

Aside from being the recognized leader of her party and a worldwide symbol for peace, freedom and democracy, Aung San Suu Kyi was the recipient of the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in 1990, given by the European Union, and the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, I ask that you to join me in calling for the unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi and honoring the courage and conviction with which she lives her life.

MRS. RITA HARLIEN—TEXAS
TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 1982

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, El Paso, Texas is extremely fortunate to have some of the best teachers in the state and the country. As a parent and grandparent, I am appreciative of the work and dedication of our teachers and I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the life and work of the late Mrs. Rita Harlien, a former teacher at Eastwood High School in the Ysleta Independent School District, for her dedication to her students and her designation as the 1982 Texas Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Rita Harlien received the highest honor that the State of Texas can award and her work with children is long lasting and enduring. Her children and the legacy she left behind remain alive in the community of El Paso, Texas.

While teaching at Eastwood High School, her students competed in many University Interscholastic League State competitions and won a state championship in debate. In 1978 she was selected as Speech Teacher of the Year. In 1981 she served as President of the Texas Speech Communication Association. While working for the El Paso Independent School District, she completed her administration certification and coauthored two speech textbooks. After serving six years in administration, as a Facilitator of Academic Competition, in the El Paso District, Mrs. Harlien's love for teaching beckoned her back to Eastwood High School where she taught drama until she retired from teaching in 1998, after 34 years of service.

Mrs. Rita Harlien is part of a larger history of educational excellence in El Paso. I am proud to note that to date El Paso area educators have been chosen as Texas Teachers of the Year nine times. The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching.

I am proud of the work of our teachers, and I am committed to ensuring that education remains a top priority in this Congress.

HONORING LT. CLIFFORD SAUCIER

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Lt. Clifford Saucier for

his 39 years of dedicated service with the Southington Police Department. Lt. Saucier began his career with the Southington Police Department in March 1969 as a supernumerary officer. In February of 1970 he joined the department as a full time patrolman and was a member of the first class to graduate from the Connecticut Police Academy (POST). Throughout his 39 years of full time service, Lt. Saucier demonstrated his commitment to the badge, the department and the community he serves.

During his tenure, Lt. Saucier held diverse positions while attaining the ranks of detective, sergeant and lieutenant. He served as the Crisis Incident Commander, chief hostage negotiator, police union president and interned with the State's Attorney's Office as a criminal investigator.

Throughout his career Lt. Saucier has continuously displayed his commitment to improving himself and his peers by receiving training in over twenty disciplines, giving lectures and collaborating with other agencies. His service has been recognized by civic and professional organizations, receiving the "Honorable and Exceptional Merit Award" from the Southington Police Department, the "Distinguish Service Award, Man of the Year" from the Southington Jaycees and the "Public Safety Citation" awarded by the B.P.O.E. Southington Lodge No. 1669.

I thank Lt. Saucier for his 39 years of dedicated public service to the First District of Connecticut, and I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating him on his retirement.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE HONORABLE U.W. CLEMON

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of an outstanding lawyer who has recently retired from the federal bench, the Honorable U.W. Clemon.

U.W. Clemon's ascension from racial apartheid in Alabama to the federal bench is a testament to the quickening pace of justice in the late twentieth century. His path is also evidence of how much that rising arc of justice depended on the stamina and the will of individual black Americans who resisted the permanence of segregation.

When I trace U.W. Clemon's life, I am struck by how undeterred he was by the cruelty of his times. He was not yet a legal adult when he dared to testify to Birmingham's City Council that segregation ordinances had no valid legal authority. He was ejected from the council chambers and labeled an "agitator" and a "militant" for his efforts. Young Clemon was assigned by movement leaders to risk arrest by entering the Birmingham Public Library's segregated chambers. Through all of this, he knew that Birmingham's police had been vicious enough to brutalize children much younger than him.

Clemon emphatically rejected the premise that even smart and brave young black men had no professional future in Alabama. He

saw no reason why the valedictorian at a fine black college, Miles University, shouldn't also be a Columbia man with an Ivy League law degree.

