

PHILADELPHIA'S RENAISSANCE
MAN, FORGOTTEN NO LONGER

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the good news that a great Philadelphian of another time, whose life, accomplishments and even his burial site have been lost in obscurity for too long, is finally being restored to prominence.

Octavius Valentine Catto, a champion of African American empowerment, civil rights and civil disobedience before those terms were even in use, was assassinated by a political thug on October 10, 1871, during a Philadelphia municipal election. Catto was walking between his South Street home and a nearby polling place on a riot-torn day during which he had been organizing African Americans to exercise their newfound franchise and throw out a corrupt local political machine.

Catto has been called a renaissance man for all that he undertook and accomplished in his short life (1839–1871). He was a classically trained student and then professor at the Institute for Colored Youth in Philadelphia, the forerunner of Cheyney University; an officer in an all-black unit of the Pennsylvania National Guard during the Civil War who insisted on a meaningful role for his soldiers; and even manager-second baseman for the Pythian Baseball Club, a renowned and pioneering all-black team. In the 1860s Catto, along with another prominent Philadelphian, the black abolitionist William Still, organized a civil disobedience campaign that led to laws desegregating Philadelphia's trolley car system.

Catto's assassination led to a massive public funeral and an outcry for justice. But gradually his deeds and memory faded from view. His remains were relocated from Lebanon Cemetery in Southwest Philadelphia to Eden Cemetery in Delaware County in 1903, but contemporary admirers haven't even known where to find his resting place.

On the anniversary of O.V. Catto's assassination, October 10, 1871, a group of Philadelphians led by Philadelphia City Council member Jim Kenney are changing all that. At a ceremony that includes representatives of the Philadelphia Union League, to which Catto belonged, Cheyney University; the O.V. Catto Elks Lodge and others, a temporary marker is being installed and dedicated at Eden Cemetery, 1434 Springfield Road, Collingdale, Pennsylvania. Significantly, his modest burial site is not far from the tomb of William Still. A permanent and appropriate headstone for Catto soon will follow.

That's not all. A site has been designated on the plaza outside Philadelphia City Hall for the construction of a statue of Catto. A design competition and fundraising effort are being launched by the O.V. Catto Memorial Fund under the leadership of Carol Clark Lawrence, the Fund's Chair, and Jim Straw, the Co-Chair. The Fund will also develop an educational program to assure that future generations will be well aware of the contributions of this outstanding Philadelphian.

Octavius V. Catto is an inspiration to Philadelphians of all races. The telling of his story is long overdue. And now it begins.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
WILLIAM E. "SONNY" MOTTERN

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute William E. "Sonny" Mottern who was a true patriot and friend of the First District of Tennessee. He passed away recently at the age of 87.

He was born June 24, 1920 and married his high school sweetheart, Eulah "Sweetie" Shepherd on October 17, 1941. From December 1943 thru December 1945, "Sonny" served on active duty with the 15th Infantry—3rd Division in France where he received a battle field promotion to S/Sgt. He was captured December 19, 1944, near the Rhine River in France and was held in four German prisoner camps, being moved by box car and forced marches. He was liberated on April 29, 1945 by General George Patton.

"Sonny" was discharged December 7, 1945 and awarded the Bronze Star, One Bronze Star Cluster, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, American European-African Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Combat Infantry's Badge, Honorable Service Medal and the POW Medal. He was called again to serve his country as Chairman of the Carter County Draft Board during the Vietnam Conflict.

On April 19, 1996 he was named by the Governor of Tennessee as a Colonel, Aid-Camp for Valor and Dedication in the Performance of his duties in service to the ExPOWs and all Veterans of the state of Tennessee. He also served on the Military and Veterans Advisory Board for Tennessee. On April 19, 1997 he was appointed by the Governor of Tennessee as Tennessee Ambassador of Goodwill. He was a National Service Organization Representative for the Department of Veteran Affairs and was currently serving as Treasurer of the Military Ex-Prisoners of War Foundation.

Mr. Mottern's community involvement and leadership included: Elder in the Brick Christian Church; member of the Chamber of Commerce; past Master of the Masonic Lodge, and Life Member of the VFW, DAV, Purple Heart, the American Legion and the American Ex-Prisoners of War. He was a previous owner of the Dixie Battery Company in Elizabethton and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Watauga Volunteer Fire Department.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my fellow members to join me in honoring Sonny Mottern, a true servant of his country, whose commitment and unwavering determination continue to make a lasting impact all throughout East Tennessee. He will be missed greatly throughout our region as we have lost a true American hero.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LAND-IN-
TRUST PUBLIC HEARING ACT

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Land-In-Trust Public Hearing

Act, which would require the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior to conduct at least one public hearing in the surrounding community before taking land into trust for an Indian tribe.

In April 2005, the Oneida Indian Nation (OIN) applied to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to have 17,310 acres in Central New York taken into trust. These lands are located in Madison and Oneida counties, which I represent together with the gentleman from New York, Mr. ARCURI. In fact, I originally introduced similar legislation in the 109th Congress as H.R. 4634 with Mr. ARCURI's predecessor, Mr. Boehlert.

The land-in-trust process is complex and time-consuming. Moreover, its potential impacts on regulatory jurisdiction, property taxes, and special assessments are immense. However, current regulations do not require that the Department of the Interior conduct a public hearing in the area that would be most impacted by the loss of the jurisdiction over the land in question.

This is unfortunate, particularly given the potential consequences of a decision to take land into trust. Thus, very simply, this bill is designed to ensure that the hard-working men and women of areas, like my constituents in Madison and Oneida counties that are the subject to land-in-trust applications have an opportunity and forum to directly and personally provide their comments. It also would require the Department of the Interior to consider the input and statements received at that hearing in its decision-making process. While providing such an opportunity would certainly further the interests of justice and equity, it also would enhance the quality of the Department's decisions on land-in-trust applications.

RECOGNIZING KARL GSCHNEIDNER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished professor of materials science and engineering, a senior metallurgist at Ames Lab, Karl Gschneidner.

It was just recently announced that Karl will be awarded the prestigious Acta Materialia Gold Medal in March of 2008 based on his demonstrated ability and leadership in materials research.

Karl has been working with rare earth metals including research into their magnetic and electrical properties for over 50 years. Karl's most noble work has been in magnetic refrigeration. Magnetic refrigeration is a cooling method that uses considerably less energy than the majority of common cooling methods used today. The new knowledge Karl is developing will advance existing materials and will lead to new and better materials, which will ensure the success of magnetic refrigeration as a viable energy-saving and environmentally safe technology in the next century.

Karl's research is vital in this period of our country. Our Nation's dependence on foreign

oil and demands for energy has potential for great strain on our economy, security and supply of natural resources.

I commend Karl Gschneidner for his dedication to science and to materials engineering research. And, I know that all of my col-

leagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating him on his gold medal recognition.