

HONORING THE NAACP ON ITS
101ST ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 242, which honors and praises the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, for its 101st year of service. H. Con. Res. 242 is an important resolution that commends an organization that has worked tirelessly to make our Nation a better place for all Americans.

I would like to thank Chairman CONYERS for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank the sponsor of this legislation, Congressman GREEN, for taking the time to honor the NAACP and its crucial contributions to our Nation's social and moral progress.

Mr. Speaker, the NAACP has played a vital role in empowering our Nation's African-American community and ensuring that all Americans are equal before the law. As the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States, the NAACP has always been dedicated to achieving their goals through non-violence. One of the most famous moments in the history of the NAACP occurred in 1955, when an NAACP secretary refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. This bold and empowering decision by Rosa Parks started the Montgomery Bus Boycotts and was a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement.

The NAACP was a driving force behind the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, and 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006, and the Fair Housing Act of 2006. On July 16, 2009, during the NAACP's centennial anniversary celebration in New York, members remembered progress made and reaffirmed their passion in the ongoing fight for equality. The keynote speaker at the anniversary celebration was the first black President of the United States, Barack H. Obama.

Mr. Speaker, it is entirely fitting that we honor and express our national gratitude for the NAACP for 101 years of service, during which time it assisted millions of Americans and helped fight poverty, inequality, and social injustice. It is equally important that we express our full support for and solidarity with the NAACP as it continues in its second century of service and continues to address pressing national issues like political, educational, social, economic, and racial inequality. As one who has long been active in the Long Beach chapter of the NAACP, I can attest to the critical role that this organization continues to play in the communities across our country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 242.

HONORING MERTON WILLIAMS
MIDDLE SCHOOL OF HILTON,
NEW YORK, FOR BEING RECOG-
NIZED AS ONE OF THE TOP MID-
DLE SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me in recognizing Merton Williams Middle School of Hilton, NY, for being recognized as one of the top middle schools in the country.

The National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform recently recognized Merton Williams Middle School as a School to Watch. Only 90 of the nation's 21,000 public middle schools are honored each year, and only 17 of New York's 1,121 public middle schools are honored this year.

Until the establishment of Merton Williams Middle School in 1964, middle school students in Hilton attended six different area schools. Today, Merton Williams lives up to the motto of the Hilton School District: "Maximizing the Potential of the Individual Learner."

The teachers and staff of Merton Williams are truly to be commended for their hard work and service to their students. Credit is especially due to Principal Carol Stehm and Assistant Principal Suzanne Goff for their exceptional leadership. But most importantly, I would like to congratulate the students of Merton Williams. Through their hard work and devotion to their schoolwork and their community, they stood out as an exceptional group of young adults.

I ask that this House once again join with me in congratulating Merton Williams Middle School for receiving this commendation and serving as an example to middle schools and junior high schools everywhere.

**RECOGNIZING THE CENTRAL
CATHOLIC SHAMROCKS**

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Division 1 State Champion Golf team from my alma mater, Detroit Catholic Central High School. On June 12, 2010 the Catholic Central Shamrocks raised the MHSAA championship trophy after besting defending champion Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central by 14 strokes.

Under the tutelage of Coach Bill Hayes, the Shamrocks tied for second place in the Catholic High School League and seemed to get stronger with every step toward the finals of the state tourney. After securing a place in Division 1 District 7 on May 28, CC moved on to regionals on June 3, finishing behind top ranked Birmingham Brother Rice and Hartland.

The 8th ranked Shamrocks took to the links after round one with a slim 4-shot lead over Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central and summarily set a new state final round record of 281. More impressive yet, CC set a new state tournament record of 569 besting the old

record by 13 strokes. Remarkably, all four starters broke par, a feat no veteran golf coach at the course could recall ever seeing in a state final.

This championship marked the 2nd state golf title of the decade for Catholic Central. Indeed a remarkable accomplishment for this close knit group of young men, the hard work and dedication it took epitomizes what it means to be a Shamrock. By the teaching of our Basilian Fathers through goodness, discipline and knowledge the entire Catholic Central family, including this alumnus, shares in this unprecedented 6th Division 1 Championship brought home to Catholic Central during the 2009–2010 school year.

Madam Speaker, the 2010 Catholic Central Shamrocks deserve to be recognized for their dedication, achievement and spirit and I am very proud of their determination and effort. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Shamrocks for obtaining yet another title as well as for their devotion to our community and country. Live and die for CC High!

