

George's entire career was devoted to public service. In the 1950's, he was named to head the Denver Housing Authority. In 1955, he was appointed to the Colorado House of Representatives, and later became the first African American elected to the Colorado State Senate. In 1974 he gained national attention when he was elected Lieutenant Governor of Colorado—the first African American so honored in U.S. history. As a major public figure, he became an influential spokesman for justice and equity in Colorado and beyond.

Following retirement from government George worked as a consultant in the private sector in Washington while remaining involved with public causes, including the Boys Choir of Harlem. Just two weeks before his passing, George co-chaired the National Black Peoples Unity Convention in Gary, Indiana, addressing economic strategies to empower African Americans.

With all of his professional success, George was first and foremost a family man. I remember his joy with the addition of each new grandchild to his family. He is survived by his wife, Modeen; two sisters, Harriet Baskerville and Laura Gilyard; nine children, Gail Chandler, Cindy Brown, Kim Brown, Laura Mitchell, Angela Ashley, Carolyn Smith, Sharolyn Williams, Nyra Crenshaw, and Ronald Crenshaw, as well as seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

George was not only a great man, but a loyal friend who would always be there to lend a helping hand or to just listen. He was a source of inspiration to me and to everyone who knew him. May God bless him and his family.

TRIBUTE TO GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Greek Independence Day. I am proud to represent Greek-town in Chicago and the many Greek-Americans that live on the near west side.

185 years ago, on March 25, 1821, Greece declared its independence from the Ottoman Empire. On that day, a great friendship was born between the two nations. Americans went to fight for Greece's independence and Americans and Greeks have fought side by side since that time. Over the past 185 years many Greeks have immigrated to the United States and a great number live in my district today.

Greece's location at the southern end of the Balkan Peninsula on the Mediterranean has positioned Greece at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa ensuring that it shares not only the cultural richness of that diverse region, but also some of the great troubles that have plagued that area.

Hopefully this Congress we can work together to ensure peace in the region, the sovereignty of Greece, and a strong and lasting friendship between the United States and Greece.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 609) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to address the need for high quality teachers in our Nation's schools. In many of our urban and rural school districts there continues to be a shortage of teachers who have a solid background in the subjects of math, science and foreign language. This shortage is resulting in sub-standard education for these students where in many cases college preparatory courses are not available in upper level math, calculus, physics, chemistry and biology. As a result many of these students will not complete high school or pursue a college education. Even if students go onto higher education, they face numerous obstacles completing their college coursework as they have not had the same college preparatory background as their counterparts. Providing high quality teachers in these critical subject areas is key in ending the achievement gap that exists throughout this country.

I fully support the ideas behind the Amendment offered by Ms. MCMORRIS, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. DREIER. For low-income urban and rural schools an Adjunct Teacher Corp. could offer a lifeline for these students. It is extremely unfortunate that there were not provisions within the amendment that would expand training requirements for these faculty members. We must ensure that our students not only have teachers with a strong background in their subject area, but also have the proper training to convey that knowledge to their students. While I agree, that it is imperative to get these teachers into the classroom as soon as possible, there needs to be specific training requirements and adequate monitoring of faculty. In addition, I continue to have serious reservations regarding the undercutting of collective bargaining laws within this amendment. Without clarification on these provisions, I unfortunately could not support this amendment.

I do however, applaud my colleagues for their efforts on this important issue, and would like to work with them in the future on efforts to provide high quality teachers in every classroom.

IN HONOR OF EUGENIA STOLARCZYK'S POLISH RADIO PROGRAM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of the 45th Anniversary of Eugenia Stolarczyk's Polish Radio Program, broadcast every Sunday morning on Cleveland's WCPN 90.3 FM and WERE 1300 AM,

as she is honored by the Polish American Cultural Center of Cleveland, established in 2001.

The native language, music and news of Poland streams from the radio on Sunday mornings, here in Cleveland and around the country, connecting Americans of Polish heritage to their beloved homeland. The music and song of Poland, from classical to polka, serves as a living bridge that transcends time and distance, connecting the memories, history, spirit and culture of Poland.

