing with the facts than maintaining a cosmetic front of innocence. In a number of places across Africa, we see women rooting out corruption and conceiving laws that will bring them closer to a standard of human equality.

Interestingly, Oprah Winfrey, who keeps turning up, has been a model. Winfrey has inspired African women to rebel against rape and kidnap, to defy misogynistic laws and to face up to the ravages of AIDS.

It is both sobering and exciting to realize that American women, having been taught much by the civil rights movement, can inspire African women by example, and that elected or appointed African officials can lead the way through the ingrained ignorance, poverty and disease that block human fulfillment. Such human force explains the mystery of African optimism.

REMEMBERING HARRY PARRISH

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to remember Mr. Harry Parrish, member of the Virginia General Assembly and decorated World War II pilot from Manassas, VA, who passed away on March 28 at the age of 84.

Harry Parrish served over 50 years in elected office, including 13 terms in the House of Delegates and chairman of the Finance Committee since 2000, Manassas council member, and mayor. At the time of his passing, he was the oldest serving member of the House of Delegates. During his 12 years as town councilman and 18 years as mayor, Harry helped guide the transformation of Manassas from a small Virginia town to a thriving, lively suburb. As a member of the House of Delegates, he was known for conducting himself in a bipartisan manner, putting Virginia first. I was proud to call Harry my friend. He was a true Virginia gentleman.

Harry was also a decorated World War II pilot. As part of the British Royal Air Force he flew C-47s over the Himalayas delivering supplies, weapons and other cargo, from India to China. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal for his valiant efforts. He served as a reservist in the Korean and Vietnam wars before retiring as a colonel.

I insert for the RECORD the Potomac News obituary from March 28. A northern Virginia native, Harry will be deeply missed by the people of Manassas, and at home by his family and wife, Mattie, of 62 years.

[From the Potomac News, Mar. 28, 2006]

HARRY PARRISH DIES AT 84

(By Bob Lewis)

RICHMOND, VA—Harry Parrish, who defied death as a decorated World War II pilot and headed the state's most powerful tax-writing panel in the General Assembly, died Tuesday. He was 84.

Parrish had been in intensive care at Prince William Hospital for about three weeks, suffering from pneumonia. His death was announced by Sen. John Chichester during a meeting of the Senate Finance Committee on Capitol Square.

Parrish had been in declining health for at least two years but continued a full legislative schedule, including acting as chairman of the House Finance Committee, one of the most powerful leadership positions in the General Assembly.

Last year, Parrish warded off a Republican primary challenge for his House seat—payback from his party's own conservative wing for defying its anti-tax orthodoxy during the 2004 tax battle.

Parrish, the House of Delegates' oldest member, was in his 13th term from Manassas.

He was born Feb. 19, 1922, in Fairfax County and moved as a child with his family to Manassas, then a small, rural town. He graduated from Osbourn High School in 1940 and later from Virginia Tech.

He joined the Army Air Force in 1942 and began pilot training in Alabama, but was assigned to the British Royal Air Force, where he completed his training.

He was part of an allied mission to fly lumbering transport planes laden with heavy supplies, weapons and ammunition from India into China over the world's highest mountain range, the Himalayas.

The C-47s like the one Parrish flew took off from crude, sometimes muddy airfields in the Indian jungles and struggled to heft their cargo over icy peaks that doomed many flights. Because Japan controlled land routes through Burma, the airlifts over what pilots called "the Hump" were the only way to supply the legendary Flying Tigers, which bombed Japan from bases in China.

Parrish received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters. He left active duty in 1946 but flew as an Air Force reservist in wars with Korea and Vietnam before retiring as a colonel and command pilot.

In 2002, as one of few remaining World War II veterans in the General Assembly, Parrish helped secure Virginia's \$334,000 contribution to the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"I kind of regret us being the last state, but I'm glad we finally came around," Parrish said in an interview, pained that Virginia was the last state to contribute to the memorial.

Parrish was elected to the House in 1981 as part of an insignificant Republican minority. Before that, he served for 12 years on the Manassas Town Council and for 18 years as mayor. During his mayoral term, Manassas transformed from a town into a thriving, affluent city.

Through a total of 53 years in elected office, Parrish won abiding respect as a listener and problem solver from Republicans and Democrats. In 2000, when the GOP ended a century of Democratic dominance in the House, Parrish became co-chairman and later chairman of the Finance Committee, where his evenhandedness endeared him delegates and senators of both parties.

"He's my best friend," Democratic Sen. Charles J. Colgan of Prince William said in a 2004 interview. "He and I are the only Democrat and Republican in the General Assembly ever known to have held a fund raiser together."

Parrish was willing to exert his independence at times, even at the risk of his own party's wrath and his prized House leadership post.

By two votes, Parrish's committee in 2004 advanced a bill to increase taxes by about \$1.4 billion. When the bill came before the full House for a decisive vote that April, Parrish was among 17 Republicans who sided with House Democrats to pass it. The vote was critical to ending a 115-day session that divided GOP legislators.

In addition to his public duties, Parrish also is chairman of the board of his family's business, the Manassas Ice and Fuel Co.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS AMY DUERKSEN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to mourn the loss and honor the life of PFC Amy Duerksen, who died the 11th day of March 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Private Duerksen was no stranger to the United States Armed Forces. She was third-generation military. Her father is MAJ Douglas W. Duerksen, an Army chaplain at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Aberdeen, MD. Her grandfather, Wayne Duerksen, is a veteran of the Navy, having served in World War II. And her sister, April Duerksen, is also a member of the Army, stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

In April of last year, Amy joined the Fourth Combat Support Battalion, First Brigade, Fourth Infantry Division, based at Fort Hood, TX. Her unit was deployed on Christmas Day. On the eighth day of March 2006, Private Duerksen suffered injuries in a noncombat-related incident, and she was not able to recover from those injuries.

She is remembered as a dedicated soldier who greatly loved her country and faithfully served her fellow Americans by fighting for this great nation. Private Duerksen was full of passion and life. She possessed a strong faith and willingly shared that with others.

Private Duerksen risked her life to serve our country. She deserves our unending admiration and appreciation. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me in honoring the life of PFC Amy Duerksen. She was a remarkable soldier and patriot.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. CHAMBERS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Michael J. Chambers, and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this outstanding member of the Brooklyn community.

Mr. Chambers joined the North Brooklyn Health Network in November 1998. As the senior associate executive director for the Department of Psychiatry, he is responsible for the operation of an extensive network of emergency, inpatient, and outpatient services to the residents of Bushwick, Bedford Stuyvesant, Fort Green, Williamsburg, and Greenpoint.

Prior to his service at the North Brooklyn Health Network, Mr. Chambers was the Administrator of the Department of Psychiatry at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center in Queens. He was also instrumental in the development of its new Department of Psychiatry. Before pursuing a career in hospital administration, Mr. Chambers had a distinguished 14-year career with the New York State Office of Mental Health, New York City Regional Office, where he served as director of certification for New York City. He is an associate in the American