**TRIBUTE TO MAYOR ROBERT D.
COBLE**

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and outstanding public servant, the Honorable Robert D. Coble. Mayor Coble is retiring from public life after 25 years of service, the last two decades as Mayor of Columbia, South Carolina. He has served as a tireless advocate for the city and its residents, and his tremendous leadership will be missed.

Mayor Bob, as he is affectionately known, is a native of Chesterfield, South Carolina, but came to live in the city he now leads as a child. He is a graduate of Dreher High School, and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina. At USC's School of Law, Mayor Bob distinguished himself as a member of the Order of the Wig and Robe and graduated with a Juris Doctor cum laude.

Today he is a partner in the law firm of Nexsen Pruet. He has dedicated his legal career to practicing in the areas of economic development, health care, regulatory law and governmental representation. This expertise is a reflection of the issues he is passionate about in his public service.

In 1985, Bob Coble won a seat on Richland County Council where he served for 5 years before being elected Mayor of Columbia in 1990. During his 20 years at the helm of the city, Mayor Bob has focused on revitalizing downtown and the neighborhoods that surround it. Today, the city that Mayor Coble manages is almost unrecognizable from the one he inherited. The once gritty industrial corridor, just blocks from the State Capitol, has been transformed into a vibrant commercial thoroughfare known as the Vista. A waterfront that was once dominated by the state's largest correctional facility is now home to a park, new residential developments and two popular museums. Former barrack-style public housing developments have been razed and replaced with affordable housing that families are proud

to call home. These are just a few examples of the tremendous changes that have taken place in Columbia under Mayor Bob leadership.

The name Mayor Bob exemplifies the affable way he approaches the office and the people he serves. No issue is too small and no person is too insignificant for this humble public servant. He has met Presidents and Popes, but has never lost the common touch. He treats everyone with respect and dignity no matter their status in life.

His style of governing is one I can appreciate—consensus-building. This style was born in part because of his natural disposition, but also because of his role as a who held no more voting power than any other member of City Council. Despite this weak mayor form of government, Mayor Bob was anything but weak. He led the way in setting the agenda for the city and ensuring that his vision was carried out. And his influence went beyond the City of Columbia.

Mayor Bob was a vocal opponent of the Confederate flag flying over the State Capitol. He was also an integral player in the fight to save Fort Jackson from closure during two rounds of the base realignment process. I feel certain that it was because of his and other community leaders making such a strong case for Fort Jackson that its mission grew as other facilities were being closed.

Personally, I will never forget being rocked by images of the suffering and chaos after Hurricane Katrina and picking up the phone to ask Mayor Bob to help me bring survivors of that disaster to Columbia. He didn't hesitate, and worked throughout the Labor Day weekend to set up a one-of-a-kind center to provide all the services evacuees would need. The City of Columbia ultimately became the destination for more than 2,000 New Orleans residents who had no place to call home, and thanks to Mayor Bob they found a community that welcomed them with open arms.

Outside of his work on the city's behalf, Mayor Bob has also been personally committed to improving the community in which he lives. He has served on numerous boards and commissions and volunteered countless hours of his time. He started the City of Columbia's Lunch Buddy program and has been a lunch buddy for 12 years. Mayor Bob and his wife, Beth, founded the "First Ladies Walk for Life" to raise funds for breast cancer research.

He has served as the President of the Municipal Association of South Carolina and Chairman of the Fighting Back Task Force for Alcohol and Drug Abuse. He was instrumental in creating the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority and has been the fundraising chairman of the United Negro College Fund. Mayor Bob is also a former member of the advisory board for the Medical University of

South Carolina, the Council on Aging, the South Carolina Special Olympics and the Bethlehem Community Center. He is currently a board member with the River Alliance, Ingenuity, and the Central Carolina Economic Development Alliance.

Mayor Bob has received numerous awards during his 25 years of public service including the Chamber of Commerce's Ambassador of the Year (2004), Central Midlands Council of Governments Regional Leadership Award (2007), induction into Richland School District One's Hall of Fame (2007) and the Global Vision Award from the World Affairs Council (2008).

He is married to the former Beth McLeod and they are the proud parents of six children and two grandsons. They are members of Trenholm Road United Methodist Church, where he has taught Sunday school and was a Boy Scout leader for a number of years.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in thanking Bob Coble for his tremendous record of public service. Even though he is stepping aside to let a new leader take over the helm in Columbia, the city will forever reflect the many positive contributions Mayor Bob has made. He is a true leader and great example for anyone entering public service today to follow.