

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING PASTOR EL-YATEEM

HON. MICHAEL M. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I am here to pay tribute to a religious leader from my district who is a pillar of our community.

Pastor Khader El-Yateem was born in Beit Jala, a town in the West Bank of Palestine. In 1968, after his graduation from high school, he studied at the Bethlehem Bible College, graduated with a Diploma in Theology, and proceeded to study at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt, where he received his B.A. degree. He was invited by the ELCA to work as a mission developer among the Arab and Middle Eastern community in the United States. He studied at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, where he graduated with a Master of Divinity degree.

In February 1999, Pastor El-Yateem was called by the Division for Outreach to start the Salam Arabic Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, which became the first official Arabic Lutheran Church in North America. Civic leaders within the Bay Ridge community requested his assistance in October 2000, to help establish a committee to bring the Christian, Jewish and Arabic communities together in a pledge to live in peace. He opened his church to all and successfully helped the committee bring the various groups together. The inter-faith dialogue continues with great success. This endeavor prompted Pastor El-Yateem to ask District Attorney, Charles Hynes to co-chair a Brooklyn wide Unity Task Force, which has also been successful in bringing together various ethnic and religious groups within the borough.

Pastor El-Yateem continues to contribute to the spiritual well being of our community with the support of his lovely wife Grace and children Rowan, Janette, Naim and Isabelle.

I am honored by the work Pastor El-Yateem carries out in my district and for the people of Brooklyn. I congratulate him and his family for the work they have done to make a stronger community.

DUNEDIN, FLORIDA NAMED FLORIDA CITY OF EXCELLENCE

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, The Florida League of Cities has named the city of Dunedin, which I have the privilege to represent, as its 2008 City of Excellence.

The League of Cities honored the City of Dunedin for its commitment to public service by achieving the highest standards of city leadership, citizen outreach and involvement, and the development of innovative programs.

Dunedin, a small town feeling city of 37,000, has done all that and more.

Under the leadership of Mayor Bob Hackworth, Vice Mayor Julie Ward Bujalski, Commissioner Deborah Kynes, Commissioner Julie Scales, and Commissioner Dave Eggers, the City of Dunedin has created a family friendly, business friendly, and environmental friendly community along Florida's Gulf Coast. This latest honor is the result of years of hard work by the city, by its many community organizations, and by its residents. Dunedin is home to Dr. Beach's top rated "America's Beach", it is on CNN's list of Best Places to Retire, it has been ranked as a top place for walkers, and it is America's first Purple Heart City.

Dunedin has great parks, great schools, great programs, and most importantly great people. The city government can only do so much without the commitment of the people they represent to create a great place to live, to work, to play, and to raise their families.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues join me in congratulating the people of Dunedin, Florida, their elected leadership, their city staff, the many fine organizations represented by the Dunedin Council of Organizations and the residents themselves for what we have long known, that Dunedin is a Florida City of Excellence.

CELEBRATING THE ALEXANDRIA MARDI GRAS ASSOCIATION

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Alexandria Mardi Gras Association (AMGA) for enhancing economic development and quality of life by unifying and celebrating Louisiana's interests each year.

On March 3, 1994, the 295th Anniversary of the Founding of Louisiana by Iberville, the AMGA was officially established to ensure Alexandria Mardi Gras is among the best cultural and social events in Central Louisiana.

The goal of Alexandria Mardi Gras, or Mardi Gras au Coeur de la Louisiana, which means Mardi Gras in the Heart of Central Louisiana, is to exemplify unity and cohesiveness through family-friendly festivities.

As Mardi Gras in the heart of Louisiana kicks off its 16th year, the goal is truly illustrated through numerous cultural events that appeal to all cross sections of the community, state, and region, while helping stimulate the economy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the AMGA for its continued hard work and dedication to ensure that Mardi Gras in Central Louisiana retains the charm and spirit of the first official celebration 16 years prior.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGIT STORHOFF

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Brigit Storhoff of Decorah Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K–12 schools.

I congratulate Brigit Storhoff on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Brigit in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

HONORING THE NAACP ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on its 100th Anniversary. In 1909 the founders of the NAACP came together with the purpose of promoting the rights guaranteed under the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution.

Today, the NAACP works to ensure that all individuals have equal rights and to end racial hatred and discrimination. The NAACP has influenced some of the greatest civil rights victories of the last century, including: the integration of our nation's schools and the Brown v. Board decision; the Voting Rights Act; striking down segregation; and the Equal Employment Opportunity Act.

It is particularly notable that this year's 100th anniversary also marks the first time in the history of the United States that we have an African-American President. The NAACP helped pave the way for this landmark achievement, and continues to lay the groundwork for future accomplishments in minority communities.

Despite the advancements of the past 100 years under the leadership of the NAACP, there is still much work to be done. 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.

NAACP continues to promote new ideas and leadership in the fields of educational and employment opportunities, ending health care disparities, and economic empowerment.

The NAACP instilled in America a sense of consciousness, and it continues to do so today. I commend the NAACP on this anniversary and the thousands of individuals who continue to fight for equality and justice.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S VISIT TO INDIA

SPEECH OF

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to join my friend and colleague Representative JOHN LEWIS in support of H. Res. 134. This resolution commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s visit to India, and the role played by the revered leader of Indian independence Mahatma Gandhi—and those who followed in his footsteps—in influencing Dr. King's nonviolent approach to achieving social and political justice. I embrace this opportunity to look back at the men and the movement which pressed this nation forward in its journey towards the fulfillment of our founders' creed, and look forward as the march toward opportunity, justice, and freedom for all continues.