Eugenia Stolarczyk's talent, passion and joy in promoting Polish music, culture and news brings the soul of Poland into the kitchens and living rooms of people living on Fleet Avenue in Cleveland and along avenues across the country. American citizens who emigrated here from Poland add significant depth, richness and brilliant color to the diverse fabric of nations that comprise the cultural fabric of Cleveland, reflecting the heart and soul of our nation—a nation founded on, and unified by, the grit and struggle for freedom—a nation of immigrants.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Eugenia Stolarczyk, whose dedication, talent and energy has illuminated the radio waves from Cleveland to California every Sunday morning for the past 45 years, echoing the spirited melodies and language of Poland. This vital radio broadcast serves as a guardian of ancestry, protecting and preserving the song and spirit of Poland for every new generation to come to embrace—with just a turn of the dial.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TENTH AN- NIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF RONALD H. BROWN, FORMER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the legacy and memory of Ronald H. Brown, the former Secretary of Commerce on this tenth anniversary of his untimely passing and to enter into the RECORD an article written to Ron Brown's legacy entitled "The Constituency for Africa Remembers Ron Brown".

On April 3, 1996, Ron Brown and a 34-person United States delegation had concluded a trade mission to the Balkans and were returning to the United States when their airplane crashed into the side of a mountain in Croatia.

Ronald Harmon Brown, the first African American to hold the office of U.S. Secretary of Commerce, was born in Washington, D.C. in 1941. He grew up in New York, and with the help of a scholarship attended Middlebury College in Vermont. He received his law degree from St. John's University, attending at night while working by day as a welfare case-worker for the City of New York. He also served for four years in the Army in both Germany and Korea.

Brown, a strong, independent leader, was a lawyer, a skilled negotiator, a pragmatic bridge builder and a highly successful past chairman of the Democratic National Committee. He brought this wide range of experiences to the position of Secretary of Commerce and vowed to reach out to our neighbors abroad to promote long-term economic growth that included

rebuilding their industrial bases and working with small business owners and minority entrepreneurs to create and expand employment opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, Ronald Brown was an exceptional individual with accomplishments too numerous to list. He left an indelible impression not only in the United States but in many countries abroad. As evidenced by the article that I submit to the RECORD, I join the Constituency for Africa (CFA), a U.S.-based coalition with interest in Africa, in acknowledging the many contributions made in Africa by the late Secretary of Commerce.

(March 31, 2006, Washington, DC)

THE CONSTITUENCY FOR AFRICA REMEMBERS
RON BROWN

April 3 marks the tenth anniversary of the plane crash in Croatia which ended the life of late Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown and 34 others traveling with him on a trade mission to the Balkans. The Constituency for Africa (CFA), a Washington, D.C. based coalition of organizations, groups and individuals with interest in Africa, acknowledges the contributions made by the late Secretary in forging U.S. ties with Africa.

"Ron Brown opened the doors to recognition of the importance of the U.S.-Africa relationship, highlighting the trade and investment opportunities, traveling to Africa and supporting organizations seeking to educate, advocate and build ties with Africa," said Melvin P. Foote, the Chief Executive Officer of the Constituency for Africa. In celebration of Ron Brown's legacy, CFA established a highly regarded Ronald H. Brown African Affairs series during Congressional Black Caucus Week which features speakers and seminars on critical issues confronting Africa, including issues of health, agriculture, energy and trade.

"The term, 'Africa matters' was used by the National Summit on Africa and many other events over recent years, but was first used in a major speech by Ron Brown. He truly put the spotlight on Africa's potential for the Clinton Administration. He got American companies who would never have considered trading and investing, to take a closer look. He also elevated the African diplomatic corps and Africa focused organizations by engaging them in dialogue and showing them the respect he believed they deserved," reflected Leonard Robinson, President of the Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa.

Ron Brown was the first African-American chairman of the Democratic National Committee and the first to travel to sub-Saharan Africa. During that trip in 1990 he talked about political development, but also the importance of trade and investment. Later, when he became Secretary of Commerce, he made good on his belief in the importance of economic development and commercial ties by leading numerous trade missions to Africa including one to South Africa a few days after sanctions were lifted by the U.S.; he opened a U.S. commercial center in South Africa, now named after him; opened and expanded commercial offices in regional hubs throughout Africa; supported passage of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act; rallied other U.S. Government Agencies around Africa issues and invited senior officials from those agencies to travel with him to Africa and to develop solutions to problems in a co-operative manner. He helped to create the Corporate Council on Africa and remained a loyal supporter during his tenure as Commerce Secretary.

