

Certainly some of the comments that came out of the meeting, the bipartisan meeting that the President held with Members of Congress, both the House and the Senate, members of the business community, members of industry, many of those comments were positive comments, particularly as it pertained to health care.

So maybe this is the year where the American people see some significant change in the way health care is administered in this country. I hope that we will have the good sense to do that in a rational way and not in a way that undermines the delivery of health care in this country, but that remains to be seen.

But, nevertheless, the President did speak about that favorably at the conclusion of his remarks today and many of the other Members, both House and Senate, and members of industry that were present in that meeting of responsibility and spending today voiced similar optimism. So being an optimistic person at heart, I hope to hear some significant words about the future direction of health care from the President tomorrow.

It would have been helpful, Mr. Speaker, if Members of the House of Representatives could have received information about the President's budget directly from the White House. My staff has primarily relied upon press reports today in order to get information about the President's budget, that is probably not the ideal way for a budget of this size to come to Members of the Congress.

I would encourage, Mr. Speaker, the House to be assertive in its prerogative to receive this information in a timely fashion from the other, from the other branch of government. After all, we are a coequal branch of government here in the legislative branch.

It was the same phenomenon we encountered during the stimulus bill last week where we were getting reports from people who had acquaintances on K Street, the main lobby groups downtown, where they were getting reports of what was contained within the stimulus bill before we were privy to those same provisions here in the United States Congress.

□ 2045

This is not a good way to go about disseminating information. Again, I trust that we will see more openness from the administration, because, after all, that is what was promised to us during the runup to the election and certainly what was discussed during the President's inaugural address, and openness in government would require that the legislative branch be treated as that coequal branch of government that we all know it to be, and to receive these reports from the administration in a timely fashion.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to touch on one last point about the stimulus bill. There has been a lot made of the \$19 billion or \$20 billion contained

within the stimulus bill which is to go for advances in health information technology, the computerization of medical records, Mr. Speaker, electronic medical records, certainly a concept that is a valuable one and one that is worth pursuing.

I will just have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, in my 6 years since coming to the House of Representatives since leaving the active practice of medicine for the full time practice of legislation, I have been impressed with the number of medical practices and the number of hospitals and clinics around the country that have voluntarily gone to a system of electronic medical records.

Now, the money put forward in the stimulus bill as I have been able to understand it in the writings that I have been able to find on this money actually put the money forward not until the year 2011. Now, 2011, if you do some quick math, is about 2 years from now, so it doesn't really comport with the concept of getting money out there quickly into the hands of practicing physicians.

You may think, well, a doctor's office is hardly an area for economic development. But, Mr. Speaker, I will tell you, in the State of Texas where we have revamped and reformed our medical liability laws, we have seen a number of physicians move to Texas from other States, a significant number, and it is estimated that each physician coming to a community will in fact generate between \$900,000 to a little over \$1 million in economic activity within that state. So this is not an insignificant concept.

The important thing is if there is advantage to gain from putting this money in the hands of medical practitioners in 2011, the advantage should be there in 2009 as well. I in fact introduced an amendment when we had the markup of this bill in our committee on Energy and Commerce. It was turned back by the majority. I frankly can't quite understand why.

But I think this is something that we might re-look at. There is the ability to make technical corrections, and if indeed it is possible to pay physicians for improving their ability to keep and disseminate medical records and provide them substantial funding for doing so in 2011, it would make good sense to do that in 2009.

After all, Mr. Speaker, we have just 10 months' time before we have to deal with a very substantial and to some degree very disturbing 20 percent cut in reimbursements to physicians, as is mandated under current law under the sustainable growth rate formula. We ought to give them at least a little bit of reassurance that we are serious about our approach to the practicing physician and their ability and willingness to take care of Medicare patients in the future by addressing this shortsightedness in the stimulus bill that we passed last week.

Mr. Speaker, there is no shortage of things we can talk about when it

comes to spending. Certainly the stimulus bill came to us advertised as a jobs bill. It turned out to be a spending bill, and that is a consequence that most of us will have to live with for the rest of our lives. It was an explosive growth in Federal spending.

Unfortunately, we are on a pace to continue to see rapid growth in Federal spending. The President, to his credit, says he is going to cut the deficit in half by the end of his first term. That is a very, very tall order for him to have taken on. I intend to be supportive of that to the extent I can. If it is done in a way without harming the productive sector of our society, if it is done in a way without raising taxes on the productive segment of society, you can expect me to be there with him. If his only approach is to raise taxes during the time of a recession or perhaps even a depression, we have seen in the past that that formula doesn't work, and I don't think there is any way that I could be supportive.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an interesting hour to be down here and talk about the effects of the stimulus bill and spending. It is something where we will have ample opportunity to talk for many, many months ahead. Suffice to it say, it stands to be a very interesting year here in the People's House. I look forward to future full and lively debate on this subject.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I stand tonight to represent the Congressional Black Caucus for this hour as we talk about Black History Month. The Congressional Black Caucus is proud to anchor this hour.

