

FREEDOM FOR FRANCISCO
HERODES DÍAZ ECHEMENDÍA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Francisco Herodes Díaz Echemendía, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Díaz Echemendía is a member of the respected Pedro Luis Boitel organization named for Pedro Luis Boitel, a heroic, legendary Cuban political prisoner who died in a hunger strike in 1972. This organization, based in Placetas, Villa Clara, with provincial delegations throughout Cuba, has the primary objective of urging the Cuban tyranny to grant amnesty to all political prisoners and to abolish the indefensible “political” crimes in totalitarian Cuba. Well aware of the consequences associated with his involvement in Cuba’s pro-democracy movement, Mr. Díaz Echemendía has never relinquished his dream that the men and women of Cuba deserve freedom, democracy, and fundamental human rights.

Because of his belief in these inalienable rights, Mr. Díaz Echemendía was arrested by the dictatorship on August 9, 1990 on absurd charges of “enemy propaganda, sabotage, and disrespect” which amounted to nothing more than his decision to voice the truth about totalitarian Cuba. For his supposed “crime” Mr. Díaz Echemendía was wrongfully and cruelly “sentenced” to twenty years and ten months in the totalitarian gulag.

On September 10, 1997, after being held in a subhuman dungeon for seven years, over thirty of the tyrant’s security thugs savagely attacked Mr. Díaz Echemendía and other incarcerated human rights activists. Mr. Díaz Echemendía was mercilessly punched and kicked on the neck, ribs, back and face. By the time the thugs ceased committing their crimes against him he had suffered severe injuries to his left arm and his nose and lips had been split wide open. To add insult to injury he and his fellow political prisoners were handcuffed and unable to defend themselves against their attackers throughout the entire brutal assault.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Díaz Echemendía languishes in conditions that according to Amnesty International are rat infested and crawling with mice and cockroaches, with nothing but a small hole in the ground as a “bathroom”. In prison Mr. Díaz Echemendía has been beaten and tortured at the orders of a racist, brutal, maniacal tyrant, simply for dreaming that the Cuban people must have basic and fundamental universal human rights.

Madam Speaker, this is only one of the abhorrent episodes of violence that are continually carried out on countless innocent Cuban men and women languishing in the darkness and infernal hell that is Castro’s gulag. Let me be clear, Mr. Díaz Echemendía suffers cruel and malignant acts of hatred and horror, which have often left him, like many others on that oppressed island, in critical condition without any access to medical care. And yet, though the tyranny has attempted to destroy Mr. Díaz Echemendía, he will never cease in his commitment to freedom for Cuba.

My colleagues, it is unconscionable that just 90 miles from our shores Mr. Díaz

Echemendía is languishing in a totalitarian gulag for his belief in freedom. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Francisco Herodes Díaz Echemendía and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO ED BRADLEY

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following poem for the RECORD, written by Albert Carey Caswell:

AT A WAY ED

At A Way Ed,
To our world you so gave, all in what you said!
In how you so searched for the truth, for in your heart we so found the proof . . . as you read!

A—pioneer
Who to all hearts so endeared, a man who knew no fear!

For your mission was so clear, with your words of wisdom here . . . to enlighten all, so very clear!

A man of color, of Great Hue!
Who lived & fought for what is right & what is true! An inspiration, a hero for our children to view!

Another great American, in this our great land . . . of That Old Red, White, and Blue!

A tall man,
Of kind voice, of quiet warm grace the people’s choice . . . who above all others would so stand!

With his beard and ear ring, to the cause of truth himself he would bring . . . this man!

Ed, you had such charm . . . in your own soft grace!

The coolest of cool, that’s what we’ll remember whenever we hear your voice and see your face!

For in the world of journalism, you shall always hold such this your fine high place!

From the jungles of Nam,
With Bob Dylan your lyrics were on, With The King Ali . . . all hearts were so touched so warm!

As forever in our hearts, you shall now live on!

