

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOINT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS—STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 77) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the Senate concurrent resolution.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 77

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the two Houses of Congress assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Tuesday, January 31, 2006, at 9 p.m., for purpose of receiving such communication as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make to them.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MAKING IN ORDER MORNING HOUR DEBATE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the order of the House of January 4, 2005, providing for morning hour debate be extended for the remainder of the 109th Congress except that the date of May 15, 2006, shall be used in lieu of May 16, 2005.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

GRANTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE PRIVILEGE TO EXTEND REMARKS AND INCLUDE EXTRANEOUS MATERIAL IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 109TH CONGRESS

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that for the remainder of the 109th Congress, all Members be permitted to extend their remarks and to include extraneous material within the permitted limit in that section of the RECORD entitled "Extensions of Remarks."

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON TOMORROW

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with tomorrow.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

□ 1600

REPORT ON RESOLUTION RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF S. 1932, DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-366) on the resolution (H. Res. 653) relating to consideration of the Senate bill (S. 1932) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006 (H. Con. Res. 95), which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-367) on the resolution (H. Res. 654) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3855

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3855.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wyoming?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4354

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 4354.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS 635, 636 AND 637

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of House Resolutions 635, 636 and 637.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3855

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3855.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING

The SPEAKER. In memoriam to the death this morning of Mrs. Coretta Scott King, I ask all Members to stand and observe a moment of silence.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 655) honoring the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Coretta Scott King and her contributions as a leader in the struggle for civil rights, and expressing condolences to the King family on her passing, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House pursuant to the following order: the resolution shall be considered as read; the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and the preamble to its adoption without intervening motion except 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the resolution to a time designated by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 655

Whereas Coretta Scott King was an inspirational figure and a woman of great strength, grace, and dignity who came to personify the ideals of the Civil Rights Movement, for which she and her husband fought.

Whereas Coretta Scott was born on April 27, 1927, to parents Obadiah and Bernice Scott, was raised in rural Alabama, graduated valedictorian from Lincoln High School, and received a B.A. from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio;

Whereas Coretta Scott came of age in the segregated South, took an active interest in the emerging Civil Rights Movement as an undergraduate, and joined the Antioch chapter of the NAACP, and the Race Relations and Civil Liberties Committees of Antioch College;

Whereas Coretta Scott won a scholarship to study concert singing at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music;

Whereas while in Boston, Coretta Scott met Martin Luther King, Jr., who was a graduate student studying for his doctorate at Boston University;

Whereas after Coretta Scott and Martin Luther King, Jr. were married on June 18, 1953, Mrs. Coretta Scott King completed her degree in voice and violin at the New England Conservatory of Music, and the young

couple moved in September 1954 to Montgomery, Alabama, where Martin Luther King, Jr. had accepted an appointment as Pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

Whereas their first child, Yolanda, was born in 1955, just two weeks before the beginning of the Montgomery bus boycott, during which the King house was bombed;

Whereas the Kings had four children: Yolanda Denise, Martin Luther, III, Dexter Scott, and Bernice Albertine;

Whereas during Dr. King's lifetime, Mrs. King served as an equal partner in the Civil Rights Movement, balancing the demands of raising their four children, serving as a pastor's wife, and speaking before church, civic, college, fraternal, and peace groups;

Whereas Mrs. King established and performed in more than 30 successful "Freedom Concerts" that combined prose and poetry narration with musical selections to increase awareness and understanding of the Movement and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, of which Dr. King served as the first president;

Whereas Mrs. King stood side-by-side with her husband during many civil rights marches and on other notable occasions, including a 1957 trip to Ghana to mark that country's independence, a 1959 trip to India to visit sites associated with Mahatma Gandhi, and a 1964 trip to Oslo, Norway, to accept Dr. King's Nobel Peace Prize;

Whereas just four days after her husband's assassination on April 4, 1968, Mrs. King led a march of 50,000 people through the streets of Memphis, Tennessee, and later that year took his place in the Poor People's March to Washington, D.C.;

Whereas Mrs. King devoted her energy to carrying on her husband's legacy of non-violence and his work to create an America in which all people have equal rights;

Whereas Mrs. King dedicated herself to developing and building the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-violent Social Change as an enduring memorial to her husband's life and their dream of nonviolent social change and full civil rights for all Americans and, as its founding President, Chair, and Chief Executive Officer, she guided the creation and housing of the largest archive of documents from the Civil Rights Movement;

Whereas Mrs. King was instrumental in seeing her husband's birthday honored as a Federal holiday, an occasion first marked in 1986;

Whereas Mrs. King received honorary doctorates from over 60 colleges and universities and authored three books;

Whereas Mrs. King worked to advance the cause of justice and human rights around the world and spoke out on behalf of a number of important issues, including racial and economic justice, women's and children's rights, religious freedom, full employment, health care, and education; and

Whereas Mrs. Coretta Scott King was a civil rights icon and one of the most influential African Americans in history, and her work brought us closer to achieving the "Beloved Community": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Coretta Scott King and her contributions as a leader in the struggle for civil rights, and expresses condolences to the King family on her passing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), the distinguished Speaker of the House.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I was truly saddened this morning when I learned of the death of Coretta Scott King.

My experience with the Kings goes back to 1960 as a freshman student of North Central College, wide-eyed from the country, not really knowing all of the new social issues that were before us. But yet Dr. Martin Luther King came to that little town, came to that college accompanied by his wife. It made a great impression on a college freshman.

The word that comes to my mind as I think about this great woman is "devotion": devotion to her husband, devotion to her family, and devotion to the cause of civil rights. Standing side by side with her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, she helped bring America to an understanding that "all men are created equal."

In my first year as Speaker, we had a Congressional Gold Medal award ceremony honoring the Little Rock Nine. It took place just a few feet from here in the rotunda of this Capitol building. Coretta Scott King was there. As I gazed across the room, I saw her stoic and yet gentle presence. Stoic, yet gentle, qualities that reminded me also of her husband and the struggles he and his wife had to overcome so that we as a Nation could overcome our shortcomings and our prejudices.

Even after the hate-inspired death of her husband, she called for love and understanding and found meaning and purpose in the continuing of her husband's work. It is not surprising that she did so, because it was her work too.

While I wish we had her with us for more years to come, to teach and bear witness to future generations, it is fitting that we honor her death on the 31st of January, the day before our Nation begins its month-long celebration of the accomplishments of African Americans. She now becomes a permanent part of that history.

