

work on actuators will enhance the ability of airplanes to fly through turbulent air while maintaining smooth flight. In addition to the improvements this will bring to passenger comfort, planes will benefit from the new actuator technology by experiencing less airframe fatigue, which leads to less stressed aircraft, safer flight and ultimately lower cost air travel.

Both of these students were under the instruction and mentorship of Dr. Ron Barrett-Gonzalez, Associate Professor of Aerospace Engineering. Professor Barrett received the Abe M. Zarem Educator Award in recognition of his outstanding instruction. His research focuses on flight control using adaptive aerostructures that have been integrated in high speed, high precision flight control systems and are ideal for countermunitions. Professor Barrett's lab is the only academic facility in the country that specializes in these countermunitions that protect our Armed Forces by intercepting mortars and other weapons.

American economic competitiveness is strengthened as more students study and excel in the academic areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. I join Kansans in congratulating Nobuya, Roelof and Professor Barrett for their outstanding creativity, insight and hard work. Jayhawks not only excel in athletics but fly high in the classroom, as well.

TOM LANTOS PASSES HUMANITY'S TORCH

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, this House lost one of its finest Members with the passing of Tom Lantos. He was a dear friend, who taught me a great deal about human rights and a life dedicated to service, and I will miss him. One of my favorite memories of our service together is the day I was arrested alongside Tom in front of the Sudanese Embassy in Washington, DC, protesting the continuing genocide in Darfur.

I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues an article from the February 22, 2008 edition of the Boston Herald that urges everyone to emulate Tom's legacy of service and devotion to human rights. Written by Anthony Barsamian with the Armenian Assembly of America and Michael Ross, the son of a Holocaust survivor, it expresses what we all feel about Tom's commitment to ending man's inhumanity to man.

[From the Boston Herald, February 22, 2008]

TOM LANTOS PASSES HUMANITY'S TORCH

(By Anthony Barsamian and Michael Ross)

Humanity lost one of its greatest voices this month. No one lived up to the promise of the words "never again" better than Rep. Tom Lantos. As the only Holocaust survivor to have served in Congress, he dedicated his career to working on behalf of others.

Those who survive genocide live with complexities that few can understand—post-traumatic stress, feelings of guilt for having survived, a victim of man's most diabolical incarnation, a witness to history—to name a few. On the one hand, a survivor must rectify his tragic past while on another, he must make sense of a stunted future. With great

strength and determination, survivors and their families move forward and rebuild their lives, for a second time.

To start a life anew is difficult enough. To do so as a U.S. congressman is nothing short of miraculous. Only in America—as Lantos would say.

For Holocaust survivors and their families, Lantos was a source of pride. For those who searched for a voice of justice, in him they found their greatest friend.

Tom Lantos spoke out against genocide in Darfur, at one point being arrested for protesting outside the Sudanese Embassy along with four other Democratic lawmakers, including Bay State Reps. Jim McGovern and John Olver.

One of his final acts was a resolution that would recognize the slaughter of innocent Armenians for what it was—genocide. As chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Lantos refused to be part of a campaign of denial and looked beyond the politics of convenience by passing the resolution.

During a PBS interview last October, Lantos said, "This is one of those events which has to be settled once and for all: 1.5 million utterly innocent Armenian men, women and children were slaughtered. And the Turkish government, until now, has intimidated the Congress of the United States from taking this measure. I think it's important, at a time when genocides are going on in Darfur and elsewhere, not to be an accomplice in sweeping an important genocide under the rug."

The resolution has yet to be acted upon by the entire House—something, no doubt, Lantos, would want.

Lantos understood what it meant to stand up for his fellow man, much in the same way someone helped him when he needed it. An otherwise ordinary bureaucrat, Raoul Wallenberg, chose to become an extraordinary person when, over the course of his diplomatic career, he found a way to save 100,000 Hungarian Jews. Lantos was among them.

As people who have inherited a legacy from our families, we have an obligation to recognize man's inhumanity to man regardless of whether it is convenient to do so. We have an obligation to properly recognize an injustice by its name, regardless of the political discomfort or cost. And, like Lantos, we have an obligation to live by the words "never again" and to remind the world when those ominous words are back in play.

In Tom Lantos' passing we lost the sentinel on humanity's gate. We owe it to those he protected to speak the truth, no matter the cost.

A TRIBUTE TO ROB COGORNO

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, in 1993, I was privileged to be appointed to the Appropriations Committee. I brought to the assignment my ideas and priorities and a determination to use the power of the purse to change lives for the better.

To be effective I needed much more. I needed Rob Cogorno.