For Life is so short,
But, in your Sixty Minutes . . . In your time, here on earth are so many magic moments to report!

You were Champion, A Fine Man . . . a great work of art, who now so stands . . . you were that sort!

At A Boy Ed,
You made it look so easy, a bright ray in the light of truth . . . in all you did and what you said . . .

How you taught so many, all in this . . . the fine life you led!

Ed . . . You’ve got one more exclusive,
You’ve got one last bag to pack, One last plane to catch . . . as an Angel who’ll now so etch!

God’s waiting in Heaven for you, for that greatest of all interviews . . . we’ll miss you, God Bless!

At A Way Ed

TRIBUTE TO DIXIE LOUCKS

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dixie Loucks of Fort Collins, CO. She has led a life of service to her family, community and country.

Dixie was the third of nine children born to Charles and Netha McFarlane. She was raised on the family farm in Chugwater, WY, where she learned the value of family and hard work.

Dixie’s family moved to Cedaredge, CO, when she was sixteen. It was there Dixie met the love of her life, her husband Jack Loucks. He was the boy next door and they married on February 22, 1948.

Jack joined the Air Force in 1949 and left for Korea in 1951 as an F-80 fighter/bomber pilot. He flew 101 missions. During this time Mrs. Loucks continued to live on the family farm and raised their daughter, Cristine. She provided support to her husband by sending him letters and pictures of their new daughter. These letters were a constant inspiration for Jack.

Throughout Jack’s military career, Mrs. Loucks served her family and community. She began her community service at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey at the local hospital, coordinating Red Cross blood drives. As their daughters Cristine and Erylene began school, Mrs. Loucks was a tireless volunteer at their school and with Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls. When the family as stationed in Tripoli, Mrs. Loucks made dresses for the local girls from flour sacks provided through the U.S. Agency for International Development.

After Jack’s retirement the family moved to Fort Collins. Mrs. Loucks worked in the Public Trustee’s office and served on the U.S. military academy selection committees. Additionally, she served as a volunteer at the family’s church, Harbor Hope First Free Methodist Church. She has served as a Sunday School teacher, a nursery leader and as a member of the leadership council.

For the last 2 years Mrs. Loucks has been a member of the ‘Knit and Knot’ group who make fleece blankets, hats and layettes for babies of mothers in the Alpha Center for Women.

Madam Speaker, our country is certainly better because of Mrs. Loucks’ commitment to her family and the years of volunteer service within the military, her community and her church. Hers is a life well lived and a pattern for others to follow. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dixie Loucks.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
DR. EMMA MORAN

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida as I pay tribute to the life of Dr. Emma Moran.

There are those who pass this way and touch lives, and there are those who make lives better for having been in our midst. The depth and breath of the life of Dr. Emma Moran can be summed in one phrase—she loved, she cared and she taught us how to live through the giving of our talents.

Dr. Moran was an educator, activist, advocate, and a believer in the sanctity and importance of education. She had this embracing personality that while in her presence she made you feel that your words and thoughts were important to her, and that she listened and cared. This great woman of faith, tenacity and boundless energy embodied the better qualities of human existence, and she demanded no less from each of us. Dr.

Moran was and is a true inspiration.

Rest now, my friend, for your work here is done and your life shall live on forever in each of us.

IN RECOGNITION OF 40 YEARS OF SERVICE BY REV. ALVIN R. KOLB

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great honor that I rise today to extend my congratulations to Rev. Alvin R. Kolb for having served as the minister to the Assemblies of God for 40 years.

Since 1967, Reverend Kolb has led the spiritual growth of so many people looking to him for guidance in their faith. At the age of 15, he held his first cottage prayer meeting, and soon after, he began organizing church revivals. It was at one of his revivals that he met his wife, Maralyn Enfinger Kolb. They married in 1971, raised 5 children, and are the proud grandparents of 11 grandchildren.