A few hours ago, Senate Majority Leader FRIST and I ordered the flags on this Capitol building be lowered to half staff. It is a small way in which we can say on behalf of a grateful Nation thank you, Coretta Scott King, thank you for picking up the torch of civil rights and taking it across the country and the world. We are a better Nation because you and your husband passed our way. May God welcome you home, and may he hold your family close in this time of sorrow.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the minority leader of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), and a civil rights leader in his own right, for yielding me this time.

This is an unusual phrase I am going to use today, but I wish to associate myself with the eloquent remarks of the Speaker of the House, Mr. HASTERT, in praise of the life and leadership of Coretta Scott King.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise here today to also join the Speaker in honoring Coretta Scott King. She was not only the keeper of the flame; she was one of our Nation's greatest civil rights leaders in her own right. For all of her life, Coretta Scott King was her own woman. She grew up in rural and segregated Alabama in a hardworking and ambitious Scott family. She followed her sister, who was the first African American ever to attend Antioch College in Ohio; and after, Coretta moved to Boston to pursue a music career. It was there that she met a young preacher through a friend.

We all know who that young preacher was to become, but what we do not know is who he might have been without Coretta by his side. The wise man that he was, Martin Luther King was not just looking for a wife, he said, but for a partner; and he was taken with her immediately.

It took Coretta a little longer, 6 months of deliberations before she accepted his marriage proposal. To the shock of Dr. King's father, but probably to no surprise of anyone who knew her, she asked that the phrase "obey thy husband" section be removed from their marriage vows.

Of their work together, Dr. King would later say, "I wish I could say that I led her down this path. But I must say, we went down this path together because she is as actively involved and concerned when we met as she is now."

A year after they were married, Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King had to decide where to move after Dr. King completed his studies in Boston, whether to stay in the North or move back to the South. The year was 1954 and the South was deeply divided by the issue of race.

The newlywed couple had both grown up in the segregated South. They knew the racial injustice that permeated the South, the indignities of sitting in the back of the bus and drinking from separate water fountains.

Yet they chose to return to the heart of what they wanted to change, and they accepted the pastorate at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, going straight to the heart of what was wrong, with the aim to make it right.

In the years that followed, Coretta Scott King marched alongside her husband, Dr. Reverend Martin Luther King, for that very cause. They marched together in Selma to demand voting rights for African Americans, and aren't we all proud to call Mr. John Lewis a colleague, who was also on that march, that very historic march so long ago. Dr. and Mrs. King marched together in Washington to demand a Federal law to protect the civil

rights of all Americans, and they marched together the night before Dr. King was killed. They marched together in Memphis for the sanitation workers facing entrenched discrimination.

In immediate days following the tragedy, Coretta Scott King kept marching, carrying the aspirations of the civil rights movement with her. She led the Poor People's March to Washington. That was the first time I saw her while I watched that march coming into Washington, and I have been a fan of hers ever since. She marched in South Africa standing against apartheid. And for nearly 40 years of her life that came after Dr. King's death, she marched for civil rights everywhere and to root out injustice anywhere it existed.

Because of her singularity of purpose and sheer tenacity, Coretta Scott King often triumphed. The Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change and the Martin Luther King holiday both stand today as testament to her vision, her determination, her efforts, and indeed, her leadership. But her work is not yet completed.

On the day of her death and on the eve of Black History Month, we must recommit to finishing her work.

It is with great sadness and respect that I extend deepest condolences to Mrs. King's four children, Yolanda, Martin, Dexter, and Bernice; her family; and to the multitudes of her friends and supporters throughout the world. I hope it is a comfort to them that the entire Nation mourns their loss and is praying for them at this sad time.

□ 1615

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 655, a resolution that honors the life and the accomplishments of Mrs. Coretta Scott King, her contributions as a leader in the struggle for civil rights, and express condolences to the King family on her passing.

Mrs. Coretta Scott King, wife of the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of our country's most visible members of the civil rights movement, carrying on her husband's legacy with courage, wisdom and dignity. Her life serves as an example of her devotion to making our country, and the world, a better place.

Having experienced firsthand the evils of segregation, Mrs. Coretta Scott King dedicated herself to helping all Americans realize racial equality and justice. She committed herself to her education, earning valedictorian honors from Lincoln High School, earning a Bachelor of Arts from Antioch College, and earning a scholarship to the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music located in Boston, Massachusetts, where she eventually met her husband.

As the spouse and partner of the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mrs. Coretta Scott King gained recognition in her own right, remaining active in the civil rights movement while devoting herself to her family.

Her steadfast devotion to her husband's legacy after his assassination helped bring his message of nonviolent change to millions of Americans. She led the campaign to recognize her late husband's birthday as a national holiday and to establish the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, the first institution established in memory of an African American. This center also houses our country's largest archives of documents from the civil rights movement.

Mrs. King's commitment and devotion to equal justice should serve as a reminder of the foundation and principles upon which this country was founded and should inspire us all to work to ensure that these guarantees are recognized by all Americans.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Coretta Scott King's life, her accomplishments and her contributions to our country by voting in favor of this resolution.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 655 currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), a civil rights leader, one who has been in the struggle since the beginning. I remember him from 1963 and he had been in it long before.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and accomplishment of Mrs. Coretta Scott King. The passing of Coretta Scott King is a tragic loss for the movement of peace, justice and equality around the world. She was a leader in her own right. She was the glue that held the civil rights movement together. Long before she married Dr. King, she was an activist for peace and nonviolence.

Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult for me to speak about this beautiful, charming, graceful and dignified woman who became the personification of the best that America had to offer.

She grew up as I did in rural Alabama where segregation and racial discrimination were real. She tasted the bitter fruits of racism, but she did not give up. She did not give in. She did not give out. She received a very good education at Antioch College and the New England Conservatory School of Music.

She met Martin Luther King, Jr. while they were both studying in Boston. She fell in love. They got married and they returned to the South, the capital of the old confederacy, the City of Montgomery.

He became the pastor of a little old church, the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery. This little red brick church stood in the shadow of the Capitol building of the State of Alabama.

Dr. King thought he would live the life of a Baptist minister, and Coretta thought, well, she would be a preacher's wife. But they decided to respond to the courage of Rosa Parks on December 1, 1955, when she refused to give up her seat on a city bus in Montgomery. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., emerged as a leader in the modern day civil rights movement and Coretta was by his side every step of the way.

I first met Mrs. King in 1957 when I was only 17. I was a student in Nashville, Tennessee. She was traveling around America, especially in cities of the South telling the story of the Montgomery movement through song. She was so beautiful, so inspiring, she would sing a little, and she would talk a little, and through her singing and talks she inspired an entire generation.

At times when Dr. King could not be present or had another commitment, Coretta was there to speak, to sing, or to encourage. She marched with us in 1963 at the march on Washington. In 1965 she marched with us from Selma to Montgomery.