Currently, the CBC is chaired by the Honorable BARBARA LEE from the Ninth Congressional District of California. I am Representative MARCIA FUDGE, representing the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, here to anchor the hour for the Congressional Black Caucus.

The CBC Members are advocates for families, nationally and internationally, and have played a significant role as local and regional advocates. We continue to work diligently to be the conscience of the Congress, but because all politics are ultimately local, for that reason we provide dedicated and focused services to the citizens of the congressional districts we represent.

The vision of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus, to promote the public welfare through legislation designed to meet the needs of millions of neglected citizens, continues to be the focal point for the legislative work and political activities of the Congressional Black Caucus today.

To close the month of February, we are proud to present a reflection on black history. Specifically, we would like to take this time to herald the unsung history-makers in the black community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to our chairperson, BARBARA LEE, the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

First let me thank the gentlelady from Ohio for yielding and also for your leadership.

Let me give just a bit of history. We have been for many years now holding these special orders to make sure that the country understood what the priorities are of the Congressional Black Caucus, which, of course, we believe will make America live up to its creed of liberty and justice for all. As a result of that, the late beloved Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones chaired these special orders every week for us to sound the alarm, to beat the drum, to make sure the country knew the work of the Congressional Black Caucus.

I want to thank the gentlelady from Ohio for continuing this tradition. This is truly historical. She is such a great leader, not only in her home State, but throughout the country. This is her first night chairing this, and we look forward to continuing the legacy of those who came before us to make sure that the agenda of the Congressional Black Caucus is put forth center front so that the country can know exactly the work of this great and august body.

This is Black History Month. It began in 1926 as Negro History Week out of Dr. Carter G. Woodson's frustrations over the lack of black history in history books. For 83 years, the contributions of African Americans have been recognized and celebrated each February. It comes as no surprise that this year Black History Month is especially significant with the inauguration of Barack Obama as our Nation's 44th President.

Forty years ago, the Congressional Black Caucus was founded with a simple yet a very profound goal, and I would like to read you what the founding statement said. Part of the statement said, "To positively influence the course of events pertinent to African Americans and others of similar experience and situation and to achieve greater equity for persons of African descent in the design and content of domestic and international programs and service."

Black History Month is a time to celebrate the legacy of so many of our heroes and our sheroes whose stories sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us. For more than 400 years, and despite tremendous hardships, African Americans have made significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, literary, religious, scientific and technological work in the United States.

In the words of the old Negro spiritual, we have come this far by faith:

Faith in the divine justice of a merciful God; faith in the ideals proclaimed to the world in the Declaration of Independence by the founders; and faith in the capacity of Americans of all creeds, races and religions to devote their lives to making America freer, stronger, better, more equal and more just.

Earlier this month, the Congressional Black Caucus, led by the Honorable DANNY DAVIS from Illinois, held a Black History Month program to honor and celebrate the legacy of a truly courageous group of trailblazers, the 22 black lawmakers who served in the House and the Senate in the two decades after the Civil War. Every African American Member of Congress today and tomorrow will forever owe them a debt of gratitude. We must all pay tribute to this group, because they symbolized more than the Union's victory over the Confederate and the eradication of the institution of slavery.

These men, eight of whom had been held as human chattel, represented the embodiment of hope. Hope not only that the shackles of slavery could be broken, but hope that America was indeed capable of fulfilling the principles of liberty, equality and justice for all who called this land home.

"Place all citizens upon one broad platform," declared Representative Richard Cain of South Carolina, who served two non-consecutive terms during the 1870s. He said, "All we ask of this country," right here on this floor, "is to put no barriers between us, to lay no stumbling blocks in our way; to give us freedom to accomplish our destiny." That was in the 1870s. Of course, part of that destiny, as I said earlier, was fulfilled on Tuesday, November 4, when this Nation elected Barack Obama President of the United States.

We all know too well that electoral victories, however, can be fleeting if they are not coupled with a sustained commitment day in and day out to protect and empower all Americans.

Despite the bravery and efforts of this early vanguard of black lawmakers, for most African Americans the strides made during the reconstruction period gave way to an era of Jim Crow, which many of us remember and experienced. And black lives in many of the lands that once were represented here on Capitol Hill by African Americans, and elsewhere in our country, were routinely lynched and subjected to second-class citizenship.

Yet I am certain that we all know the true possibilities of this great country, and we know what we believe in can be achieved. And we owe this in no small measure due to what I like to call this original Congressional Black Caucus, those 22 Members, then moving forward to the 13 Members who founded the Congressional Black Caucus 40 years ago. And, yes, still today, the Congressional Black Caucus of 42 members of Congress, continues to be the conscience of the Congress and will continue, will continue, to work day

and night to make this a more perfect Union.

