

RECOGNIZING THE SHARED HISTORY OF SLAVERY OF FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the African slave trade stands out in the annals of world history as one of the greatest crimes ever committed against humanity. It is important that we institutionalize every possible reminder of this horrible chapter in our civilization.

I want to take this opportunity to commend the French Republic and the work of Madame Christiane Taubira for setting May 10th as an annual national day in France to remember its role in slavery and the slave trade.

On the afternoon of the 23rd of May 1848, Africans and their New World descendants enslaved by France were set free. That was 45 years after the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, when France sold most of its territory in the Americas to the fledgling USA, and 15 years before President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of 1863.

Madame Christiane Taubira is a member of the French parliament, representing her native Guiana in South America. She is also an economist. On May 10th, 2001 Madame Taubira successfully proposed French legislation that thereafter declared slavery a crime against humanity, making France the first country in the world to make this declaration.

Madame Taubira's work in France complements the work of Professor Gwendolyn Midlo Hall here in the United States. Not only is Dr. Hall a distinguished historian, she is also a New Orleans, Louisiana native.

Hurricane Katrina's devastation in the Gulf Coast region has given an urgency and importance to the work of both Professor Hall and Madame Taubira.

Our active understanding and appreciation of the French and American culture and history of New Orleans and Louisiana, as part of the Gulf Coast, will help the people of the region as they restore and rebuild their community over the coming months, years and decades. We cannot honor a unique community and its people without honoring its history that has grown over four centuries from both French and American roots.

RECOGNITION OF MR. EDWARD KERBEYKIAN

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Edward Kerbeykian, a resident of Tenafly, New Jersey, for his devoted service to Hekemian & Co., Inc. as a senior staff member for 55 years.

Mr. Kerbeykian currently serves as Hekemian & Co.'s Senior Vice President. Since 1950, he has made many meaningful contributions to the company. During this time period, he has also been a dedicated member of the Hackensack, New Jersey business community and served in leadership positions of the Hackensack Lions Club for nearly fifty

years and the Chamber of Commerce for more than 20 years. In fact, he was even given the nickname, "Mr. Main Street" because of his contributions to the early stages of the development of Main Street in Hackensack.

Mr. Kerbeykian, who is of Armenian descent, has been a devoted member of the Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church in Ridgefield, New Jersey and was involved, years ago, in the Armenian Folk Dance Society of New York. He is a devoted husband to Shirlee, wonderful father to Craig, who also holds a leadership position at Hekemian & Co., and the late Jeffrey Kerbeykian, a prominent New York City architect, and a loving grandfather of six.

Today, I would like to recognize Edward Kerbeykian's leadership at Hekemian & Co., for more than half a century and the many contributions he has made to this company as well as to the community of Hackensack, the County of Bergen and Northern New Jersey.

HONORING ARTHUR KUBIC, PRINCIPAL OF JOHN C. DORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to Honor Arthur Kubic, Principal of John C. Dore Elementary School in Chicago, Illinois. Principal Kubic recently announced his retirement following a career lasting nearly four decades.

Arthur Kubic was born and raised in the City of Chicago. He attended St. Simon the Apostle School and Thomas Kelly High School in Chicago's Southwest Side. He began his teaching career in 1968 after graduating from Northern Illinois University, and in 1977 he earned his Master's Degree from Roosevelt University.

Arthur Kubic, a champion for the hearing-impaired, taught sign language for twenty-five years in the Adult Education Department at Morton Community College in Cicero, Illinois.

In 1990, Arthur Kubic became the principal of Dore School. Since that time, he launched full-time kindergarten classes and the Full Inclusion Program which teaches students with disabilities in regular-education classes with their peers. His efforts on behalf of the children of Chicago Public Schools are truly appreciated.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the many achievements of Principal Arthur Kubic. It is my honor to acknowledge Arthur Kubic for his outstanding leadership and commitment to public service, in the City of Chicago and the Third Congressional District of Illinois.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VFW POST 63

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the

60th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6368 in Duplo, Illinois.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States traces its roots back to 1899. That year, veterans of both the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their veterans. In Columbus, Ohio, Spanish-American War veterans founded the American Veterans of Foreign Service and in Denver, Colorado, Philippine veterans organized the Colorado Society, Army of the Philippines. In 1913, both organizations merged to form the present Veterans of Foreign Wars organization.

