

During the Great Depression, César's family lost their own farm. As such, César and his family joined the migrant farming community. César was only 10 years old when he began to work in the fields and vineyards of the southwest. He learned first hand about the injustices and indignities experienced by migrant farm workers.

Founder of the National Farm Workers Association and its successor the United Farm Workers of America, César led the Nation's first triumphant farm workers union.

César E. Chávez was a champion of workers' rights. He showed incredible dedication to social justice through his efforts on behalf of farm workers to garner improved wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, safer working conditions, humane living conditions and an end to child labor in the fields.

His remarkable achievements were realized through non-violent protest, through fasts, strikes and boycotts. This makes his accomplishments all the more meaningful and sets an example that is to be held in the highest regard.

César was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times by the American Friends Service Committee. He received the distinguished Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Prize and was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Because César Chávez embodies so completely both the spirit and values of our Nation I believe it is only right to establish a national holiday in his honor. "Si se puede."

Again, I wish to thank Congressman BACA for introducing this important legislation and calling attention to one of our Nation's greatest heroes.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 1, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the House Resolution commemorating the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In mourning the loss of Dr. King, we must also simultaneously celebrate the life and legacy of this courageous civil rights leader.

For the better part of his life, Dr. King stood in protest to inequality. He provided a voice to people once silenced by bigotry and intolerance. He preached nonviolence as a means of securing the fundamental principles of equality and justice, endowed to all people in the United States Constitution. Through his actions and life, Dr. King aided in creating the world we live in today. I am deeply humbled and inspired by his resolve to achieve change in America. Dr. King's work as a civil rights activist and leader has been studied in depth. But, often overlooked is his stance against the war in Vietnam. In the wake of Jeremiah White's comments, I believe that it is important to understand that Dr. King was more than the icon we have created in our efforts to sanctify him. Yes, he lifts the dreamer and man who worked for racial reconciliation, but he was as

well a leader with a strong moral vision who was willing to call our great Nation to task when it failed to live up to the standards he saw created by our Declaration of Independence and Constitution.

Many parallels exist between Dr. King's opposition to the war in Vietnam and my opposition of the war in Iraq. Dr. King believed, as I believe, that the United States Government will never invest the necessary funds and energy required to improve the situation of the poor in America, as long as the country's resources are being diverted to a war. Similarly, Dr. King and I both agree that war disproportionately affects the poor, as more of them are sent to fight and die on foreign soil. As Dr. King once stated, "A time comes when silence is betrayal," and today that time has come for us in relation to Iraq.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a man of steadfast conviction, determination, sheer grit, and uncompromising faith. That is why today, I stand here advocating the House Resolution commemorating the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man who has impacted the lives each and every American.

#### A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH DAVID BORTER FOR COACHING THE HILAND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 3, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach David Borter showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, David Borter was a leader and mentor for the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Borter has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach David Borter for leading the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team to winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

#### CONGRATULATING SARAH LONG DAMSON FOR BEING NAMED FIRST LADY OF MOBILE

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 3, 2008*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor Mrs. Sarah Long Damson on the occasion of her being named First Lady of Mobile for 2007. The Mobile chapters of Beta Sigma Phi, an international women's network with

over 165,000 members, recently bestowed this honor on Sarah.

A native of Mobile, Sarah is a tireless volunteer and has devoted her entire life to improving the lives of countless people who call Mobile and South Alabama home.

Sarah and her husband Tom are co-owners of Long's Human Resource Center, a multi-million dollar business passed on to them by Sarah's father. She serves as chairman of the board of the 60-year-old company with locations in Mobile, Fairhope and Foley.

However, Sarah's commitment to South Alabama goes far beyond the walls of her business. She has been active with the United Way for decades, and she is an emeritus board member of the organization. She is the first woman to lead the United Way of Southwest Alabama's annual fundraising campaign and head its board of trustees. She has also served as chairman of The Alexis de Tocqueville Society, a national movement within the United Way that recognizes individuals who donate \$10,000 to \$1 million annually.

