

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO THE MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) and its celebration of the 26th Minority Enterprise Development Week. Together, the Minority Business Development Agency and minority entrepreneurs provide immense contributions to the back bone of the economy of this great nation; this type of invaluable economic participation must be commended.

With tireless work, minority entrepreneurs and the MBDA have made tremendous advances in advancing the level of ethnic equality seen in the United States' business sector. The strides made towards equal opportunity, increased competition, and economic growth with regard to minority-owned businesses are utterly remarkable.

Minority Enterprise Development Week provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of minority entrepreneurs and the Minority Business Development Agency. This week gives everyone time to reflect on the ever-growing role of minority businesses in the vast business landscape of the United States economy.

The competition, diversity and unrelenting work of minority owned businesses provide intangible assets to the growth of the overall economy. It is for this reason that the MBDA and minority entrepreneurs ought to receive the praise and continuing support of people across the country.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the accomplishments of the Minority Business Development Agency and minority entrepreneurs as they offer their unique talents and services for an improved business environment for minority owned businesses in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing the invaluable efforts of the Minority Business Development Agency and minority entrepreneurs toward strengthening not only the United States economy, but minority equality movements everywhere.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS MADE AT THE 8TH LEON H. SULLIVAN SUMMIT IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the work and accomplishments of

the Leon H. Sullivan Foundation. The Sullivan Foundation held its eighth summit this past June and was hosted by Tanzanian President, Jakaya Kikwete.

Delegates and celebrities from Africa, the United States and the Caribbean were present for this landmark event, including NBA star Kelenna Azubuike, community leader Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, CNN News anchor TJ Holmes, and actor Chris Tucker.

The purpose of this summit was to facilitate positive change in Tanzania. This goal was not only met, but surpassed. Contributions from organizations such as; the Iovino Family Foundation, the Maasai Women's Development Organization and Books for Africa have brought about the ability to create sustainable development and education programs throughout Tanzania.

I would like to recognize the late Leon H. Sullivan for his unwavering commitment to changing the standards of living in Africa. It was his contribution that has allowed for the Sullivan Foundation's success today.

8TH LEON H. SULLIVAN SUMMIT SETS HISTORICAL LANDMARK: "MOTHER OF ALL SUMMITS" LEAVES MEMORABLE FOOTPRINT IN TANZANIA

June 18, 2008 (Arusha, Tanzania)—In what was called the "Mother of all Summits," the eighth edition of the Leon H. Sullivan Summit hosted by President Jakaya Kikwete this June brought more than 4,000 participants to the beautiful landscape of Arusha, Tanzania. By the last day of plenary and workshop sessions, what was promised to be the "Summit of a Lifetime" turned out to be what many may consider a week of transformation for Tanzania.

"The spirit of my father has definitely moved through this year's Summit and I am truly inspired by all of the selfless displays of generosity and support that were shown during the week. These types of connections, the ones you can see and touch, are what the Summits are all about. This Summit really made a difference in the lives of others. No one can deny that."

With forty-seven nations represented, the spirit of Reverend Sullivan was alive and well during the week-long conference. On the first day alone, the Iovino Family Foundation gave a \$20,000 donation to the Maasai Women's Development Organization (MWEDO), which aims to provide self-sufficiency and increased access to public services and education; Books for Africa gave an initial contribution of 40,000 textbooks and later pledged to provide an additional \$100,000 in textbooks for various schools throughout Arusha; More than 1,200 Olyset mosquito nets were supplied to the most endemic villages in Arusha along with school supplies for the Manyatta Village Primary School; Frank Ski, an Atlanta-based radio personality and youth advocate purchased and delivered school supplies to children in local Tanzanian villages, while other attendees sponsored and executed additional independent outreach projects of their own to directly benefit and impact the education and well-being of Tanzanian men, women, and children.

In addition, NBA player Kelenna Azubuike of the Golden State Warriors adopted an orphanage, (the Nora Childcare Trust) and do-

nated 40 pairs of brand new NBA basketball shoes and shirts to the Tanzanian Basketball Federation, of which Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete is a member. The Myungung Presbyterian Baptist Church, using state of the art drilling equipment was able to provide clean drinking water to a community of 12,000 people in Arusha. The state of the art drill used to locate and extract clean drinking water from deep within the earth, is valued at more than \$500,000.