Thank you, Congresswoman FUDGE, for leading us tonight and for leading us through the next couple of years with these special orders. Thank you for allowing me to speak for a few minutes tonight.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank our distinguished Chair for her leadership, and I would now like to yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, in commemorating Black History Month this year, it is certainly fitting that the members of the Congressional Black Caucus have chosen to honor unsung heroes, since all of us know men and women in our communities who are laboring tirelessly to improve the quality of life for others while seeking no recognition for themselves.

Let me begin by commending the new Member to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman FUDGE, for her outstanding work in the short period of time that she has been in the caucus.

□ 2100

As you know, she replaced the Congresswoman from Cleveland, Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, whose untimely death left a big hole in our heart and the Congressional Black Caucus. But we are very pleased to welcome her, and she is starting with a sprint. And her experience as a former mayor and active in civic and government affairs throughout her life have prepared her for this task. And so it's a pleasure to share this hour with you.

As we mentioned, it's only fitting and proper that we recognize unsung heroes because there are so many in our community, all through the history of African Americans, whether it was the Underground Railroad, whether it was people at the battle of Bunker Hill, Peter Salem, who killed Major Pitcairn who led the Boston Massacre. We could go on through history, that so many African Americans were unsung heroes, many whose names never appear in our history books.

And we have these living legends today in our community, and that's why I think it's so important that we have an opportunity to mention a few of them in our own district. My district, the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey, encompassing parts of 22 towns and three counties. I will focus on several who live in the City of Newark and Irvington, those who have devoted their time and energy to lifting others up and truly performing labors of love in communities in our Nation.

Our community activist who have had a significant positive impact on my home City of Newark and surrounding communities for a period spanning over 30 years, is a dedicated human rights activist, Larry Hamm, whom I've known and had the privilege of knowing since he was a high school student as a very young man.

He has been described as a forceful and articulate spokesperson for educational needs and aspirations for the students in the City of Newark. And, as a matter of fact, he was appointed to the Newark School Board when he was only a high school student himself, and transformed the local Board of Education to listening to the needs and the ideas of young people. Those who were supposed to be served by the Board of Education and felt they were not being served had an active voice on the School Board. He graduated from Arts High School in Newark, even achieved an outstanding record as a long distance runner, once again, showing the endurance that he even learned as a young person.

He then went to Princeton University. And at Princeton he did not sit on his laurels. He actually organized a student protest against the oppressive system of apartheid in South Africa, successfully arguing that Princeton had a moral obligation to divest its financial interests in that Nation. As you may recall, there was the question of divestiture in South Africa's P.W. Botha-led apartheid government, and there was a move afoot to have governments, institutions of higher learning, other kinds of foundations divest their funds in companies that did business in South Africa. And by having that economic stranglehold on the finances going into South Africa, that was one of the weapons that helped bring down that evil system of apartheid that strangled people of color in South Africa. And Larry convinced the Board of Trustees at Princeton University to divest from South Africa.

After earning his degree, Mr. Hamm returned to Newark and became active in local politics. A district leader and President of the 24th Assembly District, he was the founder and director of the People's Energy Cooperative, a community fuel oil cooperative. As you know, cooperatives tend to help people make affordable the cost of energy, and he did an outstanding job in that position.

Then he served as director of the Community Organization Program of the United Church of Christ, the Commission for Racial Justice. Along with Reverend Ben Chavis, he organized a voters registration drive in Alabama during the 1980s.

He is also known locally for his work this organizing the People's Organization for Progress, called POP, an independent, grass roots political organization that is active in Newark and the northern part of New Jersey. Under Mr. Hamm's leadership, the group works to build unity among community organizations, from promoting access to quality education and affordable health care. He currently is supporting H.R. 676, the universal health care legislation, to protesting racial profiling and police brutality where he's been extremely active in cases in the local communities. He says that a people united can never be defeated, and he

says that if there is no justice there can be no peace. And he continually raises the question of police brutality and excessive use of police authority.

He is a wonderful, committed young man. He's always been in the forefront of the struggle for justice and equality. As a matter of fact, most recently, he arranged for five buses to bring 300 New Jersey residents to Washington, D.C. so that they could experience the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama. As a matter of fact, he had to come down early because he wanted to be sure that all 300 people had Metro cards. Thinking ahead, he said, rather than have them wait in line that day, he took another day off to come down and had to then purchase them to bring them back so that when his group got here, they were able to proceed in an orderly fashion.

We're all certainly proud of Larry Hamm, and we wish him well in his pursuit of equality for all.

All of us know individuals who are literally doing the Lord's work, and that is pastors and church volunteers who reach out to meet both the material and spiritual needs of those they serve. There are many, many great pastors in our communities, as we know. But there's one young one that I would just like to mention, his name is Reverend Ron Christian, who is pastor of Christian Love Baptist Church in Irvington, New Jersey in the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey.

Reverend Christian inspires all of those who find their way to his church with his message of compassion, forgiveness, spiritual renewal and optimism. He holds a special appeal for the young and the dispossessed, coaxing former gang members to give up destructive pasts and, instead, fulfill their God-given potential. Reverend Christian welcomes all with open arms. And he has said that his philosophy is, come as you are; let God worry about the rest.

