

It's hard to believe, but 20 percent of the people you see during the course of a day cannot read, according to most recent statistics. In the Third District of West Virginia, this average is even higher, at 24 percent. This is a startling statistic that needs to change and we are deeply indebted to the organizations that devote themselves to this important cause—organizations like the Literacy West Virginia, which has councils in all of West Virginia's 55 counties. On February 21, I had the opportunity to meet with the Tri-State Literacy Council and its director Dee George at the Cabell County Library to discuss the great strides the organization is making in adult education.

I am proud of my record of support for literacy programs and initiatives. Time and again I have opposed budget proposals from this Administration that would cut funding to important literacy programs which are intended to assist families break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy. And I will continue to fight policies that undermine the hard work so many are doing to improve reading levels in the Mountain State.

I have also again contacted my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee in Congress urging them to provide \$25 million in federal funds to the Reading Is Fundamental Inexpensive Book Distribution Program (RIF), allowing this important literacy initiative to continue operating at its current level. As the Nation's largest children's literacy organization, RIF last year provided more than 16 million new books free of charge to nearly 4.5 million of the nation's most underserved children in all fifty states.

Literacy is the gateway to educational excellence and a key to success in our society. On Read Aloud Day, let us recommit to helping improve the lives of the men, women, and children in West Virginia and across America who cannot read.

Because with literacy, to borrow from the great Dr. Seuss himself:

You have brains in your head.  
You have feet in your shoes  
You can steer yourself  
any direction you choose.

TRIBUTE TO MS. C. "JEANNE"  
TIMMONS

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 5, 2007*

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, earlier this month the United States Coast Guard and the entire Coast Guard community lost a great friend and colleague with the retirement of Ms. C. "Jeanne" Timmons.

Jeanne began her incredible career with the United States Government in May 1963, when she became a staffer to Congressman Victor Wickersham from her home State of Oklahoma. Over the next 26 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, she worked for Congressman Jack Flynt, Congressman Bob Sikes, Congressman Earl Hutto, and the House Coast Guard Subcommittee.

In July 1989, Jeanne left the House to begin a new career with the United States Coast Guard, where she was able to utilize her expertise and passion to enhance recreational

boating programs in our Nation. Her tenure with the Coast Guard has included various positions, all related to recreational boating safety. She has worked as a State Grant Regional Coordinator, the Chief of the State Affairs Branch, a Program Analyst, the Chief of the Program Management Division, and finally the Executive Director of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council.

Throughout her career, Jeanne's invaluable knowledge and experience were a tremendous asset to Congress, the Coast Guard, and to the boating community as a whole. I take this opportunity to commend and thank Jeanne for her years of service in the United States Government and wish her good health and good luck in her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OCCASION OF THE SCHOMBURG CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE 80TH ANNIVERSARY AFRICANA HERITAGE AWARDS GALA

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 5, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Schomburg Center For Research in Black Culture for hosting the 80th Anniversary Africana Heritage Awards Gala, in which 13 living legends were honored and to enter into the record an article from the Africana Heritage newsletter entitled "80th Anniversary Gala Pays Tribute to 13 Living Legends."

On October 6, 2006, the Schomburg Center For Research in Black Culture, which is a community treasure, recognized and honored Black achievement by paying tribute to living legends Maya Angelou, Chinua Achebe, Clarence Avant, Harry Belafonte, Elizabeth Catlett, Aime Cesaire, Ruby Dee, John Hope Franklin, William Greaves, Ernest Kaiser, Don Newcombe, Herman J. Russell, and Percy Sutton. The legends have made significant contributions to African American history and culture in areas such as law, business, acting, music, filmmaking, poetry, and sports. Each honoree was presented with a Heritage Award statuette. I was honored to present an award to Percy Sutton.

The well organized gala was attended by over 1,000 people. Honorees and guest enjoyed music and poetry performed by the Eli Fountain Percussion Discussion Ensemble, Angelique Kidjo, Kaissa, Kayo, Avery Brooks, and Phylicia Rashad. Dinner was also served. The gala marked a historical moment for the Schomburg Center. The honorary chairs for the gala including myself were President Bill Clinton, Senator HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, David Dinkins, Catherine C. Marron, and Paul LeClerc.