She was not just a celebrity. She was a very, very warm person. She had the ability, she had the capacity to forget about her own circumstances and get involved in the circumstances of others.

For the past 20 years she has sent me a birthday card on every single birthday, or she might send me a book or note. I still have every single one of those cards and the books. I will cherish them always.

After the assassination of her husband she did not hide in some dark corner. She did not become bitter or hostile. A few days after the assassination she led more than 50,000 people through the streets of Memphis, and later she would travel with many of us through the South, through the heart of the deep South, through the Black Belt of Alabama, through the Delta of Mississippi, through southwest Georgia, through North Carolina and South Carolina, urging people to register and to vote.

She went all out to create a living memorial, a living monument to Dr. King called the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change. She lobbied the Congress. She organized and mobilized the American people to make Dr. King's birthday a national holiday, and because of her effort generations yet unborn will learn of his message of peace, and they will hear about his struggle for equal justice in America.

Mr. Speaker, Coretta Scott King must be looked upon as one of the founding mothers of the new America, for through her action, through her deeds, she helped liberate us all. This Nation is a better place because she passed this way.

But Coretta Scott King, my friend, my big sister, and sometimes she acted like she was my mother, must be looked upon not just as a citizen of America, but as a citizen of the world. This world is a better place because of Mrs. King.

Mr. Speaker, she will be deeply missed. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Today we mourn the loss of a dignified and peaceful woman who showed us by example how to pursue change in the world, despite the costs of that struggle.

My friends in the Congress, I have known Coretta King since I went south during the civil rights movement as a lawyer. She was a vibrant, consistent, totally dedicated partner with her husband. She helped him stay strong, especially in the beginning when there were so many threats and challenges to the revolutionary idea that we would start a civil rights movement in the South itself. Many people tried to dissuade Martin from that course. As a child of the segregated South, she agreed that the movement should begin at the seat of Jim Crow.

When faced with the loss of her husband, Coretta remained able to advance their vision of a free and equal America. She continued her husband's legacy by devoting her life to advancing racial and economic justice and for the rights of women, children, the poor, and the homeless. She also fought for employment, education and health care opportunities for all. Most notably, this woman stood for equality and peace, the very virtues to which her husband had dedicated his life.

It was with Coretta's approval that 4 days after Martin's assassination on April 4, 1968, that I introduced a bill to name a holiday in his honor. Coretta was at the heart of this effort, as well as were many others to continue the life and work of King. In 1969, I joined Coretta at the King Center in Atlanta to kick off the campaign for a national holiday. She orchestrated a national grassroots movement that urged passage of this legislation and would come to Congress in 1979 and 1980 and 1981 and 1982 and 1983 to testify before the Congress and urge support of the King holiday. It was with her diligence and perseverance that that holiday bill was passed in 1983 and first observed in 1986.

Today, upon the passing of Mrs. King, we will pledge to continue the King legacy as she has for the past 37 years. As the life and work of the Kings touched millions during their lifetime in this country and around the world, we here in Congress must ensure that

their lives continue to impact millions more in the coming years, and that is why I am so proud to join the rest of us in supporting and urging passage of the King resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I would now yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT), the distinguished chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution honoring the life and memory of Mrs. Coretta Scott King and would like to pull up some information from the resolution itself that other people may not focus on because we are tempted sometime to think of Mrs. King as simply the spouse, the wife of Dr. Martin Luther King, and I think it would be a grave, grave mistake for people to do that.

So I first point to the part of the resolution that says, Whereas Mrs. King received honorary doctorates from over 60 colleges and universities and authored three books. That in and of itself is something that, aside from her commitment to the civil rights movement and her companionship and partnership with Dr. Martin Luther King, would in and of itself be deserving of particular note.

Second, I pull up the fact that, as has been pointed out by my colleague, Representative JOHN LEWIS, Coretta Scott came of age in the segregated South and took an active interest in the emerging civil rights movement. This coming of age in the segregated South is something that I think we should not allow to go unnoticed because either, in many ways like slavery or the movement itself, either segregation or slavery tramped down people or it made them stand up and raise their shoulders and raise their sights. And when you find somebody like a John Lewis and a Coretta Scott King who fall into the latter category, it is important to take note of that fact.

So then I go to the first paragraph of the resolution, and when I first read the resolution, I kind of pushed back from the first paragraph because it says Whereas Coretta Scott King was an inspirational figure and a woman of great strength, grace and dignity, I think most of us focus primarily, if we knew Coretta Scott King, on the grace and dignity part of that, and had I kind of an off the top of the head reaction would be I would put grace first and I would put dignity second and then I would put the word "strength." But when you note that she grew up in the segregated South, it is really appropriate the way this has been drafted to put the strength part of that three-part prong equation first.

□ 1630

I think it is something that says here is a woman that is strong and willing to fight and yet still has grace and dignity.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to read, on behalf of the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, the press release and make a final point. It

says: "The Congressional Black Caucus released the following statement: 'The Congressional Black Caucus extends its sincere condolences to the family of Coretta Scott King, the First Lady of the Civil Rights Movement. Mrs. King, who became a symbol of strength and resolve during the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, after his death was an inspiration to millions of people around the world who sought justice and equality. She has remained the carrier of the freedom flame for almost 38 years since Dr. King's death.'"

And then the following paragraph is what I want to focus on. It says: "Mrs. King's death marks the end of an era, but certainly not the end of the continued struggle that she was such an integral part of and that African Americans face daily for equity and parity in education, health care, and employment security."

I do not think we should lose sight of that last part because the struggle goes on and we would honor Coretta Scott King's memory by keeping that struggle alive until we reach full equality. As we approach the State of the Union address tonight, let us not miss the point that this lady fought and lived and died for the struggle for equality.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege now to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the honorable Democratic whip of the House, who I happen to know worked with Rosa Parks. And I am delighted that he came to several of her farewell memorial tributes and that he is with us on the floor today for the resolution for the late Coretta Scott King.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding me the time. And I thank the chairman and the ranking member for bringing this resolution to the floor.

I was honored to stand many a time on the west wing of the Capitol of the United States as Mr. CONYERS led the effort to ensure that America recognized the extraordinary contributions of one of America's greatest sons, Martin Luther King, Jr., and that we set a day aside to recognize not only his contributions but to recommit ourselves to the objectives that he lived for and died for. And I want to congratulate Mr. CONYERS and thank him for the contributions that he has made to live out that commitment of Dr. King's.

Our Nation has lost a true hero. Coretta Scott King was one of the most eloquent and determined civil rights activists in our history, both as a partner to her husband, Dr. King, in the fight for equality and justice in the United States and as a keeper of his legacy after his assassination in Memphis on April 4.