As a matter of fact, our court system depends on Reverend Ron, because they allow him to run a community service program for young men and teenagers who have had problems with the law. But they send them to Reverend Ron's church to do community service. And he has taken so many young men and has turned them around. Each Sunday, many, many young men come, and women, to give their life to God, who have said they're turning their life around because of how Reverend Ron has inspired them.

He's just a wonderful young man. And not only does he do work here in the local community, but he's gone overseas to Africa, to Liberia, where he's had projects to help over there.

He's just an exciting young man, and he said he's finally pleased that he is performing more weddings than funerals of young people because, as we know in our communities, there is an unbelievable carnage of young people with gun violence. But he is turning so many of those young lives around.

As we talk about these two young men, let me talk about a remarkable woman in my community, Ms. Eddiemae Livingston. Now, Ms. Livingston, you would think that she was as young as Reverend Ron and Larry Hamm, but she was born in 1919 so she is a little bit older.

Ms. Livingston, if you're looking, you said it was all right for me to mention your age once before so I remembered that. And you are a remarkable, 90-year old, and the work that you continue to do is amazing.

It's hard to believe that Ms. Livingston will be 90 this summer. Actually I pushed it up a couple of months because she remains interested and active every day. Early in her professional career she worked for the Federal Government providing family allowances to soldiers families. She wanted to move to Newark but initially was prevented from transferring because of discriminatory laws. After the NAACP intervened, she was able to move to Newark in 1942 where she worked for the Office of Dependents Benefits. Her community service includes working as a counselor for unwed mothers. She worked at various social agencies until retiring from the City of Newark in 1992.

She holds two life memberships and two golden heritage memberships with the NAACP. In addition, Ms. Livingston has been honored for her work at Hopewell Baptist Church, Reverend Geis, where she actually sends donations to students from her church to simply help them with their books and things of that nature. She just has such a big heart.

The North Jersey unit of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs and the City of Newark has recognized her. Our community was pleased when the Mayor of Newark declared July 13, 2004, as Eddiemae Livingston Day.

Ms. Livingston now devotes much of her time to the unit complex where she lives. And she's active in the tenants council. She was an active supporter of President Barack Obama and was thrilled at his historic election.

She was also a volunteer at the local YM/YWCA where I ran a program for young people when I was teaching. And she volunteered to be a counselor to one of the Tri-Hi-Y clubs at that time. So she is just a wonderful person. I wish her another several decades of outstanding work.

Finally, another outstanding woman who I am pleased to call a friend is Gloria Hopkins Buck, who has dedicated her life to working tirelessly to improve the quality of life in our community. She is well-respected and well-loved for her accomplishments over the years as a leader in service to community, arts, culture, professional and educational organizations, primarily located in the Newark metropolitan area.

Ms. Buck worked for over 25 years with the Newark Public Schools as a licensed clinical social worker and was

among the first nationally to become certified as a School Social Work Specialist. In her early years she was a supervisor of Adoptive and Protective Services, which is now the Division of Youth and Family Services in our State.

Ms. Buck is a former Public Relations Consultant with Rochelle Jones & Associates. She is a founder and former president of First Friday Group, Incorporated, a 20-year old corporate business designed to facilitate networking and socializing among African American entrepreneurs and professionals.

Ms. Buck has served as a Trustee to the Newark Museum Association since 1978, and is presently vice president of the board and a member of the executive committee. She has initiated projects that increase community participation in museum programs and exhibitions. As chairperson of the Community Gifts for the Museum's 1989 Master Plan Campaign, Mrs. Buck helped raise \$50,000 in the Black community in 2 days.

She has delivered important testimony before the legislature on behalf of the Newark Museum, one of the prides of our city, one of the most outstanding museums in the country, where people now from New York City come to visit the Newark Museum, and that's really an achievement.

And Mary Sue Sweeney Price, who is the director, has done such a fantastic job, with the help of people like Ms. Gloria Buck. And the overall importance of the arts in culture and contemporary life is something that Gloria Buck continues to push.

□ 2115

Ms. Buck is also a 1976 charter member and chairperson of the Newark Museum's Newark Black Film Festival Selection Committee. Celebrating 35 years, the film festival has been acclaimed the best and longest running festival of its kind in the country. Ms. Buck will serve as co-Chair for the Newark Museum Centennial Committee.

One of the highlights of Ms. Buck's contribution to the arts in Newark and the State of New Jersey was her appointment in 1988 by Governor Tom Kean to the Literacy in the Arts Task Force, a 16-member panel charged with developing a comprehensive plan for arts education within the State's public school system. Many social and civic organizations have been the recipient of Ms. Buck's membership.

She has given 25 years of service as a vice president and member of the board of trustees of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Newark, and currently serves on the Leadership Council. She led the effort that resulted in the historic decision to legally make girls a part of the Boys Clubs of Newark.