But perhaps the most moving and memorable gesture of the Summit, came from Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, who, during the state dinner made a public call to guests to help raise at least \$25,000 to improve the educational facilities of Tanzania's schools. Within thirty minutes the delegation, led by Summit Co-Chairmen Ambassador Carlton Masters and Ambassador Andrew Young, Sullivan Foundation President and CEO Hope Masters, over \$50,000 from individual donations ranging from as little as \$5 to \$5,000 was raised. Actor Chris Tucker and CNN news anchor TJ. Holmes were the first to make significant contributions.

By the Summit's end, delegates were able to wind down and relax with a breathtaking trip to Zanzibar Island. It was there that delegates were able to reflect and acknowledge a truly beautiful part of Africa that many admitted they didn't even know existed.

"The beauty and history of Zanzibar was captivating to me and others alike," stated Nichet Smith, Director of Public Relations for the Sullivan Foundation. "Moments like those I have captured and will hold onto forever. Zanzibar is definitely a place that everyone should see in their lifetime."

Remaining forever committed to the goals of the Summit—to provide a platform for Africa's political, economic, and cultural leaders, the Sullivan Foundation has completed yet another piece of the ever evolving bridge of hope, change and inspiration towards the vision and legacy of an extraordinary man, The Reverend Leon Howard Sullivan. For more information about the 2008 Leon H. Sullivan Summit, please visit www.the-sullivanfoundation.org/summit or contact Nichet Smith 202.736.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like open by saying inclusion of all members of society regardless of race, creed or color, is the strength of our all volunteer Armed Forces. Saturday, July 26, 2008 will mark the 60th anniversary when President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981 demonstrating the moral courage to "do what was right and honorable"—to integrate the armed forces of our country. Since the Revolutionary War, African Americans have participated in cod every war or conflict. There were, at the time, countless examples of bravery and noteworthy service that spanned from Crispus Attucks to the

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

54th Massachusetts Regiment the Buffalo Soldiers, to the Tuskegee Airmen. Service in the greatest war or World War II was the culmination of much collective sacrifice and many individual acts of patriotism. The decision to issue Executive Order 9981 which integrated the armed forces confirmed that diversity is our strength and not our weakness. Since the signing of Executive Order 9981, I can forthrightly say that our country has been stronger and a better society overall.

President Truman and his advisors recognized that complete racial integration at all ranks is an essential prerequisite to a cohesive and highly effective fighting force. We see success with the challenges of diversity as being critical to national security. One poignant example is the way our armed forces were hampered with racial conflict in the ranks during the Vietnam conflict in the 1960s and 1970s. This serves as an effective lesson on the importance of inclusion and equal opportunity at all levels of leadership.

However, there has been progress, and I believe that the U.S. Military is a pioneer in providing equal opportunity for its uniformed members above and beyond what is usually seen in the civilian workforce. In truth, a senior military boardroom is a much closer semblance of our society than the average corporate boardroom. But, we can and should do better because it is simply the right and necessary thing to do. Senior military leadership diversity is a matter of strategic importance to the future well-being of our fighting forces. I have initiated dialogue with the senior leadership of each service branch to lay this issue on the table for a healthy discussion.

Of particular note and at their request, I have met with the Commandant of the Marine Corps (General Conway), the Chief of Naval Operations (Admiral Roughead) twice, the Secretary of the Army (General Casey) and plan to meet with the new Secretary of the Air Force (nominee General Schwartz) in the very near future. Their willingness to discuss difficult topics and issues is a testament to their dedication to finding a suitable and long-standing resolution to establishing diversity within DoD. We collectively believe that diversity within DoD and more specifically at the most senior or Flag officer level is critical to recruiting and retention as well as the national security of this nation.

Over the past few years there has been some progress in terms of promotion of Flag level officers and assignment to high profile positions critical to national security. Two examples are Lieutenant General Lloyd Austin currently serving as Commander Multi-National Forces (MNF) in Iraq and Major General Walt E. Gaskin who served as the Commander Multi-National Forces (MNF) West in Iraq.

It is prudent that we accept the fact that diversity is a necessary component within the officer corps of the services and more specifically the Flag officer pool. Of greatest importance is the most senior flag level rank, which represents the major decision-making and influential officer level population within the Department of Defense.

