PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 54, 55, 56, 58, and 59, I was absent from the House. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

HONORING JOHN D. DINGELL FOR HOLDING THE RECORD AS THE LONGEST SEVING MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of JOHN D. DINGELL's distinguished service in the House of Representatives, and in support of H. Res. 154. As many of the other speakers have noted, we do not just honor him for this longevity in this institution, but for what he has done while he has served here. For more than 50 years, he has represented the interests of working Americans from across this country, and particularly from his home district in Michigan. He has been a strong defender of rights: a strong voice for civil rights and civil liberties, and a leader in environmental protection. He has brought his intellect and passion to bear to address the challenge of health care access, helping establish Medicare in 1965, the Children's Health Insurance Program in 1997, and many other health initiatives since and between. He understands the urgency that remains on this issue, and I can think of no person better positioned to make expanding health coverage for all Americans a reality.

One of the things I really respect about JOHN, beyond his commitment and dedication to this country, is his honesty. When he says something, his word is his bond. It says a lot about this institution when the Dean of the House is reliable like that, and whether he is with you or against you know where you stand. I have appreciated working alongside him throughout my own service in this distinguished House.

I salute Congressman DINGELL's long commitment to public service, his impressive record of accomplishment, and his defense of working Americans. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his service by voting for H. Res. 154.

HONORING THE NAACP ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we recognize February as Black History Month, I wish to take a moment to celebrate the NAACP on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. Over the past century, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or NAACP, has played a vital role in the progress of the African American community. This organization has advocated faithfully for decreasing racial disparities in the areas of healthcare, education, employment, criminal justice, and poverty.

The NAACP is the Nation's largest and oldest civil rights organization. Through grass root efforts, the organization has influenced policy from the homes and communities of citizens to the voting booths and the classrooms around America. The NAACP has involved many, from children and ordinary citizens, to our Nation's elected officials and Presidents. The dedication of the NAACP and its fight for social justice has involved great leadership.

The NAACP has played a significant role in many civil rights victories. Its persistent protests and steadfast support for anti-lynching legislation was critical to making this horrible practice illegal. Similarly, its members championed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that guaranteed that no person could be denied the right to vote because of his or her race. It also has served as a strong watchdog to uphold the spirit and letter of these laws at the State and local levels. Clearly, the NAACP's involvement politically has contributed to the progress of America by saving lives and empowering minority communities.

Ida B. Wells, a prominent civil rights activist and resident of Illinois, was the co-founder of the NAACP. Wells is most known for her journalism. Her writing received the interest of both blacks and whites. After being banned from the South for speaking out about lynching and the government's refusal to stop the violence, Ms. Wells moved to Chicago. While in Chicago, she married Ferdinand Barnett and together they had four children. Her nickname, ''the Constant Star'' provides a testament to her relentless fight for social justice and equality. The NAACP has embodied her nickname by remaining constant in its efforts in promoting equality for all.

The NAACP has grown considerably since its inception. Today, the NAACP has over 500,000 members with more than 1,300 national and international branches, and over 45 branches in the State of Illinois.

Recently, three students from the Chicago Westside Branch, located in the Seventh Congressional District, won at the 2008 National ACT–SO competition. The ACT–SO program, founded by the NAACP, is a year-long program that is used to enrich African American high school students' lives by encouraging high academic and cultural achievement. This program allows students to compete in various areas ranging from the sciences to visual and performing arts. Thus, I would like to recognize Terrence George, Eric Clark, and Aeriel Robinson for their brilliance and hard work.

I commend the NAACP on its commitment to the African American community and its political, economic, social, and educational efforts in promoting social change. I tip my hat to the first centennial anniversary and look forward to its second.