Ms. Buck cofounded the Annual Wine Tasting to benefit the clubs, which has been held for over 20 years. She was a 1982 charter and founding member of

the board of directors, New Jersey Coalition of 100 Black Women. For 25 years, Ms. Buck was a member of the governing body of the board of trustees of the New Jersey State Opera. In 2003, she was appointed a commissioner of the Newark Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission for a 3-year term by the then mayor of Newark.

Ms. Buck is the recipient of many honors and awards for her work in the Newark community. In most recent years, she was awarded the 2001 Sojourner Truth Award by the Essex County chapter of the National Association of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., and was honored Woman of the Year by the National Council of Negro Women, the Newark chapter. In 2005, she received the Newark Museum's Commemorative Medal Award for Distinguished Service. In 2007, Ms. Buck received the Newark Boys and Girls Clubs' Champion of Youth Award, honoring her outstanding commitment to our youth, community and the club.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring these devoted volunteers who are the glue helping to hold our communities together and the light helping our neighborhoods to shine. We appreciate their service, and in that spirit, we pause this evening to say thanks to all you do. It has been a pleasure to have an opportunity to just shine the light on four individuals who happen to brighten the corner where they are.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you so much.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield to the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congresswoman FUDGE, and thank you for hosting this hour this evening.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach the end of Black History Month, once again, it is a privilege for me to join my colleague and friend—Congresswoman FUDGE—and all of my colleagues on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus this evening, but it is a special honor to be able to come to this floor in tribute to the many heroes and heroines of the African American descent of our past.

In this Black History Month 2009, we particularly want to call attention to the ordinary people who have throughout our history stepped forward to do extraordinary things, the greatest number of whom remain nameless but to whom we owe a bottomless well of gratitude for the rights, freedoms and privileges we enjoy today.

As we prepare to go on the biennial Alabama Civil Rights Pilgrimage, they come to mind—the many who joined the leaders we do know: the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, our colleague John Lewis, Reverend Jesse Jackson, Ambassador Andrew Young, and others—but there were also those who anonymously joined in the bus boycott, the countless numbers who met in churches and in homes to plan, to

strategize or to just lend support to the movement, those who risked jail by their actions, and those who went to jails and prisons or the young, courageous children who braved dogs and fire hoses because they were stirred by the injustices of the day and were inspired by the righteousness of the cause. There are countless others, some whose faces we see in pictures and who are named and those who remain nameless and very invisible. We may never know them, but their courage, resilience and sacrifice changed the course of history and this country. Their legacy is forever.

There are also many unsung heroes from an earlier time in my district whom I want to acknowledge as well. On February 12, on the 200th anniversary of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln, in the celebration of his birth and his legacy, the Congressional Black Caucus were the guests of the National Archives for a special viewing of the original Emancipation Proclamation. It was truly a moving moment for those of us who were able to attend.

Less known is the story of our journey to emancipation in the U.S. Virgin Islands. I will just recount two highlights—the first step, not the end, but the milestone that we reached in the mid-19th century.

One of the earliest rebellions by enslaved Africans in this hemisphere took place in St. John. The names of the leaders, Kanta and Klaes, are known to us but unknown to my colleagues and fellow Americans. They and others led thousands of their fellow Africans to wrest freedom from the plantation owners of that time. They were able to hold onto the island for over 6 months, and when surrounded and at the point of defeat, they jumped from an Annaberg cliff to the rocks below to their deaths. We only know the names of a few of those who led, but we honor the many others who fought to the death for their freedom. All of them helped to start the spark of liberty burning in our hemisphere.

Then on July 3, 1848, thousands of Africans still in slavery in St. Croix were led by Moses Gottlieb, known as General Buddhoe, to demand their freedom. Because of their numbers and their sheer determination, Governor Peter von Scholten of Denmark was compelled to declare “all unfree in the Danish West Indies are today free.”

We thank all of those forever unknown men and women brought in chains from Africa but who broke those chains and delivered emancipation to the people of the then Danish West Indies, now U.S. Virgin Islands, almost 15 years or more, really, before our sisters and brothers in the United States joined us.

I just want to point out that men were not the only freedom fighters in the Virgin Islands. Those who fought in 1733 and those who planned and marched on the fort in 1848 certainly included many women. In fact, 30 years after emancipation, it was five women

led by Queen Mary who led a famous and successful labor revolt in St. Croix and Queen Coziah who, with several hundred female coal workers, staged another successful strike in St. Thomas in 1892.

There are many other unsung heroes. In fact, almost any of our local Virgin Island heroes, except for the many who also accomplished much here on the mainland, are unknown to most Americans, but I want to focus on two men whom I knew when I was growing up and who were close friends of my father's.

Despite the many times in recent months and years that the Tuskegee Airmen have been honored, it is not well-known that there were two who came from the U.S. Virgin Islands—Henry E. Rohlsen, who was born on St. John, and Herbert H. Heywood, who was born on St. Croix.

