

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF CARNE C. CUNNINGHAM, UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Carne C. Cunningham, a World War II veteran. He received his ensign commission in September 1943.

His military service began with his assignment to LST-291, a landing ship for tanks, where he served as the officer in charge of supplies in addition to his watch officer duties. On September 10, 1944, Carne was assigned as a division officer to a cargo personnel ship, the Auriga, where he served for the remainder of the war. He was involved in the invasion of Leyte, Lingayen Gulf, Luzon Island, the Philippine Islands, and Okinawa, where he witnessed the death and destruction of war.

World War II is known as the deadliest conflict in human history, taking the lives of over 70 million people. During this difficult time, our country stood united behind our brave servicemen and women who so willingly took to the battlefields to defend freedom and democracy. It is veterans like Carne that helped us emerge victorious from World War II and restore hope and humanity in a world that was shattered by the darkness of hatred and violence.

His patriotism, courage, and selflessness are an example of what make America great. Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude for his service to this great Nation. May God bless all those he loved, and may I convey to them my sincerest condolences and the gratitude of the American people.

RECOGNIZING THE UNVEILING OF A MONUMENT HONORING HAITIAN SOLDIERS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the erection of a monument in Savannah, Georgia honoring the more than 500 Haitian soldiers who fought there during the Revolutionary War, and to introduce the accompanying New York CARIB News article, "Haitians in U.S. Revolution Get Monument," published on Oct. 16, 2007. This monument serves as a bronze testament to the oft-forgotten contributions Haitians made in that war.

Around 150 people attended the unveiling of the monument, which depicts four soldiers from that 545-man unit. Theirs was the largest unit in that Savannah battle and believed to be the largest grouping of black soldiers in the war. Soon after returning home, those Haitian

veterans channeled that same spirit of rebellion to gain independence from the French in 1804.

In tribute to that integral thread in our American history, and in memory of their sacrifices to the cause of liberty, I submit news of this important symbol into the RECORD.

HAITIANS IN U.S. REVOLUTION GET MONUMENT

SAVANNAH, GA.—After 228 years as largely unsung contributors to American independence, Haitian soldiers who fought in the Revolution War's bloody siege of Savannah had a monument dedicated in their honor last Monday.

About 150 people, many of them Haitian-Americans who came to Savannah for the event, gathered in Franklin Square where life-size bronze statues of four soldiers now stand atop a granite pillar 6 feet tall and 16 feet in diameter.

This is a testimony to tell people we Haitians didn't come from the boat, said Daniel Fils-Aime, chairman of the Miami-based Haitian American Historical Society. We were here in 1779 to help America win independence. That recognition is overdue.

In October 1779, a force of more than 500 Haitian free Blacks joined American colonists and French troops in an unsuccessful push to drive the British from Savannah in coastal Georgia.

More than 300 allied soldiers were gunned down charging British fortifications Oct. 9, making the siege the second-most lopsided British victory of the war after Bunker Hill.

Though not well known in the U.S., Haiti's role in the American Revolution is a point of national pride for Haitians.

After returning home from the war, Haitian veterans soon led their own rebellion that won Haiti's independence from France in 1804.

Fils-Aime's group has spent the past seven years lobbying Savannah leaders to support the monument, which the city approved in 2005, and raising more than \$400,000 in private donations to pay for it. Fils-Aime said the historical society still needs \$250,000 more to finish two additional soldier statues.

As it stands now, the monument features life-size bronze statues of four soldiers and standing atop a granite pillar 6 feet tall and 16 feet in diameter.

The fourth statue, a drummer boy, depicts a young Henri Christophe, who served in Savannah as an adolescent and went to become Haiti's first president—and ultimately king—after it won independence.

Records show that 545 Haitian soldiers sailed to Savannah in 1779, making them the largest military unit of the Savannah battle. The Haitians are also believed to have been the largest black unit to serve in the American Revolution.

This is a testimony to tell people we Haitians didn't come from the boat, said Daniel Fils-Aime, chairman of the Miami-based Haitian American Historical Society, one of the many Haitian Americans who came to Savannah for the dedication.

We were here in 1779 to help American win independence. That recognition is overdue.

