

HONORING ALVIN CREECH

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, tonight, I rise to honor Alvin Creech for his valiant service in the Korean War. On Sunday, I will have the distinct honor of presenting Mr. Creech with his Purple Heart award for his brave and selfless service in the Chosin Reservoir Campaign during the first winter of the Korean War.

This Tuesday will mark the 225th Anniversary of when General George Washington established the Purple Heart. The award is one of the highest honors, as it recognizes those who have given personal sacrifice in the name of our great Nation.

Private Creech is a true American hero who has waited over 56 years to receive this honor. He was only 19 when he joined the U.S. Army, continuing his family's proud history of defending America in her time of need.

For about a year, Private Creech fought in Korea. Mr. Creech served in the Third Infantry, helping to hold the defensive perimeter to help ensure that the Americans could make it to the coast. During his time in the Third Infantry, Mr. Creech spent almost a year living in fox-holes and hunkering down under mortar attacks and enemy sweeps. He became a weapons squad leader, leading patrols to the frontline. Despite being wounded in 1951, he served a full tour of duty and returned home to receive a Bronze Star for valor.

Private Creech's service to our community did not end in Korea. He is the proud husband and father of four, and, after working and providing for his family, he retired but then decided to drive a school bus for children.

I am proud that Mr. Creech and his wife Joyce decided to move to Avon Park to enjoy a full retirement. On behalf of Highlands County, I want to express the community's thanks and gratitude to Mr. Creech for his service to our country.

A TRIBUTE TO RUBY DEE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ruby Dee, an American actress, poet, playwright, and civil rights activist. Her career in acting has crossed all major forms of media over a span of eight decades. Ms. Dee has been active in civil rights causes and is a living legend whose grace and life has inspired many.

Born Ruby Ann Wallace on October 27, 1924, in Cleveland, Ohio, she grew up in Harlem, New York. Ms. Dee is a graduate of the famed American Negro Theatre in Harlem where she studied with Sidney Poitier and Harry Belafonte, often working along their side in movies. Her acting career began during a time when Blacks were fighting for civil rights. She earned national acclaim for her performance in the 1950 film, *The Jackie Robinson Story*. Her film credits include *A Raisin In The Sun*, *Roots*, and *Do The Right Thing*.

She was the first African American woman to secure major roles at the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Connecticut, serving as a trailblazer for Blacks in American theater. Ms. Dee and her beloved husband, the late Ossie Davis, were honored in 1995 by President Clinton with the Presidential Medal for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts and in 2004 by the Kennedy Center for their contributions to the performing arts in America. In 2007, their album titled, "With Ossie And Ruby: In This Life Together" won a Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word Album.

In the fight for racial equality, she was a member of several civil rights organizations. She and her husband served as masters of ceremonies for the historic 1963 March on Washington. Along with W.E.B. Du Bois, Paul Robeson, Malcolm X, and other leaders of the civil rights movement, she has been an advocate and activist of equal rights for all Americans.

Ms. Dee is a courageous woman who was far ahead of her time. She and her husband raised three children: Guy Davis, Nora Day and Hasna Muhammad. I'm grateful for her friendship, talent, and commitment to uplift and inspire African American people. Ms. Dee has touched the lives of all Americans, not to mention New Yorkers. The village of Harlem is proud to claim her as its own and America is a better place because of her life and immeasurable contributions.

CONGRATULATING KACIE RADER
ON WINNING SOAP BOX DERBY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Kacie Rader, a neighbor of mine in Mechanicsville, Maryland, a constituent from the Fifth District, and a World-Champion Soap Box Racer.

This is the second time I have come to the Floor this year to sing Kacie's praises. On the first occasion, I commended her win in the National Championship. And today, I rise to celebrate her win in the National Derby Rally Championships—held in the great State of Indiana on Friday July 27—where she won her world title.

Earning the title "world champion" is no small feat. It takes hard work, determination, intelligence and athletic ability—all of which were on display when Kacie achieved her ultimate goal and became the best in the world at her chosen pursuit.

Madam Speaker, I had the pleasure of meeting Kacie this morning, and I can tell you that she is an incredibly well-rounded young woman from whom we expect even greater things in the future.

Today, I want Kacie and her family to know that her district, State and Nation are proud of her accomplishment and wish her nothing but the best in whatever the future may hold.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JOEL
BLOOM**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Joel Bloom, a beloved community leader, activist and business owner in my district, who passed away recently after a long battle with cancer.

At a memorial service last month held in front of Joel's business, Bloom's General Store in the Arts District, more than 200 admirers, family members and friends gathered to celebrate his remarkable life. It was a happy occasion, just as Joel would have wanted.