Herbert Heywood joined my father at Columbia University, where my father was attending law school, which was also Mr. Heywood's intended course of study. In 1943, at the age of 19, he interrupted his studies and enlisted in the Army Air Corps as an aviation cadet at Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama. He trained, and when he got his wings, he, too, flew the military P-39 and P-40 aircraft.

Henry Rohlsen, after whom the St. Croix Airport is named, also enrolled in the Army Air Corps' pilot training program in 1943. He had been living in New York at the time. After he earned his wings, he flew the famed P-51 aircraft in addition to the P-39 and P-40.

After honorable discharges, both eventually returned home and contributed to our community in significant ways. Both were elected to several terms in our early legislatures, and worked or volunteered in other capacities in government and community service.

Mr. Speaker, in recognizing them, I also recognize once again and honor all of the Tuskegee Airmen who fought prejudice and injustice at the same time they fought the enemy in the defense of our country.

Theirs was not an easy time to be a member of our armed services or even to be a black in America, before and after their service, but they persevered out of love and loyalty to this country. Their courage and contributions set the United States of America on the path to that "more perfect union" that we continue to strive to become.

Both Airman Herbert H. Heywood and Airman Henry E. Rohlsen have gone on to the eternal sky. We thank them. We thank their families for sharing these heroes with us and with our country.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you. What we now call Black History Month was originated in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson as Negro History Week. The month of February was selected in deference to Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, who were both born in that month. Further, the NAACP was found-

ed in February and just celebrated its 100th anniversary.

Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915 to train black historians and to collect, preserve and publish documents on black life and black people. He also founded the *Journal of Negro History*, *Associated Publishers*, and the *Negro Bulletin*. Woodson spent his life working to educate all people about the vast contributions made by black men and black women throughout history. Mr. Woodson died on April 3, 1950. Black History Month is his legacy.

I am privileged to commend several trailblazers within the 11th District from the African American community. I would like to begin with Judge Jean Murrell Capers, who is a remarkable individual and a community icon. On the night of President Obama's inauguration, while the world celebrated change, we honored this stalwart in our community, who also helped to make that moment possible. Judge Jean Murrell Capers is one of those individuals who deserves to be recognized for her years of dedication to promoting diversity among elected officials and serving, protecting and upholding the laws of Ohio and this Nation.

Judge Capers graduated from Case Western Reserve University in 1932. She began her career as an educator and earned her J.D. from Cleveland Law School in 1944. She was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1945, and began practicing law that same year. In 1949, she became the first African American woman elected to the Cleveland City Council. She was elected four subsequent times to 2-year terms. Beginning in 1964, Judge Capers began to work tirelessly for a black mayor. Though many doubted her efforts, she was audacious enough to hope. Cleveland's first black mayor, the Honorable Carl Stokes, was elected 3 years later. In 1977, Ms. Capers was appointed Cleveland municipal judge, and was re-elected, but was forced to retire in 1986 because of an Ohio law that requires judges to retire at the age of 70.

At the current age of 96, Judge Capers is the oldest active member of the National Bar Association in our district. She is still actively involved in the community, and mentors the next generation of leaders.

It is my privilege to recognize my friend, my sorority sister, mentor, and an unsung hero. I want to say to her that she is so special to us that, on January 22, a flag was flown over our Nation's Capitol in her honor.

I would like to as well recognize Dr. John B. Turner. John B. Turner was a Tuskegee Airman. He was the first black commissioner to be elected in east Cleveland, the first black dean at Case Western Reserve University and the first black dean of any school of social work across this country. He also served the State Department in Zambia, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda early in his career. He was a Fulbright

Scholar who led a voting drive for the National Council of Churches, and he also stumped for Carl Stokes as mayor of the City of Cleveland.

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Mr. Speaker, there is another.

There is Dr. William O. Walker, who was a prominent journalist, publisher and political leader in Cleveland, Ohio, for much of the mid to late 20th century.

W.O. Walker was born in 1896 in Selma, Alabama. He studied at Wilberforce University and Oberlin Business College and began a career in journalism. In 1932, he became the publisher and editor of the *Cleveland Call and Post*, one of the most influential African American newspapers in the United States. Walker used this weekly paper to educate the community about racial injustices occurring in both Cleveland and across the United States.

He built the newspaper into one of the largest black weeklies in the Nation. As a publisher, he became a power in Cleveland, speaking out for civil rights and exposing discrimination and wrongdoing.

Besides being an editorial voice, he was a mighty political force in the Republican Party. He was a councilman in the 1940s, and in the 1950s became Ohio's first black cabinet member as industrial relations director for Governor James A. Rhodes. At the time of his death, he was under consideration by President Ronald Reagan to become chairman of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

And lastly, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Mr. Wayne Embry.

Wayne Richard Embry was born in 1937 in Springfield, Ohio. He is a retired basketball player. He was a center forward whose 11-year-career spanned from 1959 to 1969. He played for the Cincinnati Royals, the Boston Celtics, and the Milwaukee Bucks, all of the NBA. He attended Miami University and Tecumseh High School in New Carlisle, Ohio, before that. He played in the NBA All-Star game for five consecutive seasons from 1961 to 1965 and won the NBA championship with the Celtics in 1968.