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, which is located in Harlem, is a part of the New York Public Library. It was named after black scholar Arturo Alfonso Schomburg in 1940 and in 1972 was designated as a Research Library within the New York Public Library.

It contains an immeasurable wealth of information in the form of manuscripts, rare books, archives, art, photographs, oral history record-

ings, motion pictures, and videotapes relative to global African and African diasporan experiences.

I have introduced legislation, H. Con. Res. 57, to recognize the Schomburg Center for Research and Black Culture for educating the people of the United States about the African-American migration experience, and for other purposes.

[From the African Heritage Newsletter]

80TH ANNIVERSARY GALA PAYS TRIBUTE TO 13 LIVING LEGENDS

Legends came to life for the nearly one thousand guests gathered at Frederick P. Rose Hall, Home of Jazz at Lincoln Center for the Schomburg Center's 80th Anniversary Africana Heritage Awards Gala, on Friday, October 6, 2006. Chaired by Billye S. Aaron and Sherry B. Bronfman, the Gala Honorary Chairs included President William Jefferson Clinton, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Congressman Charles B. Rangel, The Honorable David N. Dinkins, Chairman of the Board, The New York Public Library Catherine C. Marron, and President and CEO, The New York Public Library Dr. Paul LeClerc.

One of the most memorable evenings in the Center and New York's cultural history, the event honored an extraordinary group of 13 individuals, whose careers and lives have had an immeasurable impact on African-American and American culture. The honorees included author, poet, dancer, actress, and director, Maya Angelou; author and scholar, Chinua Achebe; music executive and producer, Clarence Avant; singer, actor, and activist, Harry Belafonte; sculptress and printmaker, Elizabeth Catlett; author, poet, and playwright, Aimé Césaire; actress, writer, activist, Ruby Dee; historian and author, John Hope Franklin; filmmaker and producer, William Greaves; librarian, bibliographer, and editor, Ernest Kaiser; athlete and community leader, Don Newcombe; entrepreneur and civic leader, Herman J. Russell; and lawyer, activist, political and communications leader, Percy Sutton.

The evening began with a VIP reception at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel for the award recipients and major donors, and continued at the Frederick P. Rose Hall with: a cocktail reception in the Atrium, tribute program in The Rose Theater, and a post-tribute dinner in the Allen Room. At the Mandarin, many of the honorees gathered and mingled with distinguished guests including the Gala Co-Chairs Billye Aaron and Sherry Bronfman; Honorary Chairs Congressman Charles B. Rangel and The Honorable David N. Dinkins; and Vice Chairs Hank Aaron, Joyce Dinkins, Evem Cooper Epps, president of the UPS Foundation and vice president of its Corporate Relations, Ingrid Saunders Jones, senior vice president of The Coca-Cola Company and chair of the Coca-Cola Foundation, and The Honorable Andrew J. Young; along with New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, President and CEO of Major League Baseball Bob DuPuy, actor Danny Glover, and author Walter Mosley. Entertained by Saleem Waters, the group also included poet Sonia Sanchez, author Walter Mosley, NYU Professor Manthia Diawara, Essence Magazine Editorial Director Susan L. Taylor, and New York Assemblyman Keith L.T. Wright.

The tribute program in the Rose Theater began with a prelude of songs spanning 80 years to mirror the center's and the honorees' lifetimes by Eli Fountain Percussion Discussion Ensemble, featuring musicians Lyndon Achee, Alex Blake, Brian Carrot, Miles Dalto, Roland Guerreo, Phoenix Rivera, William Smith, Marc Taylor, and special guest artist Patato Valdez on the congas. Program hosts, actors Avery Brooks

