

family from voting on the afternoon of February 14, 2008. Had I been present I would have voted “yea” on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 66, rollcall 67, rollcall 68.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, on February 25, 2008, due to flight delays, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 69, 70, and 71. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall No. 69, “yea”; rollcall No. 70, “yea”; rollcall No. 71, “yea.”

SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 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, “Harriet Tubman: Moses of Her People—She Demonstrated the Courage and Grit of a Freedom Fighter.”

Harriet Tubman was born a slave in 1820 on a Maryland plantation. In 1849 she escaped to Philadelphia and immediately began her mission of freeing as many slaves as she could on what became known as the “Underground Railroad”, a network of antislavery activists and safe houses. Harriet Tubman is credited with rescuing over 300 slaves. The Underground Railroad operated at night with escaping slaves following the Northern Star. This enterprising operation involved the following states: Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland and ultimately was responsible for guiding more than 2,500 slaves to freedom.

Harriet Tubman was so successful that a \$40,000 reward was issued for her capture, dead or alive. However, this was not a deterrent to her mission. Even with the enormous price on her head she returned south to free her family and made 19 additional trips while eluding her enemies. She was said to have never lost a passenger.

During the Civil War Harriet Tubman joined the Union Army and worked first as a cook and a nurse and later as a scout and spy. When the war ended Harriet Tubman took on the role of community mother taking care of elderly and needy Blacks while supporting the establishment of Southern Freed People’s school. She continued caring for the community well into her 80’s.

As Michael D. Roberts states at the end of his CaribNews essay, “For all her toughness Harriet Tubman, who died at age 90, was first and foremost a decent, kind and loving human being who only wanted the best for her people.”

HARRIET TUBMAN: MOSES OF HER PEOPLE—SHE DEMONSTRATED THE COURAGE AND GRIT OF A FREEDOM FIGHTER

(By Michael D. Roberts)

This tiny but exceptionally brave Black woman commanded the grudging respect of

white southern slave owners. As a matter of fact they put out a huge reward of \$40,000 for her capture dead or alive. In the north they called her the “Moses of her people” because of her legendary exploits in getting slaves out of the racist south.

Her name was Harriet Tubman and she was born a slave on a Maryland plantation. Then in 1849 she escaped to Philadelphia and immediately joined what has now come to be known as the “Underground Railroad” a complex and secret passage used by abolitionists to conduct slaves to the free north.

It operated at night and followed the Northern Star. Its conductors met and accompanied the runaway slaves leading them through an intricate web of roads, barns, paths and hideouts to confuse irate southern slaveowners hot in pursuit. The states involved were Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. And the Railroad’s greatest conductor was Harriet Tubman. In a daring enterprise, and with more than 3,200 people involved, this Railway was responsible for guiding to the north more than 2,500 slaves between 1830 and 1860.

The story of Harriet Tubman began when she freed herself and then returned, even with a price on her head, to the hostile south to free her family. She made 19 additional trips to the south and was able to elude her enemies by guile and cunning. She became an embarrassment to the intelligence organizations of the south as she avoided trap after trap and earned the name “Scarlet Pimpernel” for her exploits. Her trips to the south resulted in freedom for more than 300 slaves who were conducted by “General Moses” to the north and Canada. Known for her great physical strength, Harriet Tubman also became widely known for her courage and resourcefulness. Always she was able to confuse the slaveowners. For example, she once let loose several chickens she had just bought in a southern market place to avoid being recognized by a former master. And another time she deliberately took a southern bound train to shake off her pursuers. Said to be deeply religious, it was the strength of her convictions that motivated her to do what she did—she was convinced that she was doing the Lord’s work.

When the Civil War broke out Harriet Tubman enlisted in the Union Army and became a spy and scout because of her knowledge of the outdoors and her uncanny intelligence.

She was placed in this dangerous role also for her ability to operate under extreme pressure and to handle difficult situations. From all reports her dispatches were informative and led to many successes for the Union forces.

Not one to remain complacent she also worked as a nurse in a hospital for freed slaves and helped them economically by raising money from the sale of eggs and chickens.

When the guns of the Civil War fell silent Harriet Tubman made New York her home and cared for her aged parents. She became something of a community mother because she took in other needy Blacks who were struggling to make a new life in New York.

Never able to read or write she nevertheless knew the value of education and was shrewd enough to realize that Blacks would have to educate themselves to make it in the United States. She therefore supported the establishment of Southern Freed People’s Schools.