Rob joined our staff bringing with him years of experience working on issues that had my strongest interest. It was a blessed partnership from the first day.

Rob came with remarkable qualities. He knew the issues thoroughly. He was tireless. He knew the answer or how to find it.

But to focus only on Rob's mastery of the process would be an injustice. He is effective because he is compassionate and sincere as well as smart.

He cares about people. Low income heating assistance was not just a program, it was thousands of cold seniors. National Cancer Institute funding was not just about scientists and research grants, it was millions of people suffering from diseases that he believed could be helped. The Ryan White AIDS funding legislation was about millions of Americans and about people he knew personally who needed a cure and needed hope.

His commitment earned him the respect of his colleagues and members. He is a warm person. He takes the time to make you laugh, share a piece of gossip, lift your spirits. Over the years he has held important positions working for the Democratic House Leadership and most recently for the Majority Leader.

I am grateful to Rob for his leadership, passion, and partnership over the years. I wish you well. I treasure our friendship.

Buona Fortuna!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, on February 12, 2008, due to obligations in the district, I missed the following recorded votes:

Roll No. 43, on H. Res. 954—Honoring the life of senior Border Patrol agent Luis A. Aguilar, who lost his life in the line of duty near Yuma, Arizona, on January 19, 2008; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Roll No. 44, on H. Res. 909—Commemorating the courage of the Haitian soldiers that fought for American independence in the "Siege of Savannah," and for Haiti's independence and renunciation of slavery; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Roll No. 45, on H. Con. Res. 281—Celebrating the birth of Abraham Lincoln and recognizing the prominence the Declaration of Independence played in the development of Abraham Lincoln's beliefs; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

IN CELEBRATION OF BLACKS WHO HAVE CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Black History Month and to enter into the RECORD an editorial from New York CaribNews for the week ending February 19, 2008, "Blacks Who Helped Change the Course of History and Improved the Quality of People's Lives Everywhere."

This editorial makes mention of many Blacks who have contributed to American history, with deeds that have benefited the lives of all Americans. Some of these pioneers have familiar names—other names are not as familiar, however, their contributions are important all the same. They include: Oscar

DePriest, the first Black Congressman of the 20th century; Mary McLeod Bethune, educator and White House advisor; A. Philip Randolph, the trade union leader; and Dr. Charles Drew, the pioneer of blood plasma. This editorial highlights the many accomplishments of Black Americans in religion, the arts, education, and science. It would take years to complete a list of all the accomplishments Blacks have made in America, which have transformed our own lives, as well as those of people around the world.

[From the New York Carib News, Feb. 19, 2008]

BLACKS WHO HELPED TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY AND IMPROVED THE QUALITY OF PEOPLE'S LIVES EVERYWHERE

“Ask historians about Oliver Cromwell and they would quickly point to the man who became Lord Protector of England, Ireland and Scotland between 1653–58.

But there was another Oliver Cromwell, who was born in Burlington County in New Jersey, exactly a century after the gentleman who essentially was a dictator turned down the English crown.

While the American is often ignored by the chroniclers of the nation's past, the fact of the matter is that he made his presence felt when George Washington crossed the Delaware River on the Windy night of December 25, 1776 to attempt to capture the British garrison at Trenton. Actually, the Black man was among 2,400 hand picked troops who caught the unsuspecting mercenaries of the British unawares. It was a much needed victory that did much to lift the spirits of colonists and boost people's morale. The rest, as they say, is history. George Washington and his forces eventually went on to victory in the battle for independence stretched over a number of years after the river Crossing.

This episode is important because what it demonstrates once again is the role which Blacks played in fighting for America's freedom. They were present at the creation of the nation and have been working assiduously ever since. In almost every major battle in America's history, whether military or civil, Blacks have shouldered their share of the burden and took up the challenge of defending or building the country.

They persisted against all odds.

Today, their names litter the pages of history, covering everything from religion, science, the arts, health, education make such a long list of Black pioneers that it would take years to complete.

Some like the Benjamin Banneker, a mathematical wizard; Prince Hall, the fraternal leader; Paul Cuffee, a late 18th century ship builder and owner; Elijah McCoy and Granville Wood, inventors; George Washington Carver, the savior of southern agriculture; Daniel Hale Williams, the first successful heart surgeon; and Charles Drew, the pioneer in blood plasma. In their different ways these Blacks helped to transform our lives, making them better for every one.

But the list doesn't end there. Harriet Tubman, the liberator of slaves; Sojourner Truth, a pilgrim of freedom; Madame C.J. Walker, the cosmetics manufacturer; Paul R. Williams the architect, and A.G. Gaston, the shining light for free enterprise who showed the way forward towards success in commerce are also among them.