Mrs. King's grace, of which Mr. WATT spoke and of which the resolution speaks, was experienced by all who met her. Her tenacity ensured that the civil rights movement that she helped to pioneer has continued to stay in the

forefront of America's consciousness. She worked closely with JOHN CONYERS and many others in this body and around the world.

A dedicated mother of four children, all of whom I have had the privilege of knowing for some period of time, Coretta Scott King became a symbol of peace and human rights and justice and equality not just here in the United States but around the world. After her husband's death, she devoted her energy to carrying on Dr. King's legacy of nonviolence and his work to create an America in which all people were judged not on the color of their skin but on the content of their character.

She inspired activists from South Africa to Latin America. And what is perhaps one of her greatest accomplishments, she worked with JOHN CONYERS and so many others to ensure that we set aside a day to recognize the contributions, recognize the message, and to recommit ourselves to living out the promises that America made but which Dr. King so eloquently told America we were not living out, that we had made the promises but we were not keeping them, in that extraordinary speech in August of 1963.

Each year this day serves as a reminder to Americans that we must keep working towards equality and justice for all citizens. That is what Coretta Scott King's life was about. It teaches younger Americans about the harrowed journey the country has traveled to fulfill the promise of civil rights.

In addition, she was the driving force in the founding of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta. Nonviolent social change. Ghandi changed a nation; Martin Luther King, Jr. changed the world. He and Nelson Mandela and others who believed that by peaceful demonstration, by peaceful action, they could change the world and move mountains.

In addition, Coretta was the driving force in making sure that Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was not a holiday, not a day off, but a day of focus, a day of commitment.

Coretta Scott King's poise and determination are qualities that we would all appreciate, admire, and remember each time we met her and talked to her. She carried on Dr. King's legacy, but she had a legacy, certainly, of her own: an extraordinarily accomplished musician; a wonderful and bright, intelligent woman; a leader of our country in her own right.

Today I want to join my colleagues, Mr. CONYERS and Mr. SENSENBRENNER and all of our colleagues, to express our heartfelt sympathies to Mrs. King's children, Yolanda, Martin Luther III, Dexter, and Bernice, as well as all of her family and friends.

Today a Nation mourns the loss of a great leader and recognizes her extraordinary contributions to making America a better place.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may con-

sume to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

At a time like this, I tend to think of who are the people I respect the most and who are the people that have had impact over the world and my country as I have grown up and become an adult. I think of someone like Winston Churchill. I think of someone like Martin Luther King. I think of someone like Coretta Scott King. I think of someone like Nelson Mandela. And I think about my colleague John Lewis. These are my heroes. And it is interesting to me that most of them are men and women of color.

I think of, when I was first elected in 1987, whom did I want to meet? I wanted to meet our President, Ronald Reagan; and I wanted to meet a man called John Lewis, who, when I was in college, led a civil rights movement with Martin Luther King and crossed the Selma Bridge. There were only two people I wanted to meet: one was Ronald Reagan and the other was John Lewis.

I think of Martin Luther King, Sr., whom some people refer to as Daddy King, who lost his younger son A.D., in a drowning; and then he lost his older son, Martin Luther King, Jr., in an assassination; and then he lost his wife in a bombing in our country. This precious woman's life was snuffed out. And I think of Martin Luther King, Sr., eulogizing his wife and saying, I have lost two sons; I have lost my wife. And then he looked out in the audience, and he said, in so many words, but I am a grateful man because I have my daughter, Christine, and her family and I have Coretta and her family. And the focus of his presentation was how grateful he was to have her. Well, he had her; we all had Coretta Scott King. We all had her, and we have all been blessed by her leadership.

Coretta Scott King was a hero of the civil rights movement as a partner to Martin Luther King, clearly; but in her own right she played an absolutely instrumental role in her husband's work and carried on his legacy of fighting for human rights and equality. Their legacy is one of lasting change, making for a Nation that is freer, more compassionate, and more accepting. And while I was not by their side, I got to see what they did in my lifetime.

I have had a number of opportunities to meet her and be in her presence, including my trip in 2005 with John Lewis and others to Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, where I heard her speak for the last time. She led by quiet example, and her personal strength was truly an inspiration. Yes, she was a woman of extraordinary grace. She was dignified. But she had a presence that said, I have experienced so much in my life and I want a different country.

And we are a different country. We are not where she may want us to be, but we are a different and better coun-

try because of Coretta Scott King and the other heroes that I love deeply.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, it is our understanding that there will be continuation of the debate on this resolution tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman is correct.

Mr. CONYERS. Until then, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield such time as she may consume to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), a member of the Judiciary Committee and a civil rights leader when she was in State government and a civil rights leader today, to close on our side.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank JOHN CONYERS for organizing our ability to be on the floor today to remember the life and times of Dr. Coretta Scott King.

Let me just say that Coretta Scott King was a friend of mine. We have worked on so many projects together. We have been in countless meetings together. And not only did I know her well; I held her in high esteem, the greatest respect for a woman of dignity, a woman who conducted herself in such a respectful fashion, a woman who was well disciplined, and a woman who suffered a lot. A woman who suffered during the years that she was raising her small children, having to literally put up with the threats and the intimidation. A woman who took care of the children, raised them in her husband's absence because Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was out fighting for civil rights. He was out putting himself on the line so that this country could be a better place for us all. So Coretta Scott King had to be mother and father, and she did a wonderful job of it. She raised her children, and they are wonderful children.

Yolanda King is a wonderful woman who lives in Los Angeles who is an actress and who has devoted her time to putting on plays that will help further the cause of civil rights, equality, and justice. Martin Luther King III was an elected official and headed SCLC, did a fine job of it; and I traveled to Georgia to give him support at some of the dark hours of the organization. And, of course, there is Dexter, a fine young man who has a responsibility for making big decisions as it relates to the King Center and all of the intellectual property that is associated with it. And even when it is very difficult, they are going to get through whatever they need to get through in order to make sure that Dr. Martin Luther King is remembered in the way that he should be remembered.

□ 1645

Then, of course, there is a young daughter, Bernice, who decided that she wanted to walk in her father's footsteps as a minister. I have seen her on many occasions, not only at the White House, but in churches all over America, a young woman who is a fine minister and preacher and a teacher. So

Coretta Scott King and Dr. Martin Luther King did a fabulous job, and Coretta Scott King instilled in her children the values that will hold them in good stead.

Let me just close by saying I was pleased to be an honoree at the Dr. Martin Luther King Center just a few years ago when I was invited by the family to come and to remember Dr. Martin Luther King at the King Day events that are held in Atlanta, and I am very appreciative of that, because I had an opportunity to spend some time with Coretta Scott King in a way that I had not been able to do before.