Well into the twilight of her years Harriet Tubman set up a home to care for old and poor Blacks. It is correct to say that she remained the Moses of Her People right on to the end of her long life. When she set up the “poor people’s home” she was at the ripe old age of 80 years. Harriet Tubman proved that age was never a fetter to advancement and

that complacency and inaction were the greatest enemies of Blacks in America. She demonstrated that conviction, determination and bravery were necessary tools in fighting for human and civil rights. Harriet Tubman has left an example on how to love people. She did what no government or institution was able to do for her people. She became in the process an institution herself. Her exploits and bravery will always be remembered as will be her humanity and compassion.

For all her toughness Harriet Tubman, who died at age 90, was first and foremost a decent, kind and loving human being who only wanted the best for her people.

TRIBUTE TO JUDAH FOLKMAN, MD

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the work and to mourn the loss of Judah Folkman, doctor and teacher, a brilliant scientist, a devoted clinician, an inspiring mentor. I am privileged to represent great universities, research institutes, and teaching hospitals and the men and women who make them great. Many of my constituents inspire the world’s admiration and respect. Their work has assuaged suffering and prolonged lives and earned the heartfelt thanks of all they have helped. None to my knowledge are loved as Judah Folkman was loved, by his colleagues, students, and patients. The most fitting tribute seems that given by his friend and colleague, Dr. James Mandell, president and CEO of Children’s Hospital Boston, which I here enter into the RECORD:

Judah’s wife said she was sorry for giving me this burden, to speak on behalf of the medical and academic community at his memorial service. It is actually a sorrowful joy to remember him on behalf of so many. I must also tell you however that despite the fact I have had so many speaking opportunities in my career, I’ve never been so worried about getting it right.

It just isn’t possible to sum up the life and work of Judah Folkman in these words, in such a short time. He was larger than life in so many ways, to so many of us.

On a personal note—Judah and I were colleagues for a very long time. He was a generous mentor and wise guide to a young urology trainee 30 years ago when I shared an office in his administrative suite. I learned by his example. He treated every parent with unequalled kindness and respect and every child with patience and tenderness. When I returned to start the urology research program effort, he was there for me. When I went to Albany as dean of the Medical College, he was my first commencement speaker. And when I returned in 2000, he and Paula welcomed Val and me as neighbors. In fact, Val mentioned to Paula that perhaps if we walked to work together, my IQ might go up.

His contribution to science, to medicine, and the world, are far too vast to enumerate here. We have all heard and seen tributes to him in every form of media all over the world in the last week.

As a result of his vision and persistence, people all over the world are benefiting from his discoveries.

Today, more than 1,000 laboratories worldwide are engaged in the study of angiogenesis. A million patients worldwide are now receiving anti-angiogenesis therapy for cancer and macular degeneration, and there are more than 50 angiogenic inhibitors in clinical trials.

But Judah envisioned a day when people would have an annual blood test to screen for biomarkers of malignant diseases and if evidence of early stage, yet undetectable disease was found, they would be given nontoxic, angiogenic inhibitors to prevent disease from occurring. He said that location wouldn't matter. It would be just like heart disease, where statins are given for control of biologic markers of future disease like cholesterol.

What a vision, Judah.

I thought you'd be here to see it.

Judah was honored by societies and foundations all over the world. The walls of his conference room on Karp 12 are lined with them. His awards were incredible in depth and breadth, including one he was particularly proud of—the Helen Keller award for his work in the prevention and treatment of blindness.

He was a member of nearly every medical society, yet he was particularly proud of the fact that he was inducted as an honorary member of the Academic Society of Black Surgeons.

He wrote more than 400 original publications and over 100 book chapters himself, but it was with such great joy that he brought over to my office a couple of months ago a book he didn't author or edit. It was the first clinical textbook teaching clinicians about how to treat cancer with angiogenic inhibitors.

As I look around this room, I see, however, what will be his most lasting legacy. It is a living testament to one of his greatest gifts—his unique ability to recognize and cultivate talent and brilliance in others.

He grew the program for vascular biology from the surgical research program at Children's, starting with one-half of a floor of the Enders Research Building. He expanded and nurtured it with devotion, commitment, and love. He was always in my office, lobbying hard for more space and ended up with two entire floors in the Karp Family Research Building.

But more importantly, he had this gift of mentoring his staff in a way that is unequaled by anyone I have ever known. His work will continue in the hands of the incredible talent in vascular biology in the program he built.

It consoles me to some extent that the work Judah started with a singular, seminal glimmer of an idea more than 40 years ago will continue to thrive, grow, and succeed in their hands.

Judah's lasting legacy will continue to extend far beyond our walls, improving the lives of millions of people around the world.

Farewell, our friend, and thank you.