It would have been forgivable if Clemon had used his Ivy League ticket to escape the South—frankly, I would have if I had been his contemporary and numerous others did. The "agitator" in him won out, and the former student activist was soon camped out in Alabama's courts litigating to enforce school desegregation orders that had been withering on the vine. False memory says that a black U.S.C. running back's exemplary performance against the University's football team moved the legendary "Bear" Bryant to recruit black athletes; in reality, it was a lawsuit filed by young attorney Clemon.

This initial pioneering phase of his life is the first reason U.W. Clemon will be honored on May 7, 2009 by the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation. The second reason is the character of the public service he has provided the citizens of my state. State Senator U.W. Clemon distinguished himself by the battles he waged to obtain representation for blacks on the governing board of state agencies and universities. Part of the reason for progress was undoubtedly Governor George Wallace's softening stance on race. Much another, major part of the reason state boards came to resemble the state's population was Senator Clemon's persistence and his effectiveness.

When Clemon was nominated for the federal bench, the history making nature of the appointment guaranteed opposition and some of it was personal and ferocious. His stance against the constitutionality of the death penalty was used against him; his role in the political process was described as the wrong preparation for a judicial temperament—a curious claim to make to a Senate that had confirmed Governor Earl Warren and Republican activist William Rehnquist to the Supreme Court. It was even intimated that a civil rights litigator might have an untoward bias toward black plaintiffs.

Clemon won the fight, and the prize of being the first black federal judge in my state's history. The subsequent twenty nine years are a model of judicial courage. Clemon's rulings have made my state's mental hospitals and its county jails more hospitable to human beings. His decisions have undone some of the environmental ravages that were becoming routine costs of doing business in some counties. His single-handed implementation of a more inclusive jury selection wheel means that the administration of justice is more diverse than it is in any other federal district in my state, and that is a good thing if you conclude that the appearance of equal justice is an institutional value in its own right.

This record of robust interpretation of the ideal of equal justice is the legacy Judge Clemon leaves. I have never understood the notion that the law is unreservedly neutral or that its interpretation is unconnected to a judge's deeply held sentiments of what kind of America we should aspire to be. Plessy v. Ferguson arose out of a value scheme, one that disfavored people of my kind and was inherently skeptical of our capacity for common ground. Brown v. Board is a variant of yet another value, one that trusts the capacity for collective gain if we are freed from bigotry and its stigmas. Both decisions arose out of the reading of the same constitutional clauses.

U.W. Clemon judged the same Equal Protection Clause, and its descendant, Title VII, with a vision. It seems to go something like this: discrimination still has deep roots in our culture; a reading of the law that is too parsimonious, or too cramped, will yield one kind of community, while a more heroic interpretation will generate a public sphere that shines more brightly. Finally, I think Judge Clemon always felt that corporate power should feel a little unsettled when it walks into a courtroom. It's an instinct that I appreciate the more I see the customary advantages that the entrenched and the privileged enjoy in most seats of power.

I congratulate Judge Clemon on a noble, heroic career.

MS. ROSA E. LUJAN—TEXAS
TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 1992

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, the El Paso, Texas community is proud to have some of the best teachers in the country. Today, I would like to acknowledge one of those, Ms. Rosa E. Lujan, a teacher at Ysleta Elementary School in the Ysleta Independent School District, for being selected as the 1992 Texas Teacher of the Year. Ms. Lujan received the highest honor that the State of Texas can award to a teacher because of her commitment to the children of El Paso. The Texas Education Agency annually recognizes and rewards teachers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty and excelled in the classroom. Ms. Rosa E. Lujan represents the best of the teaching profession, and on behalf of the El Paso, Texas community, I applaud her dedication to our schools.

Ms. Rosa E. Lujan's love of teaching was ignited in her teens as a student at Ysleta High School. During the summer, she worked as an aide for South Loop and Ysleta Elementary School. Later on, at the University of Texas at El Paso, she started working for the Ysleta Independent School District as a fourth grade teacher. She has been noted to say: "Being a teacher has allowed me to change children's lives. Hopefully, I have inspired children to believe in themselves, just as my teachers inspired me." After 35 years in education, her passion for students and learning is still burning.