Michael Brown, Board Member of CFA, lobbyist and candidate for Mayor of Washington, DC, reflected on his father's travels

to Africa. "My father is still remembered in many places in Africa. Fellows from the Ron Brown Institute based in Pretoria have been interns in companies in southern Africa. Small and medium sized companies go to the Ron Brown Commercial Center in Johannesburg for help with their commercial transactions. He introduced us to the benefits of commercial diplomacy."

The Constituency for Africa is a non-profit and non-governmental organization based in Washington, DC, that focuses on advocacy and educational initiatives directed at U.S. Africa policy. CFA's mission is to advocate, educate, inspire, act upon and inform its constituency about issues, concerns and challenges impacting the quality of life for the nations of Africa.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MS. CARRIE COLEMAN ROBINSON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Ms. Carrie Coleman Robinson, a citizen of Hilton Head Island who will celebrate her 100th birthday on April 21, 2006.

The Hilton Head Island Town Council recently issued the following proclamation in her honor:

Whereas, Carrie Coleman Robinson, her family, and friends will be gathering on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina from April 21–23, 2006 to celebrate her 100th birthday, and

Whereas, many of Ms. Robinson's family and friends will be coming from such diverse locations as Minnesota, California, Indiana, Alabama, North Carolina and Illinois, and

Whereas, Carrie Coleman Robinson was born April 21, 1906 to James and Cordelia Coleman in Madison County, Pocahontas, Mississippi, and

Whereas, Carrie was the 5th of 6 siblings, all of whom are now deceased, and

Whereas, Carrie was married to Dr. Thomas L. Robinson of Hilton Head Island for 54 years until his death in 1989, and

Whereas, Ms. Robinson's education is unparalleled as she received an Associate Bachelor's degree from Tougaloo College in 1931, a BLS degree from the Hampton Institute in 1932, and an MLS degree from the University of Illinois in 1949 while she also attended Columbia University from 1940–41 and Advanced Studies from 1953–55,

Now, therefore the Hilton Head Island Town Council hereby proclaims April 21, 2006 as: The Centennial Birthday of Carrie Coleman Robinson on Hilton Head Island.

FLORIDA GATOR MEN'S BASKETBALL REMARKS

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Florida Gators men's basketball team for winning their first ever national championship title. They handily beat the UCLA Bruins last

night in Indianapolis by a score of 73–57. This marks the first NCAA men's title in basketball for any Division I school in Florida.

As you may know, the team lost most of its scoring players from last season and many pundits questioned whether this year's Gators would even make it into the NCAA tournament. First, they started the season by winning their first 17 games. Then they went on to secure the SEC Conference tournament championship. And, just when it was thought they couldn't top that, they ended their historic season winning the national title.

During the past month, these young, energetic Gators won the hearts and minds of fans everywhere. Their success came down to a simple formula: they played as an unselfish, hardworking and passionate team.

Head coach Billy Donovan deserves enormous credit for building such a dominant program. His team held to his often professed mantra of "PHD"—"be poor, be hungry and be driven"—in their pursuit of excellence whether on the court or in the classroom.

I applaud the strong performances by the entire team: Joakim Noah, Al Horford, Corey Brewer, Taurean Green, Lee Humphrey, Chris Richard, Adrian Moss, Walter Hodge, Brett Swanson, Jack Berry, Garrett Tyler and David Huertas.

Again, congratulations to the University of Florida for this impressive and historic win. Today it is truly great to be a Florida Gator.

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Florida men's basketball team on winning the 2006 NCAA national championship.

None of college basketball's so-called experts picked the University of Florida to do much, if anything, this season. In fact, they were not even ranked in the preseason polls. This was to be a rebuilding year for the Gators. They lost three prolific scorers to the NBA last season and were considered too young and inexperienced to play with most of the Southeastern Conference, let alone the elite teams in the NCAA tournament.

However, Coach Billy Donovan and his unwavering team knew differently. Through hard work, drive, discipline, and determination, the Gators soon made their presence felt. Led by four sophomores and one junior, they began their historic season with a 17-game winning streak, the longest in Florida basketball history. And they concluded their title run by winning their last 11 games, including an SEC tournament championship, an unbelievable run through the Minneapolis region, and a dominating performance in the Final Four.

In the championship game, the Gators faced a very talented UCLA team, heralded for their defense and rich with basketball tradition. But on this night, Florida wrote the next and best chapter of their basketball tradition. Poised and focused, the Gators took the court where their balanced offensive attack swamped