After retiring as a player, he became the first African American NBA general manager managing the Milwaukee Bucks from 1971 through 1979, the Cleveland Cavaliers from 1986 to 1999, and the Toronto Raptors in 2006. He was selected NBA Executive of the Year in 1992 and 1998.

He was enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1999, not as a player but as a contributor. Mr. Embry is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of my colleagues for their participation in this evening.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to my colleague, the gentle lady from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congresswoman FUDGE.

We prepared a few more just in case we had some extra time left in the hour.

So I'd like to also recognize and pay tribute to some Virgin Island pioneers in the area of environmental awareness and energy conservation: Mr. Onaje Jackson, Ms. Ann Marie Gibbs, Mr. Bevan Smith, Mr. Jesus Espinosa, Mr. Mario Francis, and Mr. Olasee Davis. And those are just a few.

Mr. Onaje Jackson is best known in the Virgin Islands and Caribbean region as a community partner who tirelessly promotes earth-friendly infrastructure and facility design, engineering, and implementation. He began his work when he realized that bad solutions for development in the Caribbean were leading to divisions in communities and environmental damage. Deep down, he knew that a lot of it had to do with developers not being armed with better solutions and designs at the outset of their conception process.

With this, Mr. Jackson set out to bring about a more holistic approach to planning, design, and engineering of island infrastructure; and over the years, he has continually collaborated with a broad cross-section of our community to design environmentally friendly solutions for our rapidly developing region. Individuals, local businesses, and international organizations all enlist Mr. Jackson's assistance when seeking to incorporate the latest in sustainable and renewable technology to their large- and small-scale development projects.

But Onaje does not work alone. Along with many others, he has worked tirelessly with others that I named before: Bevan Smith, the director of the Virgin Islands Energy Office; Olasee Davis, community conservationist, activist, and professor at our university; Ms. Ann Marie Gibbs, a high school science teacher; community activist Jesus Espinosa, and Mario Francis, who have each worked to educate our entire community, but particularly our children, about the importance of conservation.

Each of these valued members of our community go above and beyond the call of duty to challenge our youth, to break through the walls of ignorance and profit to become stewards and protectors of our environment for generations to come.

So it's without reservation that I submit Mr. Jackson, Mr. Smith, Ms. Gibbs, Mr. Espinosa, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Francis as unsung heroes as they are environmental pioneers of the Virgin Islands community; and I am convinced that they will remain at the forefront of our community's efforts to preserve and conserve the natural resources that make the U.S. Virgin Islands the precious jewel that they are.

Their work, and that of others, has prepared us to use the opportunities that have been recently presented to us in the recently passed American Recov-

ery and Reinvestment Act and others that I am sure will be a part of our President's promise of change.

And since we have some time left, I want to pay tribute to someone who is not only a local hero in the U.S. Virgin Islands but my personal one, my father.

Born at home and largely raised by his grandmother while his mother taught just about everyone in St. Croix in those days, it was not easy for him to go to college. He began at the most accessible one geographically and financially, although it is also an outstanding institution, the University of Puerto Rico. He later transferred to Colombia University in New York and was in their school of law.

It was then in his first year that he was drafted into the Army, probably around 1943 also, just like Tuskegee Airman Herbert Heywood. And after graduating from Officer Candidate School at Camp Davis, North Carolina, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Coast Artillery Corps and participated in the Normandy campaign and Pacific Theater operations.

After the war, he completed his studies at Colombia and took his family—my mother and I—back home where he embarked on what became a distinguished legal career. He was admitted to practice before the Third Court of Appeals in 1950 and the U.S. Supreme Court in 1955.

He practiced law privately and often for free or for chickens or for fish until 1962 when he was tapped by President John F. Kennedy to be our U.S. Attorney for the U.S. Virgin Islands. He was reappointed to a second term by President Lyndon Johnson.

But the most not just nonpartisan but apolitical person I know of, he was soon appointed to serve as the first native-born judge of the District Court of the Virgin Islands by then President Richard Nixon, and he retired from that post after serving several terms.

In his time on the bench, some of his decisions were groundbreaking in Virgin Islands jurisprudence such as *Red Hook Marina v. Antilles Yachting Corp.*, which resulted in the Open Beach Law in the Virgin Islands; and another case, *Hosier v. Evans* and *Chapman v. Gerard*, which he championed the constitutional right of children from other Caribbean islands whose parents were brought in under legal arrangements to work in the Virgin Islands temporarily. But he championed the rights of those children to attend public school in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Others of his decisions set legal precedents which are referred to in cases up to this day.

I am justifiably proud of my father, but so are the people of the Virgin Islands, and judges, and attorneys who came in contact with him throughout his long career. For the rest of the United States, he is an unsung hero. So I'm proud to have had this opportunity to present this very brief and very incomplete synopsis of his life here this evening.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I will close with this last unsung hero, Dr. Julian Earls.

