

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IMPLEMENTING THE 9/11 COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1, the Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act. The safety of our families, our communities and our country is the top priority of Americans and today, finally, it is the top priority of Congress.

It is long past time to make the changes and investments necessary to improve our homeland security. The Commission submitted 41 recommendations in 2004. Since then, the Republican-controlled Congress has failed to take action. In fact, last year, the bipartisan 9/11 Commissioners gave Congress failing grades on implementing the Commission's recommendations.

H.R. 1 will both enhance our homeland security and reduce the threat overseas. Implementing these recommendations is supported by 9/11 families and 62 percent of Americans.

This bill includes several critical elements to improving American security. It will establish a grant program to improve interoperability and finally allow our first responders to communicate and share information with one another. It also ensures that taxpayer dollars are used wisely and requires that homeland security grants are awarded based on risk. H.R. 1. will provide for screening of 100 percent of containers bound for the U.S. and establishes an improved system of screening the cargo and baggage on aircraft.

Democrats have also included provisions to act proactively in improving stability around the world. This legislation will improve prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear technology. It will also take a critical step in reducing the appeal of extremism by encouraging educational opportunities in Arab and Muslim countries.

H.R. 1. will change Congress' failing grade to an "A" from the 9/11 Commission. This legislation is a comprehensive effort to enhance our security and to promote stability and understanding around the world. 9/11 Commissioner Lee Hamilton said that if H.R. 1 passes, America will be safer. I urge my colleagues to join me in making this so.

HONORING THE CITY OF ELYRIA DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Elyria Dr. Martin Luther

King, Jr. Day of Service celebrated annually for the past 21 years. The city of Elyria, located in beautiful Lorain County, OH, has presented an award to the individual or group who best exemplified Dr. King's ideals of freedom, justice and opportunity.

Heman Ely founded Elyria, situated at the forks of the Black River, in 1817. The name Elyria came partially from Ely's own name and from his deep interest in the Austrian province of Illyria, which he visited in 1809 after its conquest by Napoleon. Elyria has enjoyed an illustrious history and has been home to a wide range of former residents.

In 1907, Elyria resident and businessperson Edgar Allen began raising money for a new local hospital in response to the tragic loss of his son in a streetcar accident. Allen was appalled at the lack of adequate services for special needs children so he sold his business and began raising money for a new local hospital. This fundraising culminated in the creation of Easter Seals organization in 1919. Other notable Elyria residents include current NFL quarterback Tim Rattay and the authors Sherwood Anderson and Robert Erwin Lee. With a wide-ranging history such as this, it is only natural for Elyria to celebrate the ideals of Dr. King.

All Americans know of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s stature as a national hero. From his celebrated "Letter from Birmingham Jail" to his organization of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Dr. King demonstrated that eloquent words followed with significant action could affect social change without resorting to violence. His "I Have a Dream" speech movingly spelled out his dream of racial equality and propelled the issue to the forefront of national consciousness.

In closing, I commend the City of Elyria and all the organizations that have spent countless hours organizing this celebration honoring Dr. King's birthday. These awards are given annually to recognize service and achievement of persons who live or work in the City of Elyria in areas consistent with the teachings and example of Dr. King. His dedication to racial, social and economic justice is a model that the world should emulate now more than ever and this is why I enthusiastically support this award.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM ANDERSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. William Anderson, for his lifetime commitment to social change and the civil rights movement.

Dr. Anderson was born on December 12, 1927 and is a native of Americus, GA. He graduated from Alabama State College, the

University of Osteopathic and Health Sciences and is certified in general surgery.

Throughout his career, as a doctor of osteopathic medicine, Dr. Anderson has contributed to the medical community, in Albany where he began his career as well as in Detroit, MI, and Kirksville, MO.

However, in the segregationist South of the 1950s and early 1960s, Dr. Anderson's medical career became intertwined with the civil rights movement. At that time, there were no black hospitals in Albany. In white hospitals, Dr. Anderson was denied privileges such as admitting patients and using equipment—making it virtually impossible to practice medicine. So, Dr. Anderson improvised, servicing his patients by setting up his practice in a private office.

In 1961, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who Dr. Anderson had met a few years before, brought his movement to Albany. Soon, Dr. Anderson assumed the role of President of the Albany Movement. Over the next few months, hundreds of protestors were jailed for staging sit-ins at local bus terminals, including Dr. King and Reverend Ralph Abernathy. History tells us that the Albany movement, amid the hostile environment of southwest Georgia, was a struggle whose efforts were consistently thwarted by a determined sector of the white population.

However, history also tells us that the Albany Movement in which Dr. Anderson played an integral role has become viewed as a milestone in the greater civil rights movement. A year after the Albany movement began, hundreds of voters were registered and the city commission removed all segregation statutes from the books.

Madam Speaker, none of this could have been achieved without the efforts of Dr. Anderson. He is an inspiration for young men and women, and I stand here today to commend him for his service to his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF NKEIRU OKOYE

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize renowned composer Nkeiru Okoye. On Monday, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, Ms. Okoye's composition, "Voices Shouting Out" will be performed by the esteemed Philadelphia Orchestra. This concert is, in fact, the 25th performance of her masterpiece. She deserves recognition for her musical accomplishments and her many efforts to bring a symphony of harmony to a world filled with discord.

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