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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ENGEL).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC.
April 24, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ELIOT L. ENGEL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) for 2 minutes.

ARMY SPECIALIST JOEY CANTRELL

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

One of the most solemn duties that we can have in the House of Representatives is to recognize the sacrifice, devotion and service of those who protect this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Army Specialist Joey Cantrell, a soldier from Westwood, Kentucky, who recently lost his life fighting in Taji, Iraq, serving with the

Army's Second Battalion, Eighth Cavalry Regiment.

Specialist Cantrell graduated from Fairview High School in 2002 and was a celebrated athlete both on the football field and around the track. His football coach and mentor, Fairview school superintendent Bill Musick, told a local paper, "You always noticed Joey Cantrell because of how he presented himself. He was a sharp kid." Joey overcame adversity, achieved academic excellence, was a leader and a tough competitor in athletics, and won the friendship of many. When it came to serving, his coach shared with me that Joey felt it was a call to go into the military.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit with his mother Sondra Adkins. His family and friends remembered his warm smile, thoughtful nature and his ability to excel at everything he did. Joey Cantrell will be deeply missed by all who knew him. His mother shared that Joey believed in what he was doing and gave his life doing what he wanted to do.

Today, as we honor Joey's memory, our Nation grieves with his mother and his family. We are deeply indebted to Joey and thankful for his service. Soldiers like Joey Cantrell make me proud to be an American.

ON THE PASSING OF CONGRESSWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland, the distinguished majority leader, Mr. HOYER.

Mr. HOYER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is with deep sadness that I rise today to note the passing of our colleague and friend, Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, a dedicated public servant who worked tirelessly

on behalf of her constituents in California's 37th Congressional District and a devoted representative who cared deeply for those she served.

Congresswoman Millender-McDonald was someone who never allowed the conventions of her surroundings to define the role she would play. Because she understood that education would unlock her budding potential as a community leader, Juanita achieved something extraordinary by earning a bachelor's degree from Redlands University at the age of 40, and a master's degree from California State University at the age of 47.

Because she recognized her duty to give back just a little of what she had learned, Juanita made our children's future her life's work by teaching math and English in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Because she could not sit idly by when she had much to offer, Juanita turned to public service in 1990, becoming the first African American woman to serve on the Carson city council, the first African American woman to chair two committees in the California State assembly, and the first African American woman to chair a full committee in the U.S. Congress.

And because she never let go of her abiding faith in the fact that our tomorrows can be better than our today's, Juanita will be remembered, remembered as a leader who inspired action, drove progress and labored diligently to improve the lives of people throughout our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the advocates of equal rights for women and minorities have lost a powerful voice in the U.S. Congress, one that always sought to bring people together by elevating the bonds that unite us as Americans and as human beings. Children and the working poor have lost a compassionate

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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



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ally. Men and women seeking to participate in their own governance have lost a steadfast guardian of voting rights who fought to expand the reach of democracy, not only in spirit but in practice as well. And defenders of human rights have lost a champion of their cause who never missed an opportunity to remind the free world of its obligation to help alleviate suffering and restore fundamental human dignity to those who have gone without it for far too long, such as those suffering in Darfur. Juanita Millender-McDonald personified what it means to serve others before serving self.

Mr. Speaker, I want Juanita's husband, James, and her children and grandchildren to know that the thoughts and prayers of a grateful Nation are with them as they mourn their loss. We join them in their mourning but we also join them in their joy of a life well-lived.

CHAIRWOMAN JUANITA
MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to take a moment today to express my heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and constituents of Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald and pay tribute to her legacy of leadership and her profound impact on this institution, the people she served and indeed our Nation.

Chairwoman McDonald was a trailblazer who paved the way for me and many others to be elected and to serve in the Congress. I am ever mindful of the legacy of integrity and excellence that she has imparted to each and every one of us. I embrace it and can truly say that she has touched my life. Though we were colleagues in this body for a short while, we had many moments of interactions that were truly empowering. She never missed a moment to be encouraging and complimentary.

Just a week ago or so before the chairwoman took her leave from the Congress, we encountered one another in this very Chamber. She inquired of me about how I was doing. My response to her was, "I'm just trying to keep up with you, Madam Chair." She smiled her beautiful and elegant smile and said to me, "You're doing it, girl."