I can recall that we ended up in a little diner, at Pascal's, the favorite soul food restaurant in Atlanta, where we had an opportunity to talk about a lot of things, and we revisited the time that Buthelezi came to Atlanta. I was so opposed to him coming, and Coretta tried to talk sense into me and said, "Well, we all support Nelson Mandela and we all know that Buthelezi is a person that was opposed to the work of Mandela, but we must be bigger than Buthelezi, we must be bigger than that, and we must understand that we must try to use an opportunity to influence him."

She was that kind of person. She would think through very carefully her response and her responses to information that was out about whatever work she was doing, and she always responded in such a fashion that not only caused people to respect her, but it also showed the patience that she had, the ability to take people with all their faults and still not be bitter.

So the world is going to miss her. JOHN CONYERS is absolutely correct; she put her work into making sure that Martin Luther King memorials were organized and committees were organized all over this country, all over this world, and that they literally celebrated his birth and they carried out his work, and they continue to do that, and it was because of her traveling from city to city, from town to town, from legislature to legislature, that she has these Martin Luther King committees all over the country.

So today we pay our respects, and we just say farewell to her. We will always remember her, and we will always know that because of her, Martin Luther King was able to do what he was able to do; because of her, her children are doing what they are able to do; because of her, many of us are able to see things a little bit differently and honor the work of Dr. Martin Luther King and support nonviolence.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to another Member person to testify in terms of this House Resolution tonight, Congresswoman DIANE WATSON, a member of the Congressional delegation, but, more than that, she was a distinguished State senator from California and she was one of the few in this body who have been named an ambassador.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from California 2 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 2½ minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SENSENBRENNER for yielding me time, and Congressman CONYERS for never letting down on your struggle to recognize the movers and shakers for civil rights and always being on point in an expeditious way.

I extend my condolences to the King family. We have lost a national treasure and a civil rights icon.

Mrs. King was a loving partner and an inspiration to her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and her husband's untimely death placed a tremendous responsibility on her shoulders. She not only excelled at raising her four children, but also worked tirelessly to preserve the vision of her late husband. She carried on Martin Luther King's legacy with grace, love and a strong sense of spirituality.

Dr. King left a gift to the world in Coretta, who continued to travel throughout the United States and abroad to reinforce his vision of civil and human rights, not only for all Americans but indeed all citizens of the world. She understood the demonstrative power of one of Martin's most cherished phrases, "We shall overcome."

Mrs. King was indeed an angel among us. She enhanced the civil rights movement with her dignified and gracious presence. We are saddened by her passing, but also rejoice in a life full of meaning and purpose.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to yield portions of that time to whom-ever he chooses.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

I am pleased to yield 3½ minutes to a member of the Committee on the Judiciary from Houston, Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary, I thank the leader of the House, Leader PELOSI, and the Speaker of the House for giving us this opportunity to take a moment in history to be able to simply say thank you; to be able to, for a moment, honor a woman who did not pause and mourn as they buried her husband in April of 1968, as many of us would have thought.

I start from that moment, because many have already recounted what a beautiful person Coretta Scott King was and for me continues to be. We already know of her beautiful voice, of the partnership, where she stood alongside of Martin Luther King, of the

beautiful children, Martin, Dexter and her beautiful girls. So we know that she has been all that you would want a woman to be, particularly in the context of our history.

But I think it is important to be able to say simply "thank you," as she rose to take the call, to carry forth the dream and the mantle.

I think there is something more that we need to say thank you to Coretta Scott King for. As you know, and I see one of the able Representatives, as I heard John Lewis and my good friend Ms. MCKINNEY, who has the honor and privilege of representing the area, all those of us who live outside that great State of Georgia say that we honored and admired what she did by holding together the legacy of Dr. King, the words of Dr. King, the papers of Dr. King, minimally to many people, but now that we have lost both, what a richness that we will be able now to go to a place that was her expanded vision, and that of course was the vision to hold together this wonderful legacy, years, decades of history. We thank you for that, Coretta.

We thank you also for rejecting wealth and prestige, not being honored and worshipped, being put on a pedestal, and for traveling around the country, place after place after place, person after person, and being yourself and letting us touch you, letting us feel that warmth, Dr. King's spirit, your spirit, your relationship with a man and a cause, and beginning to understand and know you for yourself that you could have been and were the leader that you were and knowing that it was not just the fact that you were Martin Luther King's wife, but you were Coretta Scott King.

We are reminded of the words when you spoke about hatred, when you said it is not the hated that feel the venom of hatred, but it is the hater. So we take to heart your message.

The moment I heard this, I had to stop, broken in tears and spirit. I just wondered where would we go and what would we be, because there were many leaders, but you brought together a spirit, a humble spirit.

So I simply wanted to rise today on the floor to be able to say thank you to your family for sharing you, to thank you for being the woman that you are, for you taking to heart a dream and saying to us it should never die.

I do say that today we had the moving forward of the Supreme Court. It gives us only a greater cause to fight for justice. And I promise you, not on behalf of Sheila Jackson-Lee, but really on behalf of the constituents of the Eighteenth Congressional District, and I know also many colleagues in this place, that we will link arms and that the dream will never die. Coretta Scott King will be one of the icons of history and that your spirit will live on, and that we in our own actions will walk the walk and talk the talk and never step away from a fight for equality and justice for all.

To Coretta Scott King, we love you, and your spirit will be in us forever. May God provide rest to your soul and may God bless your family.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 655, honoring the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Coretta Scott King and her contributions as a leader in the struggle for civil rights, and expressing condolences to the King family on her passing.

With sadness, I recognize the passing last night of Coretta Scott King, a courageous and heroic individual who sacrificed her life so Americans might relish in the gift of equal justice. Coretta Scott King and her late husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were Americans of monumental strength and stature through their lives. They will be remembered for their ceaseless efforts to advance race relations, civil rights, social justice and human rights. Her immense contributions to our national community will never be forgotten.

Coretta Scott King once said, "Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated." Whether segregation, sexual orientation, the rights of the poor or the rights of women, Mrs. King was a consistently strong and resonant voice for those who were desperately in need of help.

I have known Coretta Scott King over the last several years, and she had a rare gift to motivate others to carry on the legacy of equality, the idea of freedom, and social justice which was first accomplished by her husband and partner, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She will truly be an unspeakable loss. It is our duty in her honor to never waver in the face of injustice and degradation.

As a member of the House Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees, my thoughts can't help but turn to today's confirmation of Justice Alito to the U.S. Supreme Court. I have had concerns about Justice Alito's past judicial record. I am still apprehensive, and I would like to take this opportunity to point out what I believe is a test of civil liberties presented today.

