

Burns, Aaron Dame, Karl DeVries, Kelsey Duinkerken, Branden Graf, Jessica Hoag, Jessica Hulbert, J.J. Jang, Jamie Overbeek, Alexa Schlosser, Paige Stevens, Peter Vu Tran, and Laura Vlieg.

I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, Deborah Snow, who was responsible for preparing the students for the national finals competition. Also worthy of special recognition are Linda Start and Jim Troost, the state coordinators, and Susan Laninga, the district coordinator, who are among those responsible for implementing the "We the People" program in my district.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues in the House, please join me in congratulating these young constitutional experts for their outstanding achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I had a leave of absence on Friday, May 19, for family business. If I had been present, I would have voted: "yes" on rollcall vote 173, "yes" on rollcall vote 174, "no" on rollcall vote 175, and "yes" on rollcall vote 176.

IN HONOR OF ROCKFORD, IL,
BURPEE MUSEUM FOR RECEIVING
TWO AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF MUSEUM AWARDS

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Burpee Museum of Natural History of Winnebago County—Burpee, IL, in the district I am proud to represent. The Burpee Museum is a remarkable cultural institution that has received two prestigious American Association of Museum—AAM—Awards. Both of these awards are for the Jane: Diary of a Dinosaur exhibit at the museum, which opened to outstanding reviews in June 2005.

The museum submitted entries in two categories: Overall Exhibit Excellence and the MUSE Award for the use of media and technology in the Jane exhibit. Burpee received the Exhibit Excellence Award, which is considered the museum profession's highest honor. It also received an Honorable Mention MUSE award for Jane's interactive Meet the Researcher video.

Lew Crampton, Burpee president and CEO, accepted the awards at the AAM's 100th International Conference in Boston in the company of 7,000 other museum profession delegates from around the world. Judges who presented the awards to Mr. Crampton praised Burpee, stating the "whole project was so solid . . . and you just did everything right . . . your work could and should serve as a model to other institutions (including much larger ones) as a way to create an excellent exhibit."

Jane's exhibit is a reflection of the dedication and professional excellence that is demonstrated by the personnel at Burpee.

Burpee's personnel overcame three daunting tasks in order to successfully create the exhibit. First, after transporting Jane from Montana to the museum lab, Jane's 66 million year old bones were carefully removed from the rocks in which they were embedded. Second, identifying Jane's place in the dinosaur family tree presented a unique challenge because many scientists consulted in the process disagreed on this matter. Finally, in the midst of the first two tasks, Burpee's personnel had to consider how to create an exhibit that would be able to bridge the gap between science education and family enjoyment.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my recognition and support of the Burpee Museum of Natural History in Rockford, IL. Since its founding in May of 1942 as a part of the Works Progress Administration, the mission of Burpee has been to inspire all people to engage in a lifetime of learning about the natural world, and they have been very successful in doing so. To this day, Burpee reaches out to the public through its creative event programming and excellent educational offerings for educators, families, and other members of the local community. Burpee is a prime example for other cultural institutions across the country, and I am honored to recognize the museum and its personnel here today.

IN MEMORY OF KATHERINE
DUNHAM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend, Katherine Dunham, who passed away Monday, May 21, 2006. Katherine may have become famous for her extraordinary dancing capabilities, but it was her humanitarian activities that truly made her a legendary American.

Born in Chicago, Illinois on June 22, 1909, Dunham was once described as "the hottest thing to hit Chicago since Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked the bucket." From a very young age, her talent for dance was obvious. However, she decided to heed her parent's wishes and began studies in social anthropology at the University of Chicago during the 1930's. It was during these formative years that she was awarded a Rosenwald Travel Fellowship to study anthropology and native dance in West Indies. Forced by her advisors to choose between the two, she went with dance and the rest, as they say, is history.

Dunham's extensive knowledge of anthropology became instrumental in the style of dance, now referred to as the Dunham technique, which she invented and popularized. She brought African and Caribbean dance and ritual influences to a dance world dominated by a European style, thus beginning the anthropological dance movement, which made use of ethnic and folk choreography. To Dunham, her methods were "more than just dance or bodily executions." Instead, her style was "about movement, forms, love, hate, death, life, all human emotions." She made her Broadway debut in the late 1930's sporting an unorthodox costume, which included a bird cage on her head and a cigar in her mouth.

Her reasoning: such accessories were typical of the women whom she saw while in the Caribbean during her anthropological studies.

From the 1930's to the 1960's, Dunham revolutionized the worlds of dance, theater, music and education, touring the world, visiting over 60 countries on 6 continents with dance companies and touring productions. She introduced the art form of black dance to Europe and was the first person to expose elements of American modern dance to a foreign country. James Dean, Marlon Brando and Eartha Kitt all became disciples of her technique as they sought Katherine out as a teacher. With the permission of King Hassan II, she first introduced the dancers of Morocco to an American audience with her 1962 production of Bamboche. She formed the first all Black dance company, Ballet Negre, which became the famous Katherine Dunham Dance Company.