How about the contributions of Oscar DePriest, the first Black Congressman of the 20th century; A. Philip Randolph, the pre-eminent trade union leader; Edward W. Brooke, the U.S. Senator from Massachusetts who represented a new breed of politi-

cians in Washington, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the great humanist and civil rights leader of the 20th and any century; Mary McLeod Bethune, the cotton-picker, educator and White House adviser; and Congressman Charles Rangel, the long serving Democrat from Harlem and Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee of the House of Representatives, an eloquent voice for reason and social justice? They are but a small sampling of the voices for the multitude.

Think of the persons who helped to widen the entrance to education and Carter Woodson, the father of Black History Month, Arthur Schomburg, the bibliophile and antiquarian, Alain Locke, the Rhodes Scholar and philosopher, and John Hope Franklin, the historian spring quickly to mind.

James Weldon Johnson, the gentleman of letters, Gwendolyn Brooks, a Pulitzer Prize winner and Paul Lawrence Dunbar, the people's poet are among the tellers of troubled or delightful tales.

These Black American contributors helped to ease our pain, bring smiles to our faces and opened human civilization to new vistas.

In the process they became worthy of the praise being showered on them and many more African-Americans during Black History month.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL IN HEREFORD, TEXAS

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I proudly congratulate St. Anthony's School on the occasion of its 90th anniversary. The school's 90th anniversary was celebrated along with Catholic Schools Week from January 27–February 2, 2008.

St. Anthony's began providing Catholic education in 1914 with the purpose of supplying children with knowledge of the Catholic faith, as well as a strong foundation for future learning. In 1917–1918, continuous classes were introduced. St. Anthony's moved to its current location in 1955 where 14 classrooms, a library, a meeting room, a cafeteria and a gym now make up the school.

Throughout its history, several orders of religious nuns have staffed the school. Presently, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary Immaculate make up the faculty. They have taught and maintained St. Anthony's since the 1987–1988 school year.

St. Anthony's provides classes from pre-school through sixth grade. The school remains focused on teaching the Catholic faith while also providing the opportunity for students to acquire the skills needed to achieve high honors upon entering the Hereford Independent School District upper grades. Students participate in acts of service, the Accelerated Reading Program and after-school activities such as sports or choir. The six-member board of education along with Principal Ann Lueb and Rev. John Valdez govern the school and determine policies.

During the 90th anniversary celebration, Dolores Loerwald Brorman was presented with the 2008 National Catholic Education Association Distinguished Graduate Award. The award

recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to American society and the Catholic Church and has been presented to a deserving graduate of St. Anthony's School every year since 1993.

I applaud St. Anthony's school for providing quality education and developing knowledgeable and honorable students for 90 years. Also, I congratulate Dolores Loerwald Brorman on receiving the 2008 Distinguished Graduate Award and making such a mark in her community.

IN HONOR OF MR. ELMER D. SAXTON, SR.

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the late Elmer D. Saxton, Sr. Mr. Saxton passed away peacefully at the age of 87 on Monday, February 18, 2008, surrounded by his family. Formerly, Mr. Saxton served as the State of Delaware Service Officer for the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization.

Mr. Saxton was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Agnes, in 1993. A career soldier, Mr. Saxton proudly served our country as a member of the United States Army in both World War II and the Korean War. He was recognized for his service in various artillery and ordinance corps by several commendation medals. Following his retirement from active duty, Mr. Saxton worked for the University of Delaware and the United States Postal Service before taking his position at the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Upon his retirement from his position as Delaware's VFW Service Officer, Mr. Saxton continued to put forth tireless effort in assisting those in need. As a member of the American Legion and the Knights of Columbus, as well as an ongoing member of the VFW, he devoted himself to ensuring that flags were placed on all veterans' graves and that members of the honor guard served for fallen comrades. In addition, Mr. Saxton was instrumental in the establishment of the Veterans Memorial Cemetery and the Veterans Nursing Home in Milford, Delaware. As a founder and faithful member of Holy Family Church for many years, he enthusiastically participated in community outreach and service projects, including the collection and distribution of food with Val's Needy People fund and the delivery of emergency and holiday groceries. Mr. Saxton faced all challenges with one goal in mind: to help another.

Mr. Saxton, or “Pop”, as he was called by his family, will be lovingly remembered by his three children, nine grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren. They will remember him as a man who loved to solve crossword puzzles, loved to root for his beloved Philadelphia Eagles and Phillies and Wilmington Blue Rocks, and loved to help others. His superlative example of heroism, dedication, and selflessness will serve as an inspiration to all those who knew him.