On a personal level, I am extremely grateful to Joel for his unwavering advocacy on behalf of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) Edward R. Roybal Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension. Joel knew that the Gold Line light-rail extension linking Union Station to destinations that included the Arts District and East Los Angeles would play a critical role in the economic development of much-neglected communities. At many MTA meetings when the extension was discussed, I could always count on Joel to represent the transportation needs of Arts District residents with passion and zeal. It saddens me that Joel will not be with us to ride the trains when rail service begins in late 2009 that he fervently believed would spur economic development similar to what occurred in his Chicago birthplace.

Madam Speaker, in honor of Joel's life and many accomplishments, I would like to submit for the record his obituary that appeared in the Los Angeles Times on July 14. It captures the many facets of a man who will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

[From the Los Angeles Times, July 14, 2007]
JOEL BLOOM, 59; L.A. ARTS DISTRICT ACTIVIST
(By Valerie J. Nelson)

Joel Bloom, a pioneering community activist who helped shape the downtown Los Angeles arts district and was its unofficial mayor, with his shoebox-sized general store serving as the area's town hall, has died. He was 59.

Bloom, who also was a playwright and actor, died of soft-tissue sarcoma Friday at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center, said his son, Randy. Bloom had fought cancer since 2000.

"He gave the arts district its personality, and he was unabashed in his great love for it," said Councilwoman Jan Perry, who represents the area sandwiched between Little Tokyo and the banks of the Los Angeles River. "Joel was charismatic and ruled the roost over there for many, many years."

In late June, the city gave him an honor rarely accorded a living Angeleno—a sign was posted at East Third Street and Traction Avenue that declared the area "Joel Bloom Square."

The humble Bloom's General Store, founded in 1994 to give the growing community a place to pick up toothpaste or rent a video, stands nearby.

"There's a spark here—hopefully we can light it," Bloom told The Times in 1994 before opening the store in the industrial corridor.

The downtown arts district began in the late 1970s as a haven for artists who worked in the lofts and often illegally lived in them.

By the time Bloom moved there in 1986, the city had legalized the live-work spaces, and hundreds of artists had flocked to the area then known as the warehouse or lofts district.

"I get a feeling here I haven't gotten anywhere else. It may look desolate, but it's not. There's no place I'd rather be," Bloom said in the 1994 article.

A City Council resolution passed earlier this month recognized Bloom's community activism, which encompassed fighting to bring light-rail projects to downtown neighborhoods, advocating for affordable housing, organizing a well-regarded neighborhood watch program and leading downtown neighborhood councils.

The resolution also saluted him as a lifelong baseball fan and as a member of the Second City improv group "who raised the term 'grumpiness' to an art form."

Offstage, he was seen as equally cantankerous.

"He was a very gruff old man," said Edward Walker, a longtime friend who works at Bloom's store. "He could yell at you one moment, but the next he would be your friend. Still, if you needed something, he would be the first one there."

Bloom reveled in being a character, friends said, and in creating them.

In 1987, Bloom wrote and staged a production in a downtown parking lot that spoofed drive-in movies. Patrons were handed 2-D glasses—the wearer could see out of the left lens but not the right—and watched "Mayhem at the Mayfield Mall," a parody of sci-fi movies.

When the play was restaged in 1998, *The Times* reported, the Drive-In Drama lot on Imperial Street was thought to be the only venue where live theater could be enjoyed from the comfort of an automobile. Audience members honked to signal laughs or boos, and the national media tweaked L.A. for redefining "car culture."

A Bloom musical, "Showdown at Sonoratown: The Lady Who Stole Hollywood," satirized Los Angeles history when the play was performed in 1990 on Hewitt Street at Al's Bar, which turned into Al's National Theater on slow nights.

As an actor, Bloom appeared in plays such as "The Juke Box Never Plays the Songs You Want to Hear," a takeoff on "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in which the audience sat on stage and the action unfolded on the floor of Al's, said TK Nagano, Bloom's bookkeeper and friend.

Away from the stage, Bloom burnished his reputation as "the godfather" of the community of 1,500 by helping to spearhead a campaign that resulted in the city officially designating it in the 1990s as the arts district, Walker said.

Bloom also led the successful fight to keep the Los Angeles Unified School District from building a distribution warehouse in the neighborhood. In 2000, the Southern California Institute of Architecture moved into the area instead.

"Without Joel, we wouldn't have an arts district in its present form," Walker said. "It's kind of a Mayberry filled with bohemian artists. Everyone knows everybody, and everyone knows Joel."

The second of three children, Joel Alan Bloom was born May 30, 1948, in Chicago. His father worked for a paper company.