The tragic passing of Coretta Scott King, a formidable human rights and civil liberties activist, and the concurrent confirmation of Justice Alito, may foreshadow difficult times ahead for American freedoms. Much of what Coretta Scott King fought for is now threatened by Justice Alito's confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court. His dubious record on voter's rights, discrimination issues, civil rights, civil liberties, reproductive freedom, the right to privacy and environmental protections, among others, fly in the face of the life and work of Coretta Scott King. The passing of Coretta Scott King and the confirmation of Justice Alito should be a wake-up call to America.

Dr. and Mrs. King will forever hold an esteemed place in my heart and the hearts of all Americans. As an African American woman, and a Member of Congress, I shall endeavor in my own way to continue their fight for equality and justice every day.

I rise in strong support of this proposed legislation, and urge my colleagues to follow suit.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES), an attorney, a prosecutor, a member of the Committee on the Judiciary and a staunch advocate for civil rights.

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the life of Coretta Scott King. This morning, I woke, like many of you, to hear of the sad news of the passing of Mrs. King. As I watched the news and read the papers, I came across an article that said "Coretta Scott King played a major backup role in the civil rights movement until the death of her husband, Martin Luther King." The words "backup role" stood out to me, because in my mind she always has been very much at the forefront. For so long she was simply known as the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, but she was so much more.

Often times we hear of the many great men who led the civil rights movement, but it was women who were in the heart and soul of that movement.

I am reminded that in the City of Cleveland there were several ministers that were involved with Dr. King. One of them, Dr. Hoover, another, Dr. Otis Moss, another minister, and one of the daughters of those ministers, her name is Carol Hoover, ultimately became the head of the Chamber of Commerce in the City of Cleveland.

□ 1700

And the reason I mention Carol Hoover is because Carol Hoover gave me my only opportunity to sit in a living room and have a long conversation with Mrs. King.

And the thing that I remark about that opportunity was she was very soft spoken. She was so very, very regal in her style, and so very confident and comfortable in helping me understand what my role was in public life.

I will never forget that opportunity that Carol Hoover gave me, and I will never forget Mrs. Coretta Scott King. If only we had a few more women like Coretta Scott King who handled tragedy so very well, but stood up, continued to raise a family, and helped us lift up her wonderful, wonderful husband.

As we celebrate the life of this great woman let us continue to remember the work that she did. Let us encourage our children to understand what she went through in order to be such a great leader, and let us to continue to pray for all of her family.

It is because of Coretta Scott King that the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King lives on to this day. It was Coretta whose hard work and determination led to the founding of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Change and the establishment Martin Luther King's birthday as a national holiday. It is for these reasons and so many others that we honor and celebrate this great woman and her contributions to this country.

She was the pillar of her family. Supporting her husband while raising four children during what were tumultuous times in our nation's history. Those of us who are mothers know that raising a child, particularly black children then and even in today's society is not an easy task. She was truly phenomenal.

It is important that we understand that the dream of equality for all people was not just Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's dream but it was a shared dream of both he and Coretta Scott King. It was through her vision as well that today we are closer to that dream.

As a tribute to this woman, I encourage everyone to help keep both Coretta and Dr. King's dream alive by working for peace and justice for all people.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), who has distinguished herself in the field of law, in the executive branch of our government, and has also appeared in the Supreme Court on a number of occasions on behalf of civil rights issues.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his kindness in yielding. My condolences first to Yolanda and Martin the Third, and Dexter and Bernice. I come to the floor to speak of Coretta Scott King, the woman, and of Coretta, my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we will remember Coretta as I am sure she wanted to be remembered, as a movement woman, fully engaged from the outset in the work of her husband, except it was their work.

King himself said, "I did not bring Coretta to this work, she was there." These two people found each other, these southerners who went north for education, precisely because, alone and in the North with few blacks and whites who believed that they did, they were fully at one with each other.

Coretta Scott King did not come to the movement by marriage. She once herself said she was married to the movement as well as to Martin. She therefore is not like most widows of great men. Of course, she carried on his legacy, but anyone who watched how ceaselessly and magnificently she worked for the essence of his legacy, nonviolence and universal human rights, will of course understand that Coretta Scott King deserves to be remembered, in justice, for her own extraordinary work.

I cannot help but also remember Coretta the friend, the friend who I would lolly-gag on the phone and laugh and talk about any old thing, not about the movement, but any old thing, particularly in the 1970s and 1980s at the height of her movement work. The last time we spoke, we sat underneath the Lincoln Memorial in those rooms preparing to go up to unveil the marker where King gave his 1963 March on Washington speech. May she be remembered for herself and her great work.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield the balance of our time to the gentleman from Montgomery, Alabama (Mr. DAVIS) who in closing will perhaps yield as much of his time as he can to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) where Mrs. Coretta Scott King resided for so many years.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 3½ minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CONYERS for yielding to me. Mr. CONYERS, you mentioned that I was born in Montgomery. Coretta Scott King was born in Marion, which is in the heart of my Congressional District. I am honored to stand here today as the person who still represents some of her family in the State of Alabama.

I only met her once as a younger Member of this institution and as someone who was not around to participate in the glorious days of the movement. I only met her once, at a Congressional Black Caucus in 2002. And I was a little bit in awe of her, Mr. CONYERS, because when you grow up in the State of Alabama, Coretta Scott King is a heroine, and she has a very, very special place all over this country.

There are two things I want to say about her today. When she was born in Marion in 1929, she could not have conceived, her parents could not have conceived, and as she grew into young womanhood, she could not have conceived that the person who represented her City of Marion would one day be an African American. That would not have crossed her mind.

And when she formed her partnership with Martin Luther King, they had all kinds of dreams for this country. I wonder if they ever anticipated that they would accomplish the things that they did, the holiday, the King Center, the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act. They were big dreamers, but I do not know if they could even have seen those things.

So that is the first aspect of Coretta Scott King that we are to acknowledge today, that she had an opportunity to see her South and her country transformed in ways that were inconceivable, and she lived to see it. She lived to tell about it. She lived to appreciate it and to breathe it.

The second point that I want to make is, every time I saw her on television as a young man, every time I saw her, I was always struck by the power of her quiet dignity, and I mention that, Mr. Speaker, because we live in an age where sometimes our side thinks we have to shout out the other side, they think they have to shout out our side.

What this wonderful woman appreciated is that there is a power and a force to quiet, persuasive argument. And she kept updating the legacy. In the 1980s it meant arguing against apartheid, and then arguing against the ugly rise of southern conservatism. It meant in the 1990s arguing for fair welfare policies. In the early 21st century it meant arguing for more enlightened policy around the world. She kept updating the legacy, and as she kept updating the legacy she freshened it and she put her own touch on it.