VIOLENT RADICALIZATION AND HOMEGROWN TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1955, the Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorist Prevention Act of 2007, introduced by my distinguished colleague from California, Representative HARMAN. This important legislation recognizes the threat of homegrown terrorism and seeks to address this burgeoning problem while maintaining the civil rights and liberties of American citizens.

Since May of this year, two separate plots against strategic American targets have been foiled and prevented by American officials; what distinguishes them from previous terrorist plots against the United States is that the potential terrorists here had no support from Al-Qaeda or any other overseas terrorist cells. America must be unique in its approach to homegrown terrorism, given the civil rights and civil liberties protections that are unique to America and enjoyed by all American citizens.

As a senior Member of the Committee on Homeland Security and Chair of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure, I believe we can secure our homeland and remain true to our values simultaneously. In our fights against global terrorism, it is critical that Muslim Americans continue to be our allies. The Muslim American Community has grown in size and prominence, and is an integral part of the fabric of this Nation. Muslim Americans share the same values and ideals that make this Nation great. Ideals such as discipline, generosity, peace and moderation.

Many years of civil rights jurisprudence and law have been ignored and thrown out the window when the racial profiling, harassment, and discrimination of Muslim and Arab Americans is permitted to occur with impunity. These practices show a reckless and utter disregard for the fundamental values on which our country is founded: namely, due process, the presumption of innocence, nondiscrimination, individualized rather than group suspicion, and equitable application of the law. We cannot allow xenophobia, prejudice, and bigotry to prevail, and eviscerate the Constitution we are bound to protect.

The securing of our homeland and protection of our national security is on the forefront of my agenda. However, using 9/11 as an impetus to engage in racial profiling, harassment, and discrimination of Muslim and Arab Americans is not only deplorable, it undermines our civil liberties and impedes our success in the global war on terror. We must fight our war on terror without compromising our freedoms and liberties.

It is precisely for these reasons that I so strongly support H.R. 1955. This Act calls for

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the creation for the creation of the National Commission to examine the various causes of violent radicalization and homegrown terrorism in order to propose concrete and meaningful recommendations and legislative strategies in order to alleviate these threats. It also establishes a Center of Excellence for the Prevention of Radicalization and Home Grown Terrorism that will study the social, criminal, political, psychological and economic roots of the problem as well as provide homeland security officials across the government with suggestions for preventing radicalization and home grown terrorism.

Furthermore, it requires our homeland security officials to thoroughly examine the experiences of other nations that have experienced homegrown terrorism so that our government might learn from those experiences. As such, H.R. 1955 does more than merely address the current situation with regard to homegrown terrorism but also works to identify the causes behind the problem and address them as well.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 62ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today we recognize the 62nd anniversary of the United Nations. The United Nations was founded in the aftermath of the Second World War. Leaders across the world came together to form this international organization with the hope that nations united in purpose might never again have to face the devastating consequences of a third World War. Since its inception, the mission of the United Nations has been focused on advancing the cause of fundamental human rights around the world. It is a noble cause.

Unfortunately, the lofty goals of this institution have been blemished by a record of past actions which challenge the U.N.'s very existence.

This year, Madam Speaker, I am serving as one of two Congressional Delegates to the United Nations. As a representative of the people I would be remiss, on this United Nations Day, if I did not address some of the concerns that Americans have with the United Nations. In a poll conducted last year by political consultant and pollster, Frank Luntz, 71 percent of Americans agreed that the U.N. is no longer effective and need to be reformed. In addition, the poll found that 75 percent of the participants agreed that the United Nations is no longer effective and needs to be held accountable. Most telling, for the first time since the U.N. was founded, a majority of Americans, 57 percent, believe that if the U.N. cannot be reformed it needs to be gotten rid of all together and replaced.

Like most Americans, Madam Speaker, I'm concerned with the ineffectiveness of the United Nations. I'm concerned with the anti-Semitic factions that exist within the U.N. I'm concerned with its hypocritical human rights record—claiming to preserve human rights, while not holding some of the world's worst human rights violators responsible. I'm con-

cerned with the corruption of U.N. officials and mismanagement of U.N. programs. And I'm concerned with the United Nations inability to actually take a lead in fighting the threat of global terrorism.