The VFW is known the world over for their service not only to veterans, but to all people. They are considered to be one of the most active forces in the pursuit of services for and recognition of veterans at a national level. The efforts of the VFW resulted in the creation of the House Veterans Committee, the WWI bonus, the national Veterans Day holiday, various GI bills, the creation of a cabinet-level office of Veterans Affairs and support on many veterans' health issues. The VFW is active in disaster relief and also provides information to citizens about our national flag. You cannot mention the VFW without mentioning their "buddy poppy" program which raises funds for veterans' homes.

VFW Post 6368 was chartered in 1946 with 52 charter members and was named the Sugar Loaf Memorial VFW Post. Currently, of the 52 original members, three are still with the Post; Robert Schneeberger, Stan Parrin and John Fischer. Post 6368 is very active in the community and provides many services and support to our area veterans, such as raising funds for homeless vets, money for the National Children's Home, and the Veterans Relief Fund. The Post also donates funds and supports the Duplo Senior High School Junior ROTC program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the men and women of VFW Post 6368 both past and present on 60 years of serving veterans and the people of Southwestern Illinois.

PRAISING ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of Asian/Pacific Americans and their innumerable contributions to our Nation. The fabric of American society has benefited from the talent, dedication and enthusiasm of Asian/Pacific Americans. The month of May is designated as a time when we all can appreciate and observe diversity in America by highlighting the contributions of Asian/Pacific Americans.

In June 1977, Representative Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House Resolution that called upon the President to designate the first ten days of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week. Subsequently, Senators DANIEL INOUE and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both House and Senate Bills

were passed. The first 10 days of May were chosen to coincide with two important milestones in Asian/Pacific American history. The arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843 and contributions of Chinese workers to the building of the transcontinental railroad, completed on May 10, 1869. In 1992, Congress expanded the observance for the entirety of May.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated with community festivals, government-sponsored activities, and educational activities for students. This year's theme is "Freedom for All—A Nation We Call Our Own."

Mr. Speaker, Asian/Pacific Americans are leaders in public service, business, government, science, law, education, athletics, the arts, and many other areas. Their love of family, community, and hard work has helped to uphold our Nation for many generations. Asian/Pacific American entrepreneurs are helping to strengthen our economy and our communities through their hard work and ingenuity, and they inspire a new generation of American innovation through their example. More than 14 million Americans of Asian or Pacific Island Heritage contribute to the vitality, success, and prosperity of our Nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ARGU

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Argu, an artist of remarkable skill who has contributed greatly to the community.

Argu, a self taught artist, was born in Mexico City, and has gained far reaching recognition for his works depicting Mexican culture and history. Argu most recent work is the Centennial Mural, titled "A Rose in the Desert", honoring Las Vegas' centennial. This mural, the only mural on a city of Las Vegas facility, is also one of the largest in the city. "A Rose in the Desert" joins more than 100 centennial murals, and serves as an icon in the community.

Argu moved to Las Vegas several years ago from New Mexico, and, in that time, has significantly contributed to the artisan community. His style is described as "hyper-realist", uses varieties of technique and has a broad range of inspirations. His unique style has earned him extensive acclaim and his works are showcased throughout Southern Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Argu for his artistic prowess and considerable contributions to the community. He is truly a master, and his works both inspire and impress his audience. I wish him continued success and look forward to seeing his future works.

RECOGNIZING JANET HENDERSON

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, Mississippi will miss a 36-year presence in our education community with the retirement of Janet Hen-

derson. Janet will conclude her role as Starkville School District assistant superintendent next month after serving in that capacity for 8 years. She has previously served as both as a teacher and a principal in Mississippi. Her legacy of teaching can be seen daily in Mississippi in the lives of her students who now have families of their own.

