

INTRODUCTION OF THE "AFGHAN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2006"

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the "Afghan Women Empowerment Act of 2006" which would authorize \$45 million each year from FY2007 through FY2009 for programs in Afghanistan that benefit "women and girls as well as the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs. The funding would be directed toward important needs including medical care, education, vocational training, protection from violence, legal assistance, and civil participation. This legislation was introduced earlier this year in the Senate by Senator BARBARA BOXER (D-CA).

Women's rights in Afghanistan have fluctuated greatly over the years. Women have bravely fought the forces of extremism at various points in the country's turbulent history. At one time, women were scientists and university professors. They led corporations and nonprofit organizations in local communities.

While the Afghan constitution guarantees equality for Afghan women, throughout Afghanistan, women continue to face intimidation, discrimination, and violence. The United States has an obligation to ensure that women and girls have the opportunities that they were denied under the Taliban and that the gains that have been made are not lost in the coming months and years. It is imperative that we provide the support needed to ensure that the rights of women are protected in the new Afghanistan.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY GADEN

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nancy Gaden, a resident of Chautauqua County and the City of Jamestown for the honor of the Team Spirit Award.

Ms. Gaden is a very active member of the Chautauqua County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). She was selected for this award because of her outstanding volunteer work and amazing spirit.

Nancy is best known for her musical abilities. She can always be found brightening the lives of people by way of her innovative approach to music. Wherever Nancy goes to perform she brings rhythmic instruments and passes them out to everyone in the crowd. Regardless of a person's mental or physical state they receive an instrument and can always find a way to express themselves through it. Ms. Gaden is always an upbeat, motivated and cheerful person. She is an inspiration to everyone she meets. The outlet that she provides by way of music is so important because it allows everyone to participate and be part of the entertainment. She touches people's lives wherever she goes and her presence and music brighten everyone's day.

For all of her volunteer work and her willingness to touch the lives of others I commend

her, and that is why Mr. Speaker I rise to honor her today.

CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE FAR FROM OVER: NAACP REMAINS IN FOREFRONT, ALMOST A CENTURY AFTER ITS CREATION

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an editorial from the April 11, 2006 New York CaribNews entitled "Civil Rights Struggle Far From Over: NAACP Remains In Forefront, Almost A Century After Its Creation"; that praises the longevity and extreme effectiveness of the most influential civil rights organization in the United States known as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People or the NAACP.

Since its inception the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was poised for a long, tumultuous and rewarding history. Although it may be possible to chronicle the challenging and harrowing legacy of the NAACP, the real story of the Nation's most significant civil rights organization lies in the hearts and minds of the people who would not stand still while the rights of America's people of color were denied.

The history of the NAACP is one of blood, sweat and tears. From bold investigations of mob brutality, protests of mass murders, segregation and discrimination, to testimony before congressional committees on the vicious tactics used to bar African Americans from the ballot box, it was the talent and tenacity of the NAACP members that saved lives and changed many negative aspects of American society. While much of its history is chronicled in books, articles, pamphlets and magazines, the true movement lies in the faces—black, white, yellow, red, and brown—united to awaken the conscientiousness of a people, and a nation. This is the legacy of the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, This article that I enter today reiterates the facts that the civil rights struggle is far from over as it proudly details from history a few of the organization's past successes. I am confident that such leaders as Bruce Gordon, President and Chief Executive Officer of the NAACP and Karen Boykin-Towns, President of the Brooklyn Chapter of the NAACP will continue to keep the legacy alive and also keep the NAACP in the forefront, as progress and accomplishments continue, for years to come.

[From the New York CaribNews Editorial, April 11, 2006]

CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE FAR FROM OVER: NAACP REMAINS IN FOREFRONT, ALMOST A CENTURY AFTER ITS CREATION

It was a succinct and forceful reminder. And it came from a person who knows the issues and from an organization that has led the fight for respect for Black people's civil rights and political liberties. "There is still a lot of civil rights work to be done," was the way Bruce Gordon, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, put it in an interview with this newspaper. "Many people believe the passing of Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott-King and other

icons of the movement signals that the task is over," he added. "Nothing could be further from the truth." Well said!