In addition to her involvement with the United Way, Sarah serves on various boards at Dauphin Way United Methodist Church and was the first woman to serve on the local Regions Bank board. She is a past president of the Junior League of Mobile and is also on the Board of Trustees of Spring Hill College. Sarah is an active member of the Mobile Chamber of Commerce and has served on its board of directors as well.

A graduate of the University of Alabama, Sarah was the first woman to receive the prestigious Austin Cup, awarded to the most outstanding graduate of the University's Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business.

Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Mrs. Sarah Long Damson for being named the First Lady of Mobile for 2007; truly, no one is more deserving of this high honor. And in so doing, I would also like to recognize Sarah for her lifetime of outstanding professional and philanthropic accomplishments; she is truly a role model for our entire community.

Furthermore, I would ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this respected and dedicated friend to many throughout South Alabama. I know Sarah's family; her husband, Tom; their two wonderful daughters, Mary Stewart Crane and Liz Freeman; her grandchildren and her many friends and other family join me in praising Sarah's accomplishments and extending thanks for her never-ending efforts to make South Alabama a better place to live and call home.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. ALBERT HAROUTOUNIAN

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 3, 2008*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Albert Haroutounian of Honey Brook, Pennsylvania, who died in Iraq on March 10, 2008.

Albert was a linguist working on contract in Iraq for the Trinity Technology Group. Albert was on a mission when his vehicle was hit by

an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). He was killed along with 5 soldiers in the blast.

Albert's grandparents fled Armenia during the Ottoman Empire's genocide of the Armenian people and settled in Kuwait, where he was born. While in Kuwait, he became fluent in three languages, Armenian, Arabic and English. After suffering the loss of his mother at the age of 14, Albert's father immigrated to the United States with Albert and his 3 brothers. Since immigrating, Albert grew to become an author and aspiring film maker. He had planned to make his most recent book, *The Clock Doc*, into his first movie.

In addition to his budding writing and film career, Albert loved to travel and spent time visiting places such as Armenia, Canada, Greece, Hungary, Iraq, Mexico, Syria and Yugoslavia. His extensive travels and active lifestyle exposed him to many cultures and helped to formulate his outlook and dreams for the world.

Albert's goal in life was to establish an organization that would help educate, feed, and house people across the globe. He wished to make our world one of peace with a message to live a life of compassion, understanding, and happiness.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in paying honor to Mr. Albert Haroutounian for his exemplary service to our Nation. May his life be an inspiration to all fellow citizens and we extend our utmost respect and condolence to his family.

LUCAS CAMPBELL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 3, 2008*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lucas Campbell who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. Lucas Campbell is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Lucas Campbell is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Lucas Campbell for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his high school career to his college career and future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING PRO TOW WRECKER SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 3, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pro Tow Wrecker Service, of Lewisville, TX, for participating in the

Texas Emissions Reduction Program (TERP). Through its involvement in TERP, Pro Tow Wrecker Service recently received a rebate to upgrade one of its company trucks.

The rebate was awarded to Pro Tow Wrecker Service to replace an old haul truck with a new, more efficient model. By improving its fleet, not only is Pro Tow Wrecker Service becoming more competitive, it is also preventing a total of 10.6308 tons of nitrogen oxides from polluting the air over the course of seven years.

The Texas Emissions Reduction Program is offering an affordable means for businesses to replace older diesel equipment that they would not otherwise be able to upgrade. TERP provides rebates and grants to help replace aging diesel engines that consume more fuel and generate more pollution than newer models.

So far, North Texas businesses have saved over \$3.3 million and reduced nearly 353 tons of pollution. TERP serves as a national model for replacing and retrofitting older diesel engines.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent such an economically and environmentally-conscious company in the 26th district of Texas. I am confident that the positive example set by Pro Tow Wrecker Service will encourage more businesses to participate in TERP in the future.