and Phylicia Rashad, greeted the audience followed by welcomes and acknowledgements by Howard Dodson and David Ferriero and Co-Chairs Billye Aaron and Sherry Bronfinan. Author and spoken word artist Kayo presented the first performance tribute to the honorees, "I Can Move Mountains." The award presenters gave biographical sketches and read the citation for each honoree before presenting the award statuettes with the assistance of four students from the Schomburg Center/New York Life Junior Scholars Program. The audience paid tribute to each recipient with a standing ovation. The first awards were presented to Ernest Kaiser by Schomburg Chief Howard Dodson; William Greaves by President of the Black Filmmaker Foundation Warrington Hudlin; Ruby Dee by actress Lynn Whitfield; and Harry Belafonte by Sherry Bronfman and Danny Glover. West African singer Angelique Kidjo then performed a special song in honor of the Africana Heritage Award recipients. The second set of awards were presented to Don Newcombe by Hank Aaron and Bob DuPuy; Clarence Avant by Billye Aaron; Herman Russell by Ingrid Saunders Jones; and Percy Sutton by Charles Rangel and David Dinkins. Avery Brooks performed Sterling Brown's poem "Strong Men" followed by Percussion Discussion, which kept the audience excited throughout the evening with their distinct and diverse sound.

The third and final set of honorees to receive statuettes were Elizabeth Catlett by Evern Cooper Epps and David Driskell, Dean of African-American Art Historians; John Hope Franklin by Howard Dodson; Aime Cesaire by Walter Mosley; Maya Angelou by Andrew Young; and Chinua Achebe by Manthia Diawara, Professor of Comparative Literature and Film and Director of Africana Studies and the Institute of African American Affairs at New York University. The final performance tributes were Phylicia Rashad's reading of Maya Angelou's "Phenomenal Woman," and a musical selection by vocalist Kaïssa, from Cameroon.

After the tribute program, the honorees and major donors enjoyed dinner in the Allen Room. Awaiting them was a breathtaking view of New York City from the room's dramatic glass wall facing Broadway and Central Park, allowing guests a remarkable—but rare view of the City's streetscape. Tables with lavender rose centerpieces designed by Sandra Parks on royal blue overlays designed by David Fleming, along with music by Saleem Waters added to the extraordinary ambience. The Gala closed with words of appreciation from Howard Dodson, marking one of the most historical moments in the history of the Schomburg Center.

## EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 800) to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practices during organizing efforts, and for other purposes;

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Employee Free Choice Act.

Strengthening unions results in a stronger and more vibrant middle class, which is something we can all support.

Madam Chairman, we have heard arguments about how this legislation is taking away a worker's right to vote.

Let me make it absolutely clear, this bill does no such thing!

It does not take away the voting rights of workers.

The bill says that if 30 percent of workers want an election instead of a majority sign up, they get the election.

I want people to know, though, that most workers do not want to go through the so-called election process because it is so favorable to the employers.

Despite recent arguments from the bill's opponents, we are not talking about anything remotely similar to the American election system.

During our election season, we will be exposed to ads on our TVs that we can turn off.

With the union elections, employers hold employees captive for one on one meetings with supervisors to listen to anti-union rhetoric.

Having someone tell you how to vote on campaign ads over and over again might be annoying.

But imagine if it was your boss telling you how to vote with your job hanging over your head.

In Committee, we heard about situations where employees have to walk past armed law enforcement to cast their votes.

One witness, a Smithfield Foods worker, talked about a time when on "election" day, sheriffs officers were dressed in battle gear with guns lining the long driveway leading to the plant.

This is not the traditional American election.

Madam Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation and give workers the choices they deserve.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 6, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

### MARCH 7

9:30 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine investing in our nation's future through agricultural research.

SR-328A

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine market constraints on large investments in advanced energy technologies and investigate ways to stimulate additional private-sector investment in the deployment of these technologies.

SD-366

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine strengthening American competitiveness for the 21st Century.

SH-216

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine policy implications of pharmaceutical importation for U.S. consumers.

SR-253

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the McCarran-Ferguson Act and Antitrust Immunity.

SD-226

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Veterans Administration adjudication process.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense medical programs.

SD-192

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine fees, interests rates and grace periods relating to credit card practices, focusing on high fees charged for late payments, over-the-limit charges, including how those fees are assessed, how they add to interest costs, and how they contribute to consumer debt, and an industry practice requiring consumer payments to be applied first to balances with the lowest interest rates instead of to balances with the highest interest rates.

SD-342

2 p.m.

Judiciary

Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the enforcement of the antitrust laws.

SD-226

Appropriations

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of Energy.

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Space, Aeronautics, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine national imperatives for Earth Science research.

SR-253