Rather than substituting my interpretation of the myriad ideas discussed in my recent meetings, I think it is best to provide a forum for all of the principal stakeholders and subject matter experts to delve deeper into the issue and provide the Committee on Armed Services

with their recommendations. I have respectfully laid before the House Armed Services Committee language creating a Commission on senior military leadership diversity in the House FY09 NDAA.

The Commission will review current policy and programs to provide recommendations to the Pentagon to insure that qualified minority and female officers are given the same career advancement opportunities as their counterparts.

As you know, of the 39 active four-star Generals, there is currently only one minority, General Kip Ward of Africa Command (AFRICOM). Of the 141 three-star level or 0–9 rank Flag level officers, there are only six minority Generals and five female Generals. Minorities of African-, Hispanic-, Asian-, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Native Alaskan decent represent slightly over 19 percent of the over 207,000 officers in the four service branches, but make up over 38 percent of the enlisted ranks.

I believe that just as President Truman had the courage to sign Executive Order 9981 that integrated the armed services in 1948 that it is now time to take a holistic look at the makeup of our officer corps from the most junior to the most senior leadership position to insure that it is diverse and balanced.

We now have the opportunity in our nation's history to begin to put in place a long term solution to the long term challenge of establishing diversity at all levels within our military.

I believe that the onus falls our shoulders to provide a continuation of the courageous initiative that President Truman undertook in order to fully realize integration at all levels within the armed forces and in particular at the senior leadership level.

I respectfully request that the Congress continue to support the establishment of a Commission to discuss diversity in the officer corps and insure equal access to opportunities for the most senior leadership ranks of our Armed Forces.

AVIATION SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today, we are considering H.R. 6493, the Aviation Safety Enhancement Act of 2008.

This important legislation was introduced in a bipartisan manner and I want to thank Chairman OBERSTAR and Ranking Members MICA and PETRI for working with me on this legislation.

The United States has the safest air transportation system in the world; however, I have said time and again, we must not become complacent about our past success.

The Committee's April 3 hearing on the failure of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to properly oversee air carrier maintenance programs demonstrates the need for this Committee to ensure vigorous oversight by the FAA to maintain the highest level of safety.

Following the April 3 hearing, the Department of Transportation Inspector General

(DOT IG) made several recommendations to the FAA to ensure proper safety oversight. The FAA's reluctance to accept the IG's recommendations, including establishing an independent entity within the FAA to review FAA employee safety concerns and rotating certain safety inspectors to ensure objective safety oversight is unacceptable. That is why I strongly support H.R. 6493, which establishes an independent Aviation Safety Whistleblower Investigation Office within the FAA; rotates principal supervisory inspectors every 5 years; mandates modification to FAA's customer service initiative; and requires monthly reviews of the FAA's Air Transportation Oversight System (ATOS) database. H.R. 6493 is a positive first step to ensure that FAA maintains safety as its highest priority.

In my capacity as Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, I have noticed a pattern with the FAA—the FAA is a reactive agency—not a proactive agency. We have seen it in the area of runway safety; improving conditions at our air traffic control facilities; congestion and delays at our airports and in the sky; and now in safety oversight.

It is a continuous pattern—the FAA only acts when pushed into action by the Aviation Subcommittee or the Full Committee. It is my hope that H.R. 6493 spurs the FAA to be proactive instead of reactive and make the necessary changes to ensure effective oversight of our Nation's aviation system. The American traveling public deserves no less.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6493.

CONDEMNING 1994 ATTACK ON ARGENTINE JEWISH CENTER

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution, condemning the attack on the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association (AMIA), and I would like to thank my friend from Florida, the Ranking Member on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for sponsoring this meaningful resolution.

Mr. Speaker, on July 18th, 1994, a huge explosion rocked the city of Buenos Aires—marking the second murderous attack against Israeli and Jewish targets in Argentina, which is home to the largest Jewish community in Latin America. The first occurred 2 years prior and was aimed at the Israeli Embassy. The second was the bombing of the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association—where 85 people were murdered and hundreds more wounded.

It has been 14 years since the Jewish Mutual Association was attacked. Yet, the culprits have not been brought to justice. Part of the reason is there is extensive evidence linking the planning of the attacks to the Government of Iran and the execution of that attack to Hezbollah, an umbrella organization of radical Islamic Shiite groups with strong links to Iran and Syria. Iran and Hezbollah have a history of supporting and sponsoring terror, and they have been unwilling to cooperate with investigators.

I have denounced their actions, particularly Iran for being the engine behind these attacks