Ms. Rosa E. Lujan is part of a larger history of educational excellence in El Paso. I am proud to note that to date, El Paso area educators have been chosen as Texas Teachers of the Year nine times. The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching.

I am proud of the work of our teachers, and I am committed to ensuring that education remains a top priority in this Congress.

THANKING ROB VON GOGH FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate my constituent Rob von Gogh who today marks the end of his twenty-two years of service as an employee of the United States Government, including ten years of distinguished service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Rob began serving the House of Representatives in 1998 as the Branch Manager and Graphic Artist within House Information Resources (HIR), preparing visual communications for Members of Congress. In 1999 he was promoted to HIR's Director of Client Services, where he managed the COA's centralized, non-partisan technology support team that provides infrastructure support for the entire House of Representatives and the more than 950 district offices across the country.

Rob was selected as the recipient of the 2006 Chief Administrative Officer's Excellence Award for his role managing the Client Services team. Rob has guided the House's technological infrastructure through periods of significant transition and strain. Within his role as manager of the Client Services team Rob has been involved in many milestones and business changing events of the House. They include the House's Y2K transition, the anthrax crisis and September 11th attacks, the House Mobile Computing Project, House Active Directory Project, CAO Seat Management for computers and the House Information Hosting Service.

Rob has served in a nonpartisan role as one of the senior problem solvers for House operations. Blending an artful balance of technical knowledge with compassion and a keen focus on delivering results, he instilled a sense of quality customer service with his teammates that earned him the reputation as a person who gets things done fast, right and always with a smile. Mr. von Gogh served the House and our country with distinction. On behalf of the entire House community, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Rob for his service and years of dedication to the United States House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, due to other congressional business in my district, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Thursday, March 26, 2009.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, and 162.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "JOHN
HOPE FRANKLIN TULSA-GREEN-
WOOD RACE RIOT CLAIMS AC-
COUNTABILITY ACT OF 2009"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the "John Hope Franklin Tulsa-Greenwood Race Riot Claims Accountability Act of 2009," along with Representative NADLER. This legislation will extend the statute of limitations to allow the survivors of the Tulsa-Greenwood Riot of 1921 to seek a determination on the merits of their civil rights and other claims against the perpetrators of the Riot in a court of law.

This legislation is named in honor of the late Dr. John Hope Franklin, the noted historian, who was a first-hand witness to the destructive impact that the riot had on the African-American community of Tulsa. Dr. Franklin made numerous scholarly contributions to the understanding of the long term effects of the riot on the city and worked to keep the issue alive in history and on the minds of policymakers. On April 24, 2007, he served as a witness, testifying in favor of the legislation, and its passage would be a fitting tribute to his memory and to a community which has never received its fair day in court.

The Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, Oklahoma, was one of the nation's most prosperous African-American communities entering the decade of the Nineteen Twenties. Serving over 8,000 residents, the community boasted two newspapers, over a dozen churches, and hundreds of African-American-owned businesses, with the commercial district known nationally as the "Negro Wall Street." In May 1921, all that came to an end as 42 square blocks of the community were burned to the ground and up to 300 of its residents were killed by a racist mob. In the wake of the violence, the State and local governments quashed claims for redress and effectively erased the incident from official memory.

The 1921 Tulsa Race Riot was one of the most destructive and costly attacks upon an American community in our nation's history. However, no convictions were obtained for the incidents of murder, arson or larceny connected with the riot, and none of the more than 100 contemporaneously filed lawsuits by residents and property owners was successful in recovering damages from insurance companies to assist in the reconstruction of the community.

The case of the Tulsa-Greenwood Riot victims is worthy of congressional attention because substantial evidence suggests that governmental officials deputized and armed the mob and that the National Guard joined in the destruction. The report commissioned by the Oklahoma State Legislature in 1997, and published in 2001, uncovered new information and detailed, for the first time, the extent of the involvement by the State and city government in prosecuting and erasing evidence of the riot. This new evidence was crucial for the formulation of a substantial case, but its timeliness raised issues at law, and resulted in a dismissal on statute of limitation grounds. In dismissing the survivor's claims, however, the Court found that extraordinary circumstances