In 1969, he graduated from Pasadena Playhouse's school of theater arts.

During the Vietnam War, Bloom served in the Air Force, documenting the soldiers' daily life on film and from the air.

After leaving the service in 1974, he earned a degree in psychology from the University of Illinois, then joined Second City as a stage manager in Chicago.

In the late 1970s, he moved to Los Angeles along with Second City comedian George Wendt, with whom he roomed in Chicago.

Bloom bartended at Al's, joined Shakespeare Festival/LA as stage manager and put down roots in what would become the arts district.

"We've always been dismissed as that industrial area east of downtown," Bloom told *The Times* in 1997. "Well, we're more than that. There's a heart here. And a soul."

The corner of Traction Avenue and Hewitt Street came to be known as the heart of the community, the site of a scruffy general store where Bloom was known to greet customers by bellowing, "Whaddaya want?"

Bloom had been divorced since 1977. In addition to his son, Randy, of Azusa, he is survived by a brother, Michael; a sister, Lynn; and two grandchildren.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE SEWELL FAMILY REUNION

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, giving honor and glory to God, who is the guide of my life, I rise today in honor, respect and celebration of family unity as I honor the unbreakable bond of the Sewell family. Natives of my home town of the 13th Congressional District of Michigan in Detroit, they personify what education, hard work, and faith can do.

On August 16–19, 2007 the Sewell family will celebrate years of family closeness at the Annual Sewell Family Reunion in Baltimore, Maryland. As family reunions are an intricate part of our personal histories, as well as our country's, I am proud to recognize and salute the Sewells on this important, joyous occasion.

For many American families, keeping intact can be quite a challenge. This is a particular challenge for African American families, who have to work twice as hard to ensure that families that have just come back together can indeed stay together. Add to this conundrum the fact that efficient technology has made it all too easy for loved ones to live over further distances and drift apart; that is why it is necessary to honor those families who take time to dedicate themselves to preserving family ties, the ties that bind. The Sewells started gathering together in 1980 and decided in 1999 to make their reunions annual. Family reunions have provided a special time to reinforce historic strengths and traditional values as the family renews and highlights dedication to each other.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in extending the best wishes of the entire U.S. Congress to all of the Sewell Family for a successful and heartwarming family reunion. We wish and hope that their event is educational, safe, and filled with love and spirituality. I am certain this year's reunion will be memorable. As Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, and as a Member of Congress, the CBC and Congress hope their dedication, love and commitment to one another will endure for generations to come. God bless.

INTRODUCTION OF "GLOBAL CLIMATE AND OZONE LAYER PROTECTION ACT OF 2007"

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce the Global Climate and Ozone Layer Protection Act of 2007. This bill represents the first significant strengthening of the domestic laws governing ozone depleting substances since the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. I'm pleased that this major step forward is supported by both industry and the environmental community.

In May, the Oversight Committee held a hearing on the connection between ozone layer depletion and global warming. These issues are linked because chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) are not only ozone depleting chemicals but very potent greenhouse gases, as well. Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are common substitutes for HCFCs, are also strong greenhouse gases.

The May hearing focused on the Montreal Protocol, the global environmental treaty that sets legally binding controls on the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances. The Committee learned that, because of the global warming impact of ozone depleting chemicals like CFCs, the Montreal Protocol has provided substantial benefits in mitigating global warming since it was negotiated in 1987. The witnesses explained that the Montreal Protocol will have reduced the total global warming impact from ozone depleting chemicals by about 50 percent in 2010. This reduction will have the effect of delaying these climate-related impacts by seven to twelve years. In other words, without the Montreal Protocol, the world would be about a decade further along the path to dangerous climate change.

The Parties to the Montreal Protocol will meet in September to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the treaty and to consider several proposals to strengthen it. This meeting provides an important opportunity to better protect the ozone layer and the climate. The provisions of this bill are intended to realize the full potential of this opportunity.

First, the bill includes a sense of Congress provision regarding the upcoming Montreal Protocol negotiations. It states the sense of Congress that the United States should negotiate with the other parties to the Montreal Protocol to maximize the ability of the Protocol to mitigate global warming impacts and to accelerate the phase out of HCFCs in developed and developing countries. Accelerating the phase-out of HCFCs has the potential to produce significant climate benefits at low cost. The phase-out of HCFC-22 and its HFC-23 byproduct alone would have a climate effect equivalent to eliminating nearly one billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions. This figure is equal to roughly half of the total emissions reductions required under the Kyoto Protocol. By fully funding the Montreal Protocol's Multilateral Fund, this accelerated phase-out of HCFCs can be achieved at a small fraction of the cost of achieving equivalent carbon dioxide emissions reductions.