With a bachelor's of science degree in elementary education, a master's degree in elementary education, and a doctorate in education leadership—all from Mississippi State University—Janet is a tribute to Mississippi's educational system. She has been Teacher of the Year, has earned the Mississippi Association of Women in Educational Leadership Award, selected as Ward Fellow for the Harvard Principal Institute, inducted into the Starkville Area Chamber of Commerce Education Hall of Fame, and was named the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Mississippi Distinguished Educator.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Congress joins me in recognizing the public service of Janet Henderson. Her dedication to leadership, professional development, and teacher training will leave a strong imprint on our educators for years to come. Her colleagues and students alike will remember her and I recognize and honor her work today. Mississippi has been blessed by her work and life.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CANON FREDRICK B. WILLIAMS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of a bold moral voice in Harlem, the Rev. Frederick B. Williams. He gave his life to the cause of righteousness and justice. He ministered and worked in my Congressional district on behalf of the destitute and poor. He also spoke courageously concerning national and international social-political issues which captured the attention of the world.

Canon Williams served as Pastor Emeritus of the Episcopal Church of the Intercession in Harlem, New York. As the IXth Vicar and XIVth Rector he launched the first religious center in the United States addressing the HIV-AIDS crisis. This program provided crucial care and advocated for those afflicted with the disease through a concrete programmatic approach. He led the way in opening up dialogue to discuss and grapple with HIV-AIDS at a time when it was not popular. In 1993 Canon Williams was able to galvanize black clergy to step up to the challenge. He said, "What has changed is that all of us know, or will know in the next 12 months, someone who has died of AIDS." He helped to raise broad awareness of HIV-AIDS and initiated a movement to educate and respond decisively to the crisis.

Canon Williams was founder and chairman of Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement which developed over 2,000 units of new and rehabilitated housing in Harlem, which still stands as the largest in the history of New York City. His community efforts as chair also included 40 commercial spaces and Harlem's first large supermarket. He also opened the doors of Intercession Church to the Boys Choir of Harlem which gave them

their first home. Additionally, he led the renovation of Jackie Robinson Park at 145th Street and Bradhurst Avenue.

He was widely known for his passion for the arts. Since 1973 he served as chairman of trustee of numerous major African-American performing arts group in New York City. Among other committees, he served on the Rockefeller Foundation; member of Board of Advisors, New York City Landmarks Conservancy; Black Alumni of Pratt Institute advisory council; Trustee of the African Activists' Archive Project, Inc. and served as chair of the National Clergy Advisory Committee of Harlem Week of Prayer. He was also an advisor to Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu of South Africa.

Mr. Speaker, I am forever indebted to Rev. Canon Frederick B. Williams for his dedication and commitment to public service through ministry in my Congressional district.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CANON FREDERICK B. WILLIAMS

Canon Williams is the Pastor Emeritus of the Episcopal Church of the Intercession in Harlem, New York, where he has served 1972–2005 as the IXth Vicar and XIVth Rector. This institution is one of the first religious centers in the United States to initiate a programmatic response to the HIV-AIDS crisis.

He serves as the Chairman of the Board of the Interfaith, Ecumenical, Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, Inc. (HCCI) and is a key member of the leadership team that has developed over 2,000 units of new and rehabilitated housing in Harlem, the largest such undertaking in the history of New York City.

Recognized as a true "Patron of the Arts," Canon Williams served, since 1973, as chairman of trustee of almost every major African-American performing arts group in New York City. He is a Trustee of The Rockefeller Foundation; member of the Board of Advisors, New York City Landmarks Conservancy; Black Alumni of Pratt Institute advisory council; Trustee of the African Activists' Archive Project, Inc. and served for 10 years as Chair of the National Clergy Advisory Committee of the renowned Harlem Week of Prayer (the Balm in Gilead, Inc.). He is an advisor to Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu of South Africa whom he represents on the board of Directors of PEACEJAM, Inc. an international peace education program for youth headquartered in Denver, Colo., and sponsored by 14 Nobel Peace Prize laureates. has been a visiting professor at the Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge Massachusetts, the General Theological Seminary, New York City; and guest lecturer at several American and international institutions of higher learning. He has preached on six of the earth's seven continents and is the founder of the International Conference on Afro-Anglicanism.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ZELVIN "ZEL" LOWMAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Zelvin "Zel" Lowman, who died February 28, 2006. Mr. Lowman was a former Nevada Legislator who held office between 1967 and 1977 and served as the Majority Leader and Chairman of several committees.