

HONORING OFFICER ROBERT HODGES FOR HIS VALIANT SERVICE TO THE SOUTHLAKE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude and praise to Officer Robert Hodges of the Southlake Department of Public Safety for his invaluable contributions to his community and for his bravery in times of turmoil.

Officer Hodges has loyally served as a police officer for more than 18 years. He began his career with a five-year stint at the Lake Worth Police Department, worked shortly for the Sansom Park Police Department and has spent his last 12 years with Southlake DPS.

In 1997 Hodges obtained his Instructor certification and began teaching other officers the skills necessary to be a Motorcycle Traffic Officer. Over the past 10 years, Officer Hodges has taught many of the Traffic Officers throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth area such skills and his dedication has affected the lives of many officers in the region.

Throughout his career, Officer Hodges has also touched lives in many other roles. In 2003 he initiated the first-ever police "Motorcycle Rodeo" to raise funds for Special Olympics. Through Officer Hodges' efforts and the Motorcycle Rodeo, more than \$12,000 was donated to the Special Olympics. The following year, Hodges organized a second Motorcycle Rodeo and managed to raise another \$7,000 for the cause. And 5 years ago, Officer Hodges was awarded the department's Life Saving Award and is credited for saving the life of a two-year-old child. In the incident, Hodges responded to a drowning call involving the small child who had been retrieved from a pool and was non-responsive. Officer Hodges cleared the child's airway and began administering CPR. Through his quick actions, he revived the child and kept her stable until medical help arrived.

Madam Speaker, I am deeply honored to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Officer Robert Hodges. I would also like to recognize his wife, Beth Hodges, and his son, Bobby Hodges, for their immense courage during difficult circumstances. It is a privilege to represent the Hodges family in the 24th District of Texas and I pray for God's blessings upon them.

FREEDOM FOR LÁZARO JOAQUÍN ALONSO ROMÁN

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Lázaro Joaquín Alonso Román, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Alonso Román is a peaceful pro-democracy activist who desires freedom for the people

of Cuba. His dream is that all Cubans be allowed to freely exercise their fundamental human rights. Unfortunately, the nightmare that is the totalitarian dictatorship specifically targets those courageous men and women who bravely risk their lives and the safety of their families to shed light on the realities of totalitarian Cuba.

On July 13, 2005, Mr. Alonso Román was shamefully arrested while participating in a peaceful pro-democracy demonstration in Havana honoring the victims of the "13 of March" tugboat massacre of 1994 in which 72 men, women and children were chased down and attacked by the regime's security thugs for attempting to flee the dictatorship in search of freedom. More than half of the unarmed refugees on the tugboat were systematically drowned at the direct order of the tyrant while they struggled to stay alive in the ocean waters.

After serving 21 months of a two-year "sentence" for "public disorder, rebellion and reckless endangerment", Mr. Alonso Román was released from the infernal dungeons on April 24, 2007. On May 19, less than a month later, Mr. Alonso Román was thrown back in the dictatorship's hellish gulag for expressing concern over why the regime's gangster thugs were deliberately harassing him and demanding to see his identification papers. According to his wife, Juana Delma Ruiz, his mere questions were enough for the regime's thugs to brutally handcuff and shove her husband into a police car and drag him to Dragones Prison in Havana.

Once in the irons of Dragones Mr. Alonso Román was informed that he would be "tried" on trumped-up charges of "resisting arrest and contempt" which would lead to more undeserved misery and suffering of the confines of a totalitarian dungeon. Let me be clear, Mr. Alonso Román is being caged simply for questioning the injustice with which he is treated.

An injustice anywhere is an affront to justice everywhere, said Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Alonso Román is representative of the longing for freedom of the Cuban people and their rejection of the brutality, depravity and oppression of the totalitarian regime. It is reprehensible that thousands of men and women like Mr. Alonso Román are languishing in hellish conditions because they refuse to accept the tyrannical dictatorship in Cuba today.

Madam Speaker, it is unconscionable that peaceful Cubans are locked in a tyrant's dungeons for believing in a free Cuba. My colleagues, we must demand freedom and human rights for all people, including those who live under the vicious and unforgiving darkness of totalitarian regimes. We must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Lázaro Joaquín Alonso Román and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

LUMBEE RECOGNITION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 65, the Lumbee Rec-

ognition Act, and I commend my esteemed colleague from North Carolina, Mr. MCINTYRE, for his leadership on behalf of the Lumbee Tribe to gain Federal recognition which I believe is long overdue for the Lumbees.

More than a century ago, the State of North Carolina had come to terms with a tribe of Native Americans descended by the historic Cheraw and related Siouan-speaking tribe located on Drowning Creek in North Carolina. In 1885, along with State recognition of the Lumbee Tribe came the establishment of a separate school system for Lumbee children to help preserve and respect both tribal ancestry and cultural practices. Shortly after State recognition, the Lumbee Tribe sought to attain Federal Recognition.

The issue of Lumbee recognition before this Congress, which began in the late 1800's, is both voluminous and lengthy. What has been made explicitly clear, however, is that the Lumbee Tribe is a distinct self-governing Indian community. Yet for reasons that have been either fiscal in nature or contrary to Federal Indian policy Congress has failed to act. Again, however, the Congressional record is abundantly and overwhelmingly clear that the Lumbee Tribe meet a threshold for Congress to bestow it Federal recognition without prohibitions.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 65.

IN RECOGNITION OF DENNIS ALLEN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dennis Allen, and to celebrate over 35 years of service to northeast Ohio's children. As Dennis retires from service, I join the chorus of thousands that have been touched by his guidance.

Since 1971, when he began his career as a teacher, Dennis has demonstrated an unflagging commitment to the children of northeast Ohio. After 5 years as a teacher, Dennis moved into a career as an administrator, acting as a principal and later as superintendent. He has spent the last 12 years as the superintendent of Rocky River School District, stewarding the district through an unprecedented period of growth and accomplishment.

Dennis has been the recipient of numerous awards, and has been called upon frequently to share his expertise and wisdom. Northeast Ohio has been the beneficiary for over 30 years, and I am grateful for his unmatched contributions to our community.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Dennis Allen for his service to northeast Ohio. Throughout his career, Dennis has held fast to his conviction that a strong foundation for a child and a community begins with a quality education. May future generations of educators draw inspiration from his efforts.