

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

UCLA's defense. Furthermore, the Gators quickly demonstrated that their defense was the more domineering on the court, limiting their opponents' scoring options.

I want to recognize Coach Donovan and his assistant coaches, who have helped lead the Gators to national prominence. This is Coach Donovan's second title game appearance with UF, and with this victory, he becomes the second youngest head coach to win a national championship. I also would like to acknowledge the Gators' starters. Joakim Noah, the Final Four's Most Outstanding Player, led the Gators with 16 points, nine rebounds, three assists, and six blocked shots, a title game record. Taurean Green ran the point nearly to perfection, refusing to allow UCLA's pressure to lead to turnovers. Corey Brewer had great offensive statistics; however, it was his shutdown defense which held UCLA's leading scorer scoreless for most of the game. Al Horford helped control the interior and defend UF's basket, and Lee Humphrey's barrage of three-point jump shots helped put the game out of reach. Additionally, I would like to congratulate the Gators' only senior, Adrian Moss, who finished his college career with a sensational game, posting nine points and six rebounds in only ten minutes of play.

I also want to applaud the rest of the Gator team: Chris Richard, Walter Hodge, David Huertas, Garrett Tyler, Jimmie Sutton, Jack Berry, Brett Swanson, and everyone involved with the Men's basketball program. They are all to be commended for their contributions to the Gators' success.

This young team showed their maturity by playing unselfish basketball. We have seen the results when players are out for the greater good of the team, rather than playing for themselves. This Florida squad epitomizes that philosophy. They shared the ball, always looking for an open teammate rather than seeking personal glory.

I'm tremendously proud of these young men and honored to be an alumnus. It truly is great to be a Florida Gator!

TRIBUTE TO THE CHILD WITHIN,
INC.

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Celebrate the Child Within, Inc.—a unique organization in my home district that offers support and encouragement for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

Celebrate the Child Within is dedicated to helping negate the shame of childhood sex abuse, as well as the promotion of healing by recapturing happier childhood times. Those involved with CTCW, Inc. are committed to helping sufferers to focus on the little boy or girl within who endured the assault and survived to adulthood, and to celebrate that survival. The celebrations are done with wholesome, happy activities in order to help this specific group feel more accepted by society and to foster better understanding of themselves and their families.

Each year for the last three years CTCW's Board of Directors has identified a survivor of childhood sexual abuse who achieved excel-

lence in their field of endeavor as an adult. The board has held a celebratory event that involved the community to recognize their success—and to raise awareness about childhood abuse, as well as the potential for recovery.

More people than ever are willing to talk about this ongoing tragedy, which is a significant step in helping rid this problem from our society.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Celebrate the Child Within for their much-needed work, and to wish them many more years of success.

FREEDOM FOR ROBERTO DE
JESÚS GUERRA PÉREZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Roberto de Jesús Guerra Pérez, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Guerra Pérez is an independent journalist and a chronicler of truth amid the lies and deceit of Castro's villainous regime. He writes about the reality of the reprehensible repression inflicted on the Cuban people by the dictatorship. Because of his belief in truth in print, truth for the people of Cuba, and truth to enable the world to better comprehend the daily horrors of totalitarian Cuba, Mr. Guerra Pérez was a target of the tyrannical regime. Make no mistake, brave men and women who seek truth and freedom are the enemies of Castro's totalitarian dictatorship.

According to Reporters Without Borders, Mr. Guerra Pérez was arrested for "disturbing the peace" on July 13, 2005, while staging a fast along with a dozen other opposition activists to protest against the incessant harassment of independent journalists. Over eight and half months later, he is still locked in the totalitarian gulag and still waiting for a trial.

Castro's ruthless machinery of repression does not stop after sentencing innocent Cubans to the totalitarian gulag. In the U.S. Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices—2005, it is reported:

Prison conditions continued to be harsh and life threatening. Conditions in detention facilities also were harsh. Prison authorities frequently beat, neglected, isolated, and denied medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, particularly those convicted of political crimes or those who persisted in expressing their views . . . Prisoners sometimes were held in "punishment cells," which usually were located in the basement of a prison, with continuous semi-dark conditions, no available water, and only a hole for a toilet.

To protest these grotesque abuses, Mr. Guerra Pérez has conducted four hunger strikes to call international attention to the inhuman treatment in the gulag. In a cry of solidarity for Mr. Guerra Pérez, Reporters Without Borders said, "We are all the more concerned about this hunger strike as he had only called off the preceding one a few days before and he was still very weak. There are no serious grounds for holding him as all he did was describe what life is really like for Cubans. We demand his immediate release."

Mr. Speaker, it is intolerable for Mr. Guerra Pérez to languish in a gulag where he is

abused and tortured. It is morally abhorrent that, in the 21st Century, brave men and women like Mr. Guerra Pérez are still locked in repugnant gulags for reporting the truth. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Roberto de Jesús Guerra Pérez and every prisoner of conscience languishing in the totalitarian gulags of the nightmare called the Castro regime.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR
WILLIE BEASLEY

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Sergeant Major Willie Beasley on his retirement from Collinwood High School in Cleveland, Ohio. Sergeant Major Beasley has served as Assistant Instructor and Military Property Custodian at Collinwood High School for the past 12 years.

Sergeant Major Beasley is a valued member of the faculty at Collinwood High School and has earned the reputation of being an outstanding teacher and mentor to young adults. He is highly regarded in the community for his dedication to the cadets in the Army JROTC program at Collinwood. Through the Army JROTC, over 1200 students have been directed under his tutelage.

Sergeant Major Beasley also served in the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam where he demonstrated leadership in combat as a platoon sergeant and acting platoon leader. There he distinguished himself earning a Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Sergeant Major Beasley's selfless service, superior achievement and loyal dedication to the youth of the City of Cleveland are immeasurable. On behalf of the nation and the constituents of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, I thank you for your service and tremendous sacrifices you have made for our country. Congratulations on your retirement and on a job well done.

IN RECOGNITION OF PHIL LARSON,
2006 FRESNO COUNTY FARM BUREAU
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Representatives CARDOZA, NUNES and RADANOVICH, to honor Phil Larson of Kerman, California, the recipient of the 2006 Fresno County Farm Bureau "Distinguished Service" Award.

Phil has been a lifelong farmer and Fresno County resident. He began his career as an agricultural chemical sales representative and worked for over 37 years for the Wilbur Ellis Company. While fulfilling this job, he also farmed for his family's vineyard in Kerman; where today, he still farms raisins. The expertise he gained over the years in agriculture earned Phil much respect from members in