REGARDING TWO AMICUS BRIEFS FILED WITH THE SUPREME COURT IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA V. HELLER

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I have reviewed two amicus briefs filed for consideration by the U.S. Supreme Court in connection with the case of District of Columbia v. Heller.

One brief has been signed by a majority of our colleagues in Congress. The other was filed on behalf of the Bush administration by the Solicitor General, Paul D. Clement. I want to explain why I have decided not to join in signing the first one.

First of all, I want to make clear I am aware of the importance of this case as regards the interpretation of the constitutional reach of the Second Amendment. As I said when the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia decided *Parker v. District of Columbia* last year, I am convinced that the Constitution's Second Amendment protects the rights of individuals to keep and bear arms. I believe the Court of Appeals' decision striking down several gun laws passed by the D.C. City Council in that case was rightly decided and persuasively reasoned with regard to that fundamental point. As one who reveres the Bill of Rights and as a strong proponent of individual liberty in other contexts, like privacy and freedom of expression, I am very comfortable asserting that the Second Amendment ought to be recognized as protecting individual rights and not just a collective right to form militias.

The decision in *Parker* has been appealed to the Supreme Court in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, and I had an opportunity to read the amicus brief in support of upholding the decision of the Court of Appeals that Members of Congress were urged to sign. After carefully reviewing the brief, I found that I agreed with the arguments in 29 of its 31 pages, which support my view about the nature of the individual right guaranteed by the Second Amendment.

If the brief stopped there, I would support it without hesitation. However, it does not stop there. Page 30 of the amicus brief includes declarations that "the District's handgun ban is unreasonable on its face" and further, that "The lower court's categorical approach in holding a prohibition on handguns to be unconstitutional *per se* was correct."

Those assertions directly contradict statements in the Solicitor General's brief warning that while the Second Amendment does protect an individual right, the lower court's categorical approach to reviewing the D.C. laws in question "could cast doubt on the constitutionality of existing federal legislation" including restrictions on possession of firearms by convicted criminals, fugitives from justice, illegal immigrants, and people suffering from mental disorders.

Some may ask why the many Members of Congress who signed the first brief did not similarly hesitate to so flatly contradict the arguments of the Solicitor General. It is possible that my colleagues read the brief as only trying to make clear that the lower court rightly ruled about the nature of the right protected by the Second Amendment and rightly rejected the absurd argument advanced by the District of Columbia that if any individual right attached to the Second Amendment it should only apply to weapons (not handguns) known at the time the founders drafted the Constitution. But if that was the intention, the amicus brief is drafted in an ambiguous way that is regrettable.

I can speak only for myself, but as a non-lawyer who thinks Mr. Clement is highly qualified to serve as Solicitor General, I find it difficult to reject his concerns outright. And it is for this reason I cannot unequivocally endorse the amicus filed by my colleagues. It seems to

me that the Supreme Court will need to take the Solicitor General's views into account when the Court considers the right standard for reviewing the decision of the lower court.

HONORING JANEL'S INDUSTRIES, INC.

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Janel's Industries, Inc. of Cassopolis, Michigan, as the recipient of the Defense Logistics Agency's, DLA, Business Alliance Award for Outstanding Readiness Support in the Service Disabled, Veteran-Owned Small Business Category.

Janel's Industries, Inc. specializes in cable assemblies and wiring harnesses, which have been used to support the mission of our brave soldiers here in the United States as well as those actively serving in Iraq. Janel's Industries, Inc., has supported the DLA mission as well as our national interests by satisfying the military's increased demand for supplies in an expedited manner. In addition, these products were shipped to the military ahead of schedule, at no additional cost to the U.S. Government or the American taxpayer.

Once again, I would like to personally recognize Janel's Industries, Inc. and its employees for going above and beyond to provide such an invaluable service to our military. The United States is truly a better place because of their contributions.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. McINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join the 110th Congress in celebrating National Peace Corps Week from February 25 to March 3, 2008, as well as the upcoming 47th anniversary of the Peace Corps. As of September 30, 2007, over 8,000 Peace Corps volunteers are currently at 68 posts serving 74 countries, representing the largest number of Americans serving in the Peace Corps since 1970.

Eleven Peace Corps volunteers from my district in southeastern North Carolina are currently serving in 11 nations. These North Carolinians continue to help countless individuals who want to build a better life for themselves, their children, and their communities through their work as Peace Corps volunteers. I am impressed with their passion and dedication as promoters of humanitarianism throughout the world. These individuals truly represent the kind and compassionate spirit of my district. Each Peace Corps volunteer sent out into the field represents an opportunity not only to make a significant and lasting difference but to foster a better understanding of Americans throughout the world.