It has truly been a blessing for me as a freshman to have been acknowledged and encouraged by this truly remarkable, elegant and extraordinary role model. The legacy of Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald will never be forgotten. It has been imparted to all of us and it will certainly always reside with me.

God bless you, sister. Thank you for all you have given to each and every one of us. Well done.

CHAIRWOMAN JUANITA
MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker and Members, I come to the floor today to join with my colleagues in recognition of a public servant who served in this august body, who served in the California State legislature, who served the city of Compton as a city councilwoman, who served as head of the NAACP in the city of Compton, who was a community activist, a legislator and not only a committed servant but a woman who was determined to make sure that she did everything possible to bring about justice and equality, not only for our people but for all people.

I have known Juanita Millender-McDonald for over 35 years. I knew her before she was the president of the Compton chapter of the NAACP. She contacted me when she became the president and we worked on some projects together. We went on to work on many projects together. When my son ran for the California State legislature, she was involved with his campaign. When her son made an attempt to get back into professional football, my husband who was a professional football player, having played for the Cleveland Browns, helped to connect him with some recruiters in order to get him into professional football. And so we have interacted on a professional level, on a personal level and in so many ways for such a long period of time.

We have been involved in some of the same kind of issues over the years. I can recall, it was not so many years ago when it was revealed that perhaps our government had known about drugs that were being transported from Nicaragua into south central Los Angeles, and, of course, that revelation kicked off a firestorm in this country. Juanita McDonald invited the head of the CIA to come to south central Los Angeles to speak to the people and tell them what he knew about the Contras and about the Sandinistas and our involvement with the drug trade, this government. Did this government turn a blind eye while drugs were being transported across our borders?

It was an unusual event. Never had the head of the CIA been to a community to speak with the people, and people were everywhere. The FBI, the CIA, everybody was standing on roofs all over the place. It was a spectacular event. But that was her style.

Juanita McDonald and I not only worked on that issue in different ways. We have been involved in trying to save Martin Luther King Hospital for a number of years now. This has been a tough, tough battle. This hospital was born out of the ashes of the insurrection of 1965 in south Los Angeles. This is an institution that is so very much

needed but is such at risk at this point. This institution has been threatened by the Federal Government to withdraw all of its Federal funds and we have fought day in and day out, month in and month out, year in and year out to maintain the funding from the Federal Government so that that hospital could stay there for people who need it so desperately.

Juanita McDonald has organized many meetings. She has interacted not only with CMS and the Federal Government but all of the county officials. Time after time we have sat before the board of supervisors, imploring them to do everything that they could to straighten out the problems at Martin Luther King Hospital, to work harder, to make sure there was the management and the supervision.

Juanita McDonald cared about health issues. Not only was she involved with trying to save Martin Luther King Hospital, she organized an AIDS walk that took place every year. She and her women's group organized and each year they went to one of the stadiums in the south Los Angeles area and they held their walk. It got a lot of attention, but this was her way of saying to the community, not only do I care about AIDS, I'm willing to put some quality time and attention on this issue. I want you to get tested. I want you to get involved in learning how you can protect yourself from being infected with HIV/AIDS. And so it is just a small example of the care and commitment that she has demonstrated over the years, whether we talk about health care or education or voting rights that she was so very much involved in before she took her leave of absence.

She cared about justice. She cared that this democracy would truly act in ways that supported the proposition that everybody has the right to a decent quality of life. Everybody must be protected by the Constitution of the United States of America. Everybody must enjoy the benefits of living in this great country. And she reached beyond with care for the mother continent of Africa. She was involved in those issues, also.

And so I stand here today to say, Juanita McDonald has taken her place in history and she did it her way. Sometimes we did it different ways, but she knew what she was doing and why she was doing it the way that she did. Her husband can be proud. Her children can be proud. And we can all be proud that we had the blessing and the opportunity to live and work with a woman of substance, a woman who cared, a woman who gave of herself and a woman who left us with dignity, a woman who never complained, a woman who never said, I feel bad, I have pain, I can't do it today. She worked right up until she took a leave of absence just a few days ago.

I am proud to stand here and say that I knew her, that I worked with her, that I have appreciated everything