I conclude with just that observation. My colleague from Ohio was so

right. My colleague from the District was so right. This woman was not a backstage figure, she was a co-anchor and a co-pillar of this movement.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY).

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Georgia is recognized for 5¾ minutes.

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my condolences to Martin King, III, Yolanda, Dexter, and Bernice King, and to the entire King family.

I was shocked and saddened this morning when I heard the news as well. I had the opportunity to speak this year at the Martin Luther King ceremonies held annually at Ebenezer Church. And for the first time in many, many years, our queen mother, Ms. Coretta Scott King, was not there with us personally at the church, but she was looking at the proceedings and the ceremony on television.

One thing is fairly clear from the proceedings of the House today, and that is that the King family is loved by this body, by these Members, by the American people, by the African American community in particular, and the progressive community in general because it was the King family and their sacrifices that moved our country forward. They moved America forward. And so, I am so proud to represent Stone Mountain, Georgia, that same Stone Mountain, Georgia, that Dr. King spoke of in 1963, but today it is represented by an African American Congresswoman. It is represented by me.

This country can change. This country's leaders can change. This country can raise to its highest ideals if we have the will to do so. And Dr. King and Mrs. King and the King family continue to shine the light on America finding that will to do the best that it can do, to be the best that it can be.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the U.S. Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. I associate myself with all of the accolades that have been given before.

I rise, Mr. Speaker, to bring the condolences of the people of the Virgin Islands and the people of the Caribbean to this beautiful woman, Coretta Scott King, a woman of courage, a woman of strength, a woman of compassion, and a woman of history. She worked side by side with her husband, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and we are forever grateful for both of their sacrifice and both of their service.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD).

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman and the ranking member for this time that they have allotted to recognize an American icon, a woman of great distinction, of grace, of courage, one whom I have known for a long time because she was my soror, an AKA. And we met many times to talk about issues of women, women's suffrage, we talked about sexual exploitation of women around this world and human indignities.

As I heard about her passing I could not help but to reflect on the many times that we have spent together and on the courage that I drew from her and the strength that I drew from her, because this woman showed us so much, so much class, so much leadership, and so much strength in moments of tragedy.

And this is why I come together with my friends from across the aisle, and on both sides, to talk about the legacy of Mrs. Coretta Scott King, the aptly named first lady of the civil rights movement. She was the embodiment of a living soul who chose to help others without regard for self. Coretta Scott King was her husband's most ardent supporter during his darkest days and his most shining triumphs.

She spent the years after Dr. King's tragic assassination as the beacon of life toward equality and human rights for women and for all Americans. Fighting alongside her husband, however, through the many blessed years of their marriage, Coretta Scott King faced hardships, derision and physical violence.

In 1956, Mrs. King was in her home with her baby daughter when someone attempted to end her life and her husband's life, who was on a crusade. They threw a bomb into their home. The bomb did not injure her nor her child, but she could have rightfully ended her involvement on that particular issue at that time.

Thirteen years later her husband was brutally murdered in his quest for a social revolution.

□ 1715

Mrs. King stood strong only days later and led thousands of people marching in her husband's honor. The world is a better place, Mr. Speaker, because she was a giant of a woman, a crusader for justice and a courageous woman in the face of enormous adversity and tragedy.

Coretta Scott King campaigned tirelessly wherever she saw oppression or injustice. She celebrated Dr. King's legacy and created one of her own. Women's rights groups, people who fight against hunger, unemployment, disenfranchisement, and racism owe her a debt of gratitude. She embraced her husband's method of peaceful resistance and applied it in her crusade against the violence that corrupts our Nation.

Coretta Scott King was an activist, an icon, and a great wife and mother. America was so influenced by her, Mr. Speaker. She will continue to live in our memory and in our spirit as we further her work of nonviolence.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today we mark with sadness the passing of Coretta Scott King, a true patriot in the American Civil Rights Movement. But we also celebrate, together, a life well-lived and remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable woman who, with the sound of a gunshot on April 4, 1968, moved swiftly and strongly from the role of supporting preacher's wife to torchbearer of her husband's mission for equality.

Mrs. King herself once said, following her husband Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s death, "Because his task was not finished, I felt that I must rededicate myself to the completion of his work." And that she certainly did.

Whether meeting with such pivotal figures in the civil rights movement as the Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker, her husband's former chief of staff, and Betty Shabazz, widow of Malcolm X, or marching with activists from across America, Mrs. King made it clear from early on that the dream of Martin Luther King would live on, as would his legacy.

She lobbied for over 10 years to have her husband's legacy honored and President Reagan finally granted her wish in 1983, when he signed the federal holiday into law.

And determined to ensure Americans did not forget her husband or his dream of a colorblind society, she created a memorial and a forum in the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta.

Mrs. King was the matriarch of a movement, a dedicated and loving mother to a family in the face of loss, and a model to us all.

I join my colleagues in support of a House resolution honoring Mrs. King and her contributions and expressing condolences to the King family on her passing.

May we all honor her legacy by collectively taking up the torch she carried so high for so long.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. It is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the life of Coretta Scott King.

Born April 27, 1927, in Marion, Alabama, Mrs. King led a life of activism beside her husband during the civil rights movement, and carried on his work after he was killed in 1968. Coretta Scott King is a great American heroine who possessed the determination to make the seemingly impossible, possible. Soon after her husband's death, she stated, "I'm more determined than ever that my husband's dream will become a reality."

Mrs. King came from humble beginnings; her father ran a country store, and she worked as a waitress to put herself through college. Her strength and resolve guided her through many difficult times as a young widow left to raise four children on her own, but her determination propelled her to achievements of great significance. For almost a decade, she pushed Congress for a national holiday in observance of her late husband's birthday. She was ultimately successful in 1983 when Congress passed and the president signed legislation creating the holiday. The first national celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day occurred in 1986. In 1969, she founded the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent

Social Change in Atlanta to serve as a living memorial to the Rev. Dr. King's legacy. Additionally, she spoke out against the promotion of violence by movie and television companies.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to the King family and call upon my colleagues to forever remember her legacy and message.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join all Americans and others around the world in mourning the death of Coretta Scott King, a woman who worked to create change so that all Americans would have the opportunity to experience true freedom and justice. Mrs. King walked alongside her husband the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. until his untimely death. It was her courage and steadfast resolve in the aftermath of this tragedy that led to the launching of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change and the designation of Martin Luther King Day as a federal holiday.