When Dr. King left for India in February 1959, he was just beginning to make his mark as a leader of the national movement for civil rights. He had organized the successful boycott of Montgomery, Alabama's public transportation system in 1955, and founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference two years later. His burgeoning success had provided his nonviolent movement with the momentum and potential to become a truly powerful force in the pursuit of equal rights for all Americans. This momentum became entrenched during Dr. King's trip to India, where his immersion in the world of Mahatma Gandhi's own nonviolent success led King to commit himself in his philosophical entirety to the principle of meeting hate and injustice with persistent nonviolence.

Though Gandhi had passed away eleven years prior to Dr. King's journey, King was no less attentive to the followers of the great shanti sena—the “nonviolent army” that Gandhi led in his successful effort to free his country from the grasp of colonialism. He encountered those who had stood with Gandhi through the long, arduous struggle for India's sovereignty, and came to deeply understand the necessary commitment and purpose of which believers in nonviolence must never lose sight. Dr. King came to believe that if India can assert its independence from the bonds of the British Empire without violence, then the United States of America can achieve racial equality with the same approach. He took the lessons of a people half a world away and applied them to the struggle of his own nation, illustrating that a righteous cause pursued by means which justify its ends holds universal promise. Perhaps it is best articulated by Dr. King himself: “As I delved deeper

into the philosophy of Gandhi, my skepticism concerning the power of love gradually diminished, and I came to see for the first time its potency in the area of social reform.”

Now, with the passage of five decades, let us commemorate this historic journey of our beloved Dr. King, focusing on the lessons it taught him and the strength it provided him as he met the challenges of his day. Let us not only remember the past, but rather carry its lessons into a brighter future of promise and freedom. I once again express my heartfelt appreciation for Congressman LEWIS, a man whose own journey and career follow closely the principles and vision laid out by these two men, and urge all my colleagues to take this opportunity to honor those who refuse to allow the forces of hate and oppression to provoke them to lose sight of their vision for justice by embracing the nonviolent path.

DTV DELAY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the impending transition our nation will be facing on their television broadcasts from analog to digital. Despite efforts that have been made by the government to advise the public as to what steps would be necessary to prepare for the transition such as continuous advisory commercials and converter box coupons, there are still those who are not prepared.

Whether it is because of a lack of accessibility to applying for the coupons or a delay in receiving the coupons, no one should be left “in the dark” when the transition occurs. The government to this point has been doing what it can to help those upon whom this transition is being forced by offering coupons to offset the cost of the converter boxes needed to continue receiving television broadcasts. Nonetheless, with the transition date of February 17, 2009, only a few days away, there are still more than 2 million households that are on a government waiting list to receive assistance in purchasing the converter boxes.

It is for this reason that I am urging Members to support the DTV Delay Act, S. 352, sponsored by Senator JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, which seeks to delay the transition date from February 17, 2009 to June 13, 2009 and it would also extend the deadline of applying for government converter box coupons to July 31, 2009, provided that funding is available. This bill would also provide extra time for those who have not applied or received converter box coupons to still do so. Although this bill would not prevent stations from transitioning from analog to digital and letting others use the recovered air waves, it does allow for these same analog channels to have an extension in their broadcasting license on analog channels thus allowing people to continue viewing television broadcasts with their regular antennas.

NATIONAL SILVER ALERT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 632, the National Silver Alert Act.

This legislation will provide federal grants to states to assist them in the development or improvement of an alert system for seniors.

I believe that a society can be judged by the compassion it shows to the most vulnerable in that society. And in America those are our children and our seniors.

We all know that our society is aging and many in our community are facing the challenges posed by dealing with aging parents and loved ones.

We worry about the safety of our seniors, particularly those who suffer from either Alzheimers or dementia. And our first concern is to ensure that our loved ones get the care they need.

Many times those seniors when going about everyday tasks like going to the store or walking their dog can wander or drive off and become lost.

Statistics show that as many as 60% of patients with Alzheimers or dementia will wander at some point during their illness. Those same statistics also show that if they are not found within the first 24 hours that as many as 50% will suffer serious injury or death.

That is enough to elicit serious concern from any loved one or care provider.

We have experienced similar issues with young children who wander away or are taken by someone.

To combat that problem we established the Amber Alert system.

Amber Alert ensures that the information concerning that child is shared with law enforcement and with the general public through the media and signs along our roadways.

We have all seen these reports when they are issued and we all keep an extra keen eye to provide any assistance we can to return those children to safety.

The Amber Alert System works and it works well.

Our seniors deserve no less support, particularly those suffering from Alzheimers or dementia.

They too often can become confused and travel far distances or to areas of danger with little ability to find their way home.

That is why I strongly support the National Silver Alert Act. I am hopeful that we can quickly pass this important legislation and urge all of my colleagues to support this measure.

HONORING ANDREW SHEPARD

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor my friend Andrew Shepard who passed away on January 20, 2009, in Santa Rosa, California. Andy was a