Anyone looking at the state of Black America, the lack of jobs in Black communities, limited access to adequate health care, a dire shortage of affordable housing, the intolerance of tens of millions of whites, the virulent strains of racism, the glaring attempts to cast young Black men as villains, the policy of cutting off much needed federal, state and local government assistance to families that need it the most and the poor schools that saturate our communities would readily endorse Gordon's marching orders, if you will.

The NAACP is in an excellent position to assess the needs and to address them. And they have earned our support.

Founded on February 12, 1909 by a multi-racial group of activists, who answered the "Call" to action, the NAACP has been at the helm of the long struggle from that historic occasion. We expect it to continue its important work for at least another century.

Turn back some of the pages of history and the record of America's largest and oldest civil rights organization would become clear. A handful of examples, in:

1913 when President Woodrow Wilson officially sanctioned segregation in the federal government, a horrified NAACP launched a nationwide protest.

1915 the NAACP took to the streets and the barricades to condemn D.W. Griffith, the movie producer, for his "inflammatory and bigoted silent film, "Birth of a Nation," which today draws rave reviews from white critics for what they call his "creativity" while ignoring the bigoted nature of the film's content.

1922 In an unprecedented step, the NAACP placed large advertisements in many of the nation's major newspapers to focus national attention on the despicable and inhuman practice of lynching.

1935, NAACP lawyers Charles Houston and Thurgood Marshall battled successfully in the courts to have Black students admitted to the University of Maryland.

1939 When the Daughters of the American Revolution prevented world famous soprano, Marian Anderson, from performing at their Constitution Hall, the NAACP sprung into action. It moved the concert to the Lincoln Memorial and 75,000 persons attended.

1948, the organization led the fight that forced President Harry Truman to ban racial discrimination by the federal government, especially in the military.

1954, the NAACP won the landmark case before the Supreme Court that forced an end to segregation in public schools. Brown vs. Board of Education stands today as a battering ram against official segregation.

1965, Congress passed and President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act, which gave Blacks the unfettered right to participate in the electoral process as voters and candidates. The NAACP was a driving force behind its enactment.

1985, it led a massive anti-apartheid rally in New York that dramatized the plight of millions of Blacks in South Africa.

1997, the organization launched its "Economic Reciprocity Program to fight against conservative efforts in Congress and the courts to end affirmative action.

2000, at the helm of a march by 50,000 persons to protest the flying of the confederate flag over state buildings. It was the largest civil rights demonstration ever held in the South. On and on we can cite chapter and verse about the successes and indeed the relevance of this noble institution whose effectiveness was demonstrated in almost every section of the country and in many nations in different parts of the world.

As the NAACP itself has pointed out, "from the ballot box to the classroom the dedicated workers, organizers, and leaders who forged this great organization and maintain its status as a champion of social justice, fought long and hard to ensure that the voices of African-Americans would be heard." We couldn't have said it any better.

If the Association's history was built on the blood, sweat and tears of its members and supporters who believe in its vision then it has earned its place in our minds and hearts.

Gordon is coming to New York to hail the resuscitation of the Brooklyn Branch, a development which comes a few years before the centennial anniversary of the NAACP itself and which sends a strong and positive signal to people around the country that the organization is vigorous and its future is secure.

We extend our congratulations to Gordon and to the officers and members of the Brooklyn branch that's led by Karen Boykin-Towns.

### TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S WORKING MEN AND WOMEN

#### HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to America's working men and women. These are the mineworkers, firefighters, nurses, janitors, postal employees, and hundreds of other workers who often are exposed to serious injury or even death while on the job. Friday, April 28, is Workers Memorial Day, a time when we remember the thousands of Americans who have been killed or injured while doing their jobs.

I also want my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me today in taking a moment to remember Jeffrey Wroten, a Maryland Division of Correction's officer who was killed in January while guarding a hospitalized patient.

This also has been a deadly year for coal miners. In January, 12 miners died during the Sago Mine tragedy, and, Nation Wide, 24 coal miners have lost their lives this year. For the first time since 1994, there has been an increase in workplace fatalities. In 2005, more than 5,700 workers were killed on the job and more than 50,000 Americans died from occupational diseases.

We pledge to them that we will rededicate our efforts to fight for safe working conditions; we pledge to them that we will fight for decent wages; and we pledge to them that we will make sure they have good pensions and health care benefits.

I also want to commend the many unions throughout the Nation that work everyday to protect American workers. The best way to help ensure worker safety is to make sure workers have the freedom to join unions so they can fight for their rights.