As we prepare to begin our observance of Black History Month tomorrow, it is important that we recommit ourselves to continuing the work that Dr. and Mrs. King began more than 40 years ago. I extend my deepest sympathies to Mrs. King's family. I hope that they can find solace in knowing that all Americans are grieving the loss of this courageous woman.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bid a last farewell to Mrs. Coretta Scott King, a woman of great character and conviction who worked tirelessly to make the dream of her husband a reality.

Although we know her as the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., that label is far too small to encompass the life of this remarkable woman. Born April 27, 1927 in Marion, Alabama, to Bernice McMurtry Scott and Obadiah Scott, Coretta was an accomplished student, graduating at the top of her high school class while becoming an exceptional musician. Although her parents worked hard to ensure that she was protected from the hardships of the segregated South, she was very aware of the fact that she and all blacks were deprived of many rights. In her 1969 autobiography, "My Life With Martin Luther King Jr." Coretta stated: "From the first, I had been determined to get ahead, not just for myself, but to do something for my people and for all people." Little did she know that fate would have her help shape the mind of a world leader.

She met a young King in Boston while he was a student at Boston University and she a student at the New England Conservatory. After receiving her degree in voice and violin, the young couple moved to Montgomery, Alabama. Fifteen months later on December 1, 1955, a woman by the name of Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of a city bus . . . and the rest is history.

Over the next 13 years she and her husband pushed our nation to tear down the walls of oppression and to reach for its great potential. By 1968 she had lived a life worth writing about, but it was the woman she became after the assassination of her husband in 1968 that will define her legacy.

Only months after his death, she created the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change as a living memorial to her husband's life and dream. Leading marches, giving speeches and meeting with various world leaders, Coretta devoted all her

energies to alleviating the pain and suffering of the disenfranchised at home and abroad. She probably will be most remembered for her successful campaign to establish a national holiday to honor the life and works of her husband.

Mr. Speaker, throughout our history, great men and women have come and gone from these halls of Congress. However, their contributions to the American discourse did not die with them because we as a body have picked up where they left off, just as those who come after us will undoubtedly do. We all know that none of us are more important than this institution and what it represents. Coretta realized the same was true of her husband's dream. Though he was a great man, his dream was greater than him.

Had she allowed it to die with him, we all would have suffered a great disservice. Through her tireless work post-1968, she has ensured that our nation will never forget the dream of Dr. King, and more importantly, that we will never stop working towards its fulfillment.

For her great service to America and her unyielding spirit, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Mrs. Coretta Scott King and in bidding her a final farewell.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to Coretta Scott King, a great woman who passed away yesterday. Mrs. King, the widow of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., worked alongside her husband in promoting the dream of equality for all. Mrs. King continued the legacy of her husband after his death by remaining a vocal proponent of civil rights and founding the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, Georgia.

Unfortunately, our nation has become increasingly divided about how to promote freedom and equality, both here at home and abroad. We have again experienced an increased number of hate crimes, more than half of which targeted victims because of race. As the costs of fuel, health care, and college education rise, we have been told we should cut important social programs. Such misguided priorities are falsely justified under the guise of fiscal responsibility, even though millionaires grow wealthier at the expense of the poor.

However, it is when we are most frustrated and disheartened by the world around us that Dr. and Mrs. King's message is most important. As we begin National Black History Month, we must remember the vital contributions that Dr. and Mrs. King made to the civil rights movement and let them inspire us to continue our nation's march toward equality. We must remember their heroism, compassion and a determination to make this country a better place. We must harness their passion to improve all aspects of our society, from education to health care to the economy. Our job, not just today but every day, is to act in such a manner that moves our nation a little further along that path to freedom. We do so with the hope that we, our children, and our grandchildren may experience the America that Dr. and Mrs. King envisioned for all of us.

Mrs. King will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers go out to her family, friends and all those who mourn her loss.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the life and mourn the passing of Coretta Scott King. Following the assassination of her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King in

1968, Coretta Scott King worked tirelessly to keep the ideology of equality for all people alive. A civil rights leader in her own right, she created the King Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta, Georgia, in order to continue her husband's work. She fought with dignity and a quiet strength to end hunger, unemployment, voting rights violations and racism. We must continue to follow in the footsteps of Coretta Scott King and work to achieve equality through peaceful protests in order to improve our country for future generations.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to the order of the House of today, further proceedings on the resolution will be postponed.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 703 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 903 note), the order of the House of December 18, 2005, and upon the recommendation of the minority leader, the Chair announces the Speaker on January 18, 2006, appointed the following member on the part of the House to the Social Security Advisory Board for a term of 6 years:

Mrs. Barbara Kennelly, Connecticut

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2103(b), and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker on January 23, 2006, made the following appointments from private life to the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress on the part of the House for a term of 6 years:

Appointed Mr. Charlie Seeman, Spring Creek, Nevada, and

Reappointed Ms. Kay Kaufman Shelemay, Cambridge, Massachusetts

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO NATIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION POLICY AND REVENUE STUDY COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1909(b) of SAFETEA-LU (P.L. 109-59), and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Chair announces on January 23, 2006, the Speaker appointed the following members on the part of the House to the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission:

Mr. Jack L. Schenendorf, Chevy Chase, Maryland

Mr. Matthew K. Rose, Westlake, Texas

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO UNITED STATES-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D.

Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), amended by division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (22 U.S.C. 6901), and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Chair announces on January 25, 2006, the Speaker appointed the following members on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for terms to expire December 31, 2007:

Mr. Peter T.R. Brookes, Springfield, Virginia

Ms. Kerri Houston, Great Falls, Virginia

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE BART STUPAK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable BART STUPAK, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 10, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the District Court for the District of Columbia, for documents.

I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

BART STUPAK,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF MEMBER OF THE HONORABLE J. DENNIS HASTERT, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Bonnie Walsh, Casework Director for the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, Speaker of the House:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 18, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a criminal subpoena, issued by the Circuit Court for the 16th Judicial Circuit, DeKalb County, Illinois, for testimony.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

BONNIE WALSH,
Casework Director for J. Dennis Hastert,
Speaker.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commu-

nication from Derek Scott, Sales Clerk, Office Supply Service, U.S. House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, January 23, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a criminal subpoena, issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, for testimony.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

DEREK SCOTT,
Sales Clerk, Office Supply Service,
House of Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to make an announcement.

After consultation among the Speaker, the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent and approval, the Chair announces that tonight when the two Houses meet in joint session to hear an address by the President of the United States, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those on his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House.

Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the Chair feels that the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly adhered to.

Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor, and the cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint session by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 8:40 p.m. for the purpose of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 8:40 p.m.

□ 2043

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 8 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.