Reverend Kolb pastored his first church in 1973; the Harold Assembly of God began with a congregation of just five widowed women. From there his ministry grew and he went on to pastor the Assemblies of God at Cedar Springs, Calvary Full Gospel, Bay Springs, Whitfield, Bradley, and East Milton. So many have come to know and love the Lord through Reverend Kolb, and his ministry has prompted others to become pastors and ministers themselves, such as his youngest son, Robert.

For the past 10 years, Reverend Kolb has served as the pastor of the East Milton Assembly of God. Both his family and the members of his congregation value his commitment to the church and are grateful that he will continue to serve as the leader in their thriving place of worship for years to come.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to a man who has served as a role model to us all. A deep sense of personal service to congregations for 40 years is something to truly be admired and I am thankful for his dedication to the East Milton Assembly of God.

COMMEMORATION OF THE MORNING STAR MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church has been a historic and cultural landmark of Portland ever since May 17, 1959, when the congregation marched from their temporary home on North Fargo Street to their new home at 106 Northeast Ivy Street. It was there that Reverend O.B. Williams of Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church preached the first sermon as Morning Star's guest for the afternoon service.

The Church building, constructed in 1919, and inhabited by Morning Star for the past 48 years, has come to represent not only a historic landmark, but a lively center of worship. The church also embodies an important part of the modern-day tradition, culture, and fabric of the community. Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church has helped to meet the needs of the community by providing important assistance to those around them who are in need. In addition, the church offers a venue for a vital spiritual and social community network.

The Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church has endured much restoration and growth in the past, but no one in the community was prepared for the tragic burning to the ground of this historic building on February 6, 2007. In a show of support, many individuals, churches, community organizations and local businesses have offered thousands of dollars in donations in support of the eventual reconstruction of the church. We thank them for their generosity.

It is with admiration and respect that the long history of the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church be honored. By commemorating this historic fire and the eventual reconstruction, Portland can help to keep the memory and present duty of this church alive.

We stand with Pastor A. Wayne Johnson, the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church congregation and their respective communities in solidarity during this trying time. We recognize the sense of loss that all associated must feel surrounding this unexpected fire, and we extend our best wishes to the congregation for the church's recovery and restoration. We only hope that the church's capacity to help the community it has reached out to over its many esteemed years of service will soon be restored to its fullest.

TRIBUTE TO THE POTH HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the women of the Poth High School Girls Basketball Team in their stunning 72–70 double-overtime victory against the top-ranked Winnsboro in the Class 2A championship game.

The story of the Poth High School Girls Basketball team is of a team that fought against the odds to achieve one of the best high school sports victories in Texas history. The team had lost in the semifinals each of the previous three years, and their game against Winnsboro was not one in which they were expected to win. The excitement of the crowd exploded when Whitney Wehymeyer scored thirty points and Lauren Waclawczyk added sixteen points in the second overtime's final seconds to send Poth to the Class 2A state championship with their 72–70 win.

There was a story that echoed the classic underdog against the presumptive winner, but due to their remarkable team spirit and strong determination to win, they came out on top. I am very proud that these remarkable women have won the state championship, and that they are from Poth, a city in my congressional district. The city has shown strong support of women's sports teams in their community.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the women of the Poth High School Girls Basketball team, and I thank you for this time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I will like to submit this statement for the RECORD and regret that I was unavoidably detained with legislative business on March 20, 2007 on the vote for rollcall vote No. 164 and on March 22, 2007 on the vote for rollcall No. 181.

Had I been present, I would have voted:

“No” on rollcall No. 164 on the amendment to H.R. 1227 that would require recipients of rental assistance under the bill—those displaced from their homes, many of whom lost their jobs as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita—to perform 20 hours per week of approved work activities.

“Yea” on rollcall No. 181 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 66, permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

CONGRATULATING THE 2007 WE THE PEOPLE NATIONAL FINALS

HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, from April 28–30, 2007, more than 1200 students from across the country will visit Washington, DC, to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that the State of Georgia will be represented by a class from