I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring America's working men and women by ensuring they have the rights and protections they need to stay safe on the job.

### RECOGNIZING MS. KELLY SMITH AS MILKEN NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENT

#### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of an educator in Baltimore County. Ms. Kelly Smith, chair of the English Department at Dulaney High School in Timonium, MD, is the recipient of the prestigious 2005–06 Milken Educator Award.

The Milken National Educator Award was established by Lowell and Michael Milken. They created the award to celebrate and reward people in the education system showing exemplary work.

This award, acknowledged in Teacher Magazine as the "Oscars of Teaching" was designed to recognize people in the education system who have exceptional talent. Recipients play an instrumental role in developing new and inventive programs of study. These educators help to develop not just the curriculum, but also the students' confidence and self worth.

Dulaney's Kelly Smith has made great strides in the school's English Department. Her tremendous contributions have aided in the school's academic success. She developed "One Book, One Dulaney," a book club, in which students, teachers and parents participate. Throughout the year the club chooses a book to read and later discusses it, opening the lines of communication on all levels.

Ms. Smith also developed and co-chaired Students Organized for Academic Success. SOAR gives assistance to challenged students showing potential for scholastic achievement. She holds study sessions on Saturdays to prepare aspiring college students for the college entrance exam, the SATs.

Under Ms. Smith's leadership, test scores have greatly increased. She implements critical reading, thinking and vocabulary in her classroom. She also incorporates a "Readers' Theatre Project" giving students an opportunity to learn about literature through performance, writing and acting. This creates a new dimension of learning for students. They become a part of the process, which is both fun and educational.

I believe education is the key to success. Today's youth are the future of this country. People like Ms. Smith are shaping the leaders of tomorrow. I applaud all of those who devote their lives to the betterment of the education system.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to commend Ms. Kelly Smith for winning the 2005–06 Milken Educator Award. She is truly an inspiration.

### EIGHTY YEARS OF RAZZLE- DAZZLE

#### HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, a son of Massachusetts celebrated his 80th birthday in March.

Bob Crane, who won 11 statewide elections and held elective office for 34 years, is being feted by friends and family for a lifetime of public service and his unbeatable joy of life and politics.

Bob began his service to his country over 60 years ago when he enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 18 during World War II. Bob is a decorated war hero and fought in the bloodiest battle of World War II in Okinawa. This son of Irish immigrants returned after the war to Boston where he attended Boston College, married his lovely Mary, had five great children and began a memorable career in politics.

First elected to the state legislature, Bob served an unprecedented 26 years as State Treasurer. Bob left office in 1991 but, as is often the case with extraordinary people, the best was yet to come. Bob entered the business world to become the CEO of the Nation's largest food brokerage firm, but continued his lifelong habit of being a volunteer entertainer at homes for the elderly, children and the needy in the Boston area with his wonderful group, the Treasury Notes. Some of his most ardent admirers are people who no longer see the caring hand of friendship and support in their lives.

Bob Crane has been called an equal opportunity schmoozer and is known as a bipartisan charmer. He answers his critics with a warm grin and a confidence that any negatives directed at him will bounce off like water on the back of the ducks in the Boston Common. He has won the admiration of both Republicans and Democrats at the State and national levels and his fans include this Ohioan who has joined him in singing the Findlay Ohio classic, "Down by the Old Mill Stream" to the delight of various political crowds.

A Boston Globe columnist once wrote, Crane is a full-plumage specimen of an endangered species: the warm-blooded, pre-Watergate politician who attends wakes, sings with a robust Irish tenor at weddings and nursing homes, and charms even his enemies with generosity and a smile as big as the Ritz.

Although Bob Crane is a Democrat and I am a Republican, and he loves the Red Sox while I am a Tiger fan, we share a mutual pleasure in golf; I agree with Mike Barnicle, the well-known columnist who wrote that Bob is one politician "who can still smile, who still thinks that politics means people, and one who takes his business but not himself that seriously."

Bob has been called the "Johnny Carson of Massachusetts politics," and having seen how he wins over even his toughest critics, I have to agree. Happy Birthday, Bob. Here's to 80 more years of razzle-dazzle.

### FREEDOM FOR OSCAR MARIO GONZÁLEZ

#### HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues about Oscar Mario González, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. González is an independent journalist and pro-democracy activist in totalitarian