DECLARING THE STATE OF  
INJUSTICE AN EMERGENCY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 3, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to declare that we have an emergency on our hands—not altogether new but altogether urgent. African Americans are hurting, caught in a justice system that disproportionately targets them, facing aggressive and often violent law enforcement, and victimized by a steady rise in racial intolerance and intimidation. These are Americans in need, and Americans of all stripes must find ways to come together in the spirit of compassion and generosity when our own is in need. That same spirit is required of us now, to move with all deliberate swiftness in correcting injustices and finding solutions to the disparate treatment of Blacks in this society.

In a recently released report from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, "State of Emergency: Stemming the Tide of Injustice against African Americans," a solemn picture is depicted. Facing a startling number of police beatings, the shooting deaths of unarmed Blacks, and the excessive use of force against minority youth, a majority of Blacks today do not believe that police are held accountable for acts of misconduct, an NAACP survey finds. Even that perception, divorced from its almost-certain reality, is reason enough to be concerned. Just this past year, new cases of inexcusable police brutality sprung up across the country, many involving the deaths of young African Americans and the complete acquittal and absolution of the officers who perpetrated the offenses.

As the galvanizing Jena 6 case taught us, we sometimes treat our Black children harsher than we treat our White children in the court-

room. The NAACP report finds that when White and minority youth are charged with the same offenses, Black youth are six times more likely to be incarcerated than White youth are. We cannot afford to give up on any of our youth—Black or White—and we must commit the resources to invest in their rehabilitation and educations. We will, one day soon, rely on that generation.

The reemergence of the hangman's noose as a symbol of fervid threat and unspeakable hatred is more than troubling. It represents a regression in the remarkable progress we have made in this country in terms of race relations. Since early 2006, there have been 43 reported noose hangings, the overwhelming bulk of those, 32, since the Jena 6 rally this past September. The lackadaisical and nonchalant response on behalf of authorities seems to have spawned this new wave. We must send the clear message that these nooses are neither harmless nor ambiguous—they are unveiled throwbacks to a Jim Crow era of public lynchings and racist terrorism. It is as direct a threat as words can be and has no place in America but as sad artifacts of still-recent history. We are today, however, so much better than that.

We move forward now sobered by these unfortunate findings but focused on an optimistic plan that unifies all Americans in this call for greater equality. A community policing that trains officers in cultural awareness, teams tip officers with minority communities in a working relationship, and without bias prosecutes officers for misconduct works best. So, too, does a colorblind justice system that doles out punishment evenly and without prejudice, one that works to free our youth from lives of criminality and tap, instead, into their reservoir of talents and skills.

I have no doubt the American people have the commitment and resolve to get this done. I am hopeful that for our government, our law enforcement, our justice system, we can say the same.

STATE OF EMERGENCY: STEMMING THE TIDE OF  
INJUSTICE AGAINST AFRICAN AMERICANS

INTRODUCTION: STATE OF EMERGENCY

The case in which six black teens were arrested and charged with attempted murder for their part in a fight with fellow white students in Jena, Louisiana captured the country's attention. How is it that the black teens involved in the fight could be charged with attempted murder while the white students, whose racially-motivated actions presumably led to the schoolyard tussle, receive little more than a slap on the wrist?

Unfortunately, Jena is not an isolated case; rather, it is but one of many that are reminiscent of a disturbing trend involving the disparate treatment of African Americans in the criminal justice system. The latest examples include a boot camp beating death and an assault of black youths by representatives of law enforcement. In addition to the reprehensible treatment of youth at the hands of law enforcement officials, there has also been a startling increase in the number of hangman's noose sightings around the country.

If one were to take the aforementioned examples, coupled with the fact that racial harassment complaints filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) have more than doubled from just over 2,000 in 1991 to roughly 7,000 today, I one might conclude that a steady stream of racial intolerance has resurfaced. Some individuals might view the series of incidents