Even during her years dancing, Katherine's interest in culture and anthropology never faltered. In 1965, she decided to disband the Katherine Dunham Dance Company to act as advisor to the cultural ministry of Senegal. She also wrote eight books, numerous articles and short stories and several essays touching on her cultural interests ranging from experiences from her world travels to the Myal dance, a secret rite native to Jamaicans.

Following her retirement from dancing in 1967, Dunham continued to choreograph shows; however, humanitarian leanings became the focal point of her efforts. She moved to East St. Louis, Illinois, a predominantly black area, to work with inter-city youth. Her concept was to infuse a spirit of the arts with these children in an attempt to keep them out of trouble. To do so, she founded the Performing Arts Training Center and the Katherine Dunham Museum and Children's school, which brought in artists like Harry Belafonte, to teach subjects as diverse as African hairbraiding, conversational Creole, martial arts, and aesthetics. She would continue to carry out these programs for the rest of her life, despite cuts in government and private funding.

This would not be her first or last activist effort. While touring the United States in the 1940's through the 1960's, Dunham refused to have her dance troupe perform in segregated theatres in an attempt to fight discrimination. In fact, she once refused to perform after finding out that African Americans had been prohibited from buying tickets to one of her shows. Her promotion of African and Caribbean values during the peak of the Civil Rights movement helped to infuse a positive image of black culture in the public consciousness.

Later on, in 1992, she would once again make a political message, as she went on a 47 day hunger strike to protest the government policy that repatriated Haitian refugees. Her involvement with Haiti did not stop there. Dunham was a big supporter of democracy in the country and in particular of the exiled President Aristide. In 1991, when Aristide was ousted in a military coup, Dunham petitioned the United States government to aid in his restoration as president. She also made several civilian trips to Haiti, eventually purchasing a house there. On each trip, she did her best to help stimulate the country economically and to provide humanitarian aid to the poverty-stricken people of Haiti.

Throughout her life, Katherine Dunham was many things to many people. To her surviving

daughter, Marie-Christine Dunham Pratt, she was a mother. To her late husband, theatre designer John Thomas Pratt, she was a wife of 49 years. Yet, to all, she was an exemplary American. Katherine earned her celebrity status in a time when discrimination was at its peak, revealing immense reservoirs of creativity and dedication. She then used her fame as a way to create positive change in the world. As every dancer knows, actions speak louder than words and it was clear that Katherine lived by this doctrine. Her life is an inspiration to me and her loss will be felt, not just by the dance community, but by all Americans.

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Representative DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for her hard work on behalf of recognizing May as Jewish American Heritage month and to express my gratitude to the President for his proclamation making May Jewish American Heritage Month.

After the burning of the Second Temple and the final dispersion of the Jews from Zion, people of Jewish heritage have settled in every corner of the world. There are Jews in

China, in India, in Mexico and in Greece. While Hitler almost murdered all the Jews of Europe, he did not entirely succeed.

Because of the moral values of this country we put our entire Nation into the fight against the Nazis in World War II. What is so remarkable about the fact that the United States fought so fiercely and so bravely in World War II is that they did so to save the world. That desire arose from the Nation's character, which is an amalgam of the religious heritage of its people—including its Jewish people.

Today I think about the Jewish soldiers in World War II who fought not even knowing of the death camps and the ovens. I think of the men who risked their lives every day in the mud of France and the fields of Belgium because they knew what was spreading and taking over Europe was immoral. When Eisenhower's troops first came upon a death camp, he made the camp guards and the German villagers who had lived in the green fields and gardens around the camp come to view the bodies and to bury them. The message was clear: Americans find what you have done here and you villagers have tolerated here to be an immense crime, an unimaginable crime.

The greatness of our people is their character. Jewish people have brought a lot to the making of that character. Jews have known that the values in the Five Books of Moses are universal and throughout 2,000 years of Diaspora brought their values with them to the shores of all the countries where they settled, including America.

Judaism is a religion and a value system. No one who is not a Jew is considered less

a person by a Jew. No stranger can be left without shelter, no hungry man without bread.

I could not help but notice in the Save Darfur Coalition and other grass roots organizations working so hard to stop the genocide in Darfur that many Jewish organizations are involved in the grass roots efforts. Among them are the American World Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee, Jews against Genocide and the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism. I have received letters from children in Jewish schools asking me to help the people of Darfur. Jewish people have a special understanding about genocide. The parents of these children who write to me may have lost grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins. But they also know they can write to their Congressman and their children can write and ask for help for these people so far away who are in desperate trouble as their relatives once were.

One of the characteristics I most admire is the activism many of the Jewish people engage in. That activism has meant a great deal to the civil rights movement. I also admire the way Jews have contributed to the "personality" of New York. As a New Yorker, I feel especially lucky because I have learned some Yiddish, some great jokes and have met some truly amazing people who love books, culture, art and life. I'm glad for the Jewish heritage I experience in my district every day I am at home.

I say to Jewish Americans today: Congratulations and mazal tov.