

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Officer Ollie Lee McCoy for his tremendous contributions to the United States Capitol complex. The experience and zeal he has brought to his job—and the concern and compassion he has displayed for everyone whom he has encountered all these many years—are unquestioned and unparalleled. Officer McCoy has indeed been a genuine asset to the police department and to the thousands of men, women, and children he has assisted over the past two decades.

Make no mistake, Officer McCoy's talents and experience in the department will be sorely missed. Along with his many friends and colleagues, I wish to extend to Officer McCoy and his family much health and happiness in the years ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TULSA-
GREENWOOD RIOT ACCOUNT-
ABILITY ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Tulsa-Greenwood Riot Accountability Act of 2007, along with Representative NADLER. This legislation will extend the statute of limitations to allow the survivors of the Tulsa-Greenwood Riot of 1921 to seek a determination on the merits of their civil rights and other claims against the perpetrators of the riot in a court of law.

The Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, OK, was one of the Nation's most prosperous African-American communities entering the decade of the 1920s. Serving over 8,000 residents, the community boasted two newspapers, over a dozen churches, and hundreds of African-American owned businesses, with the commercial district known nationally as the "Negro Wall Street." In May 1921, all that came to an end as 42 square blocks of the community were burned to the ground and up to 300 of its residents were killed by a racist mob. In the wake of the violence, the State and local governments quashed claims for redress and effectively erased the incident from official memory.

The 1921 Tulsa race riot was one of the most destructive and costly attacks upon an American community in our Nation's history. However, no convictions were obtained for the incidents of murder, arson or larceny connected with the riot, and none of the more than 100 contemporaneously filed lawsuits by residents and property owners were successful in recovering damages from insurance companies to assist in the reconstruction of the community.

The case of the Tulsa-Greenwood riot victims is worthy of congressional attention because substantial evidence suggests that governmental officials deputized and armed the mob and that the National Guard joined in the destruction. The report commissioned by the Oklahoma State Legislature in 1997, and published in 2001, uncovered new information and detailed, for the first time, the extent of the involvement by the State and city government in prosecuting and erasing evidence of the riot. This new evidence was crucial for the formulation of a substantial case, but its timeliness

raised issues at law, and resulted in a dismissal on statute of limitation grounds. In dismissing the survivors' claims, however, the court found that extraordinary circumstances might support extending the statute of limitations, but that Congress did not establish rules applicable to the case at bar. With this legislation, we have the opportunity to provide closure for a group of claimants—all over 90 years old—and the ability to close the book on a tragic chapter in history.

Racism, and its violent manifestations, are part of this Nation's past that we cannot avoid. With the prosecution of historical civil rights claims, both civil and criminal, we encourage a process of truth and reconciliation which can heal historic wounds. In this case, the court took "no great comfort" in finding that there was no legal avenue through which the plaintiffs could bring their claims. The Tulsa-Greenwood Riot Accountability Act would simply give Tulsans and all Oklahomans, white and black, victims and non-victims, their day in court. Without that opportunity, we will all continue to be victims of our past.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I was not able to participate in legislative duties last week as I was in my District taking care of family commitments.

On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended to H.R. 1677 Taxpayer Protection Act—Vote "yea."

On Motion to Suspend Rules and Agree to H. Res. 196 Supporting the Goals and Ideals of World Water Day—Vote "yea."

On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended to H. Con. Res. 100 Condemning the recent violent actions of the Government of Zimbabwe against the peaceful opposition party activists and members of civil society—Vote "yea."

On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 273 Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month—Vote "yea."

On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 76 Honoring the 50th Anniversary of the International Geophysical Year and its past contributions to space research and looking forward to future accomplishments—Vote "yea."

On Passage of H.R. 195 District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act—Vote "nay."

On Passage of H.R. 1495 Water Resources Development Act—Vote "yea."

On Passage of H.R. 1257 Shareholder Votes on Executive Compensation Act—Vote "yea."