If the United Nations expects the United States to support its mission, it had better take the concerns of the American people seriously and implement the reforms that are necessary to gain the trust of the American public.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY L. JOHNSON

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Shirley L. Johnson, a remarkable woman who has distinguished herself with a long and impressive record of dedicated public service and advocacy for human rights and social justice.

A resident of Rockville, Maryland, Shirley worked for the U.S. Public Health Service where, for many years, she served as Deputy Director of the Department of Medicine. At the time of her retirement, she was Director of the Office of Program Development, Bureau of Health Professions. Her tenure at the government health agency spanned 37 years and was highlighted by numerous awards, including the Public Health Service Superior Service Award, the highest public service level award to be granted to a civilian.

Since her retirement, Shirley has worn many hats and taken volunteerism to new heights. An outspoken champion of health care for the disenfranchised, Shirley was appointed to the Montgomery County Commission on Health and served as its Commissioner from 1995–2000. She also served on the Board of the Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County, a charitable organization committed to bringing high quality, accessible, and efficient health care services to low-income, uninsured county residents.

Combining her concern for public health with her knowledge of the governmental process, Shirley testified frequently before the Montgomery County Council and the Maryland General Assembly, urging lawmakers to pass legislation to ban smoking in public places. From 1997–98, she served on the board of directors of Smoke Free Maryland and as co-chair of the Montgomery County Smoke Free Coalition.

In the civil rights arena, Shirley challenged local officials to eliminate prejudice and injustice and lobbied persistently for fair housing to correct the discriminatory practices of landlords in Montgomery County.

Education always has been high on Shirley's agenda. This cum laude graduate of Howard University has worked tirelessly for scholarships for minority students and has spent countless hours teaching and promoting economic empowerment concepts to at-risk students in public schools.

An active Democrat, Shirley has been president of the Montgomery County District 19 Democratic Club for the past 5 years and serves as chair of Precinct 8–03 in Rockville. She counts as one of her proudest achievements her efforts to establish the African

American Democratic Club of Montgomery County, where she served as first vice president.

Shirley is a 1996 graduate of Leadership Montgomery, a program designed to train individuals to be effective leaders in the Montgomery County community. From 2000–06, she served on the Montgomery County Commission for Women, a resource and an important voice for women throughout the Washington metropolitan area.

In 2002, Shirley was inducted into the Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame. Two years later, she was selected as the Volunteer of the Year by the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee. In 2005, she was named a "Woman of Achievement" by the Montgomery County Business & Professional Women and received the "Community Services Award" from the Black Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., the "Civil Rights Award" from the Montgomery County, Maryland Branch of the NAACP, and the "Distinguished Leadership Award" from the Community Leadership Association.

Madam Speaker, Shirley L. Johnson exemplifies community service. She is an individualist and an idealist who believes in equal opportunity for all men and women. She cares deeply about the quality of life in her community and is a model to others of what one person can accomplish through commitment, hard work and perseverance.

On Sunday, October 28, 2007, Shirley Johnson will be honored at an event at the Bauer Drive Community Center in Rockville, Maryland. Referred to by her friends as "One Classy Lady," Shirley will be "roasted, toasted, and appreciated." I am proud that she is my constituent and am pleased to add my praises to the chorus of family, colleagues and friends who will gather to salute her.

TRIBUTE TO ALABAMA POLITICAL JOURNALIST BOB INGRAM, 1926–2007

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to a man who for a generation symbolized great class and professionalism in Alabama political journalism, Bob Ingram.

Alabamians statewide, and, in particular, in the political and journalism communities, were saddened to learn of the passing of Bob Ingram on October 18 at the age of 81. To all those who knew him, Bob was an unquestioned authority on State politics. He possessed a comfortable familiarity with the historical and personal side of Alabama government and the key players who shaped it going back some 6 decades. He was unequalled in his political wisdom because he was a witness to and participant in government. He covered our State through both tough and brighter times but he never lost his love for Alabama and its often colorful political figures.

Bob began his career as a reporter for the Cherokee Herald in his hometown of Centre. His mother, the town librarian, instilled in him a passion for writing which not only pointed him on his way to a remarkable journalism career, but also to authoring several insightful books on the Alabama political scene.