He has been referred to as a Renaissance Man, holding eight university degrees. He earned a bachelor's degree in physics from Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia; a Master's degree in radiation biology from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in Rochester, New York; and a Doctorate degree in radiation physics from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He completed the equivalent of the Master's degree in environmental health at the University of Michigan and is a graduate of the Program for Management Development at Harvard Business School.

He was awarded the honorary Doctor of Science degree by the Vaughn College of Aeronautics in New York, the honorary Doctor of Pedagogy degree by Nova Southeastern University in Florida, the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by North Carolina A&T State University, Norfolk State University, and Wilberforce University in Ohio.

In January 2006, Dr. Earls retired as Director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field in Cleveland, Ohio, after a career spanning more than 40 years. As director of NASA Glenn from 2003 to 2005, he managed a budget in excess of 600 hundred million and a workforce of over 3,000 employees.

He was responsible for planning, organizing, and directing the activities required to accomplish the center's mission which included research, technology, and systems development programs in aeronautical propulsion, space propulsion, space power, space communications, and microgravity sciences in combustion and fluid physics.

He is the author of 30 publications and has been a distinguished Honors Visiting Professor at numerous universities.

As a NASA executive, he has received medals for outstanding leadership, exceptional achievement, and distinguished service. He received the Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award from President William J. Clinton in 1999 and from President George Bush in 2004.

Dr. Earls has received many humanitarian awards and founded an organization that provides college scholarships for black students. As a mentor, he has guided many students through college and the professions. Recognized internationally for his oratorical skills, Dr. Earls is a Jennings Foundation Distinguished Scholar Lecturer.

In addition to his many scholarly and work-related accomplishments, Dr. Earls is an athlete. He has completed 25 marathons, including the Boston Marathon, and was honored to carry

the Olympic torch on its route through Cleveland for the 2002 Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah. He is a member of Tau Boule and holds life memberships in Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you. I thank my colleagues, and again, I thank this Nation for recognizing that black history is indeed American history.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. STARK (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. KAPTUR) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FLAKE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today, February 25, 26 and March 2.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. INGLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, February 25 and 26.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today, February 25 and 26.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, today, February 25, 26, and March 2.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker on Friday, February 13, 2009:

H.R. 1. An act making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on February 4, 2009 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 2. To amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on February 16, 2009 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 1. Making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY MR. OBEY, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, REGARDING H.R. 1105, OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

Following is an explanation of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009, including disclosure of congressional earmarks and congressionally directed spending items as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Section 4 of the Act specifies that this explanatory statement shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of this legislation as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

The Omnibus Appropriations Act includes fiscal year 2009 appropriations encompassing 9 regular annual appropriations bills, each in a separate division, plus a 10th division including further provisions relating to the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies. The divisions contained in the Act are as follows:

- Division A—Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2009;

- Division B—Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2009;

- Division C—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2009;

- Division D—Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2009;

- Division E—Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2009;

- Division F—Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2009;

- Division G—Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2009;

- Division H—Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2009;

- Division I—Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2009; and

- Division J—Further Provisions Relating to the Department of Homeland Security and Other Matters.

Section 3 states that, unless expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in any division shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

DIVISION A

TITLE I—AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND MARKETING

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The bill provides \$5,174,000 for the Office of the Secretary.

The Department is directed to provide within 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act all reports and studies requested in this statement to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate (hereafter referred to as "the Committees") in both an electronic and hard copy format, unless another date is specified for a particular report.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (hereafter referred to as "the 2008 farm bill") authorized many new programs, provided mandatory funding for a select number of them, and reauthorized existing programs throughout the Department of Agriculture. The Department is directed to submit a report detailing the Department's implementation plan for the 2008 farm bill. The report should include timeframes for developing new regulations and estimated dates the Department expects to finalize the regulations and implement the new or revised programs. The Department is also directed to provide to the Committees all reports requested in the 2008 farm bill.

There is concern that agencies are being required, after appropriations have been enacted for other purposes, to support E-Gov and PART studies. This diminishes, delays, or eliminates the implementation of the activities for which funds were provided. Thirty days prior to any centrally determined charges being applied to any USDA agency that are different from those amounts displayed in the budget justification materials, the Department must submit to the Committees a detailed explanation of the amounts assessed and the method for determining those amounts.

There continues to be strong support in Congress for programs that provide emergency food assistance throughout the world and that work to achieve sustainable food security. Among those programs is the Borlaug Dialogue (and its associated functions), which provides a forum for world leadership related to international food assistance. The Secretary is encouraged to support this activity and to ensure that the Department maintains a strong role in the fight against world hunger.

EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

CHIEF ECONOMIST

The bill provides \$10,651,000 for the Office of the Chief Economist.

NATIONAL APPEALS DIVISION

The bill provides \$14,711,000 for the National Appeals Division.

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS

The bill provides \$9,054,000 for the Office of Budget and Program Analysis.