HONORING CORPORAL JASON
BEADLES OF LA PORTE, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifice of Corporal Jason

Beadles of La Porte, IN, who died on April 12, 2007, while proudly serving his Nation in Baghdad, Iraq. Jason risked everything in order to provide security and freedom to people halfway around the world.

Jason loved Johnny Cash, and he loved country music. He loved taking his nieces and nephews swimming. He loved fooling around and playing games with his brothers and cousins in the backyard. He loved motorcycles, and hoped to eventually turn this passion into a career. In many ways Jason always was, as his parents described him to a local paper, a big child at heart.

But Jason also loved his country. Moved by the horror of 9/11 and inspired by his father and grandfather, his brother and uncles, Jason joined the Army to serve his country. Where before there was the big child, now there was an honorable man.

And as an honorable man, Jason braved the dangers of war. In braving those dangers, Jason knew that he might face a day when he was called upon to pay the highest price demanded of any patriot. To the sorrow of the Beadles family and Jason's many friends, Jason did pay that price less than two weeks ago.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Jason Beadles into the official record of the United States House of Representatives in honor of his service to this country and the ultimate price he paid. We honor him today as a true patriot, and a true hero. He served his country at war so that, as a great President once said, "freedom might live, and grow and increase its blessings."

May God grant peace to those who mourn and strength to those who continue to fight. And may God be with all of us, as I know he is with Jason.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a people who despite murder, hardship, and betrayal have persevered. April 24, 2007, marks the 92nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Throughout three decades in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, millions of Armenians were systematically uprooted from their homeland of 3,000 years and deported or massacred. From 1894 through 1896, three hundred thousand Armenians were ruthlessly murdered. Again in 1909, thirty thousand Armenians were massacred in Cilicia, and their villages were destroyed.

On April 24, 1915, two hundred Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were arbitrarily arrested, taken to Turkey and murdered. This incident marks a dark and solemn period in the history of the Armenian people. From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Empire launched a systematic campaign to exterminate Armenians. In 8 short years, more than 1.5 million Armenians suffered through atrocities such as deportation, forced slavery and torture. Most were ultimately murdered.

Many of our companions in the international community have already taken this final step.

The European Parliament and the United Nations have recognized and reaffirmed the Armenian Genocide as historical fact, as have the Russian and Greek parliaments, the Canadian House of Commons, the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies and the French National Assembly. It is time for America to join the chorus and acknowledge the Armenians who suffered at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. And let me stress that I am not speaking of the government of modern day Turkey, but rather its predecessor, which many of Turkey's present day leaders helped to remove from power.

As I have in the past, as a member of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, I will continue to work with my colleagues and with the Armenian-Americans in my district to promote investment and prosperity in Armenia. And, I sincerely hope that this year, the U.S. will have the opportunity and courage to speak in support of the millions of Armenians who suffered because of their heritage.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, April is National Minority Health Month. Its goal is to foster awareness of minority health issues, and spur dialogue and solutions toward ensuring that minorities are not disproportionately vulnerable to illness, disease and premature death. In the U.S., Hispanics, African-Americans and Asian Pacific Islanders have significant healthcare needs. These groups suffer from high levels of poverty and disease, including diabetes, heart disease, tuberculosis, hepatitis, and cancer. Large numbers of minorities are also uninsured or under-insured. In a world where we have shortages of nurses, doctors, and other health practitioners, with respect to minority health in particular, there is no shortage of need.

To meet these challenges, the health concerns of particular minority groups must be addressed, and this must be achieved as we better our healthcare system. I am a strong supporter of the healthcare providers and research institutions in my district of El Paso, TX, such as Texas Tech University, the University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso Community College, the Border Health Institute (BHI), Pan American Health Organization, La Fe, Project Vida, Project Arriba, Fort Bliss, area hospitals and clinics, and individual doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals. I believe we must make every effort to create solid foundations for healthcare in our communities.

National Minority Health Month is a vitally important time for millions of Americans. In honor of National Minority Health Month, I urge my colleagues in Congress to support initiatives designed to effectively reduce minority health disparities. With respect to minority health, though there may be no shortage of need, we must assure there is also no shortage of resources to address the disparity, and eventually close the gap.