

comments consistently reinforced 'we have a broken system,' and 'can't just anyone engage no veteran!'

Furthermore, Ms. West, Mr. Dougherty and Dr. Woodard's commentaries provided a well-rounded critique of veterans' substantive issues, along with accurate assessment and reasonable recommendations through the prism of their own policy experience. West's critique highlighted that the military tradition runs in the family; also, families have PTSD. Thus, we need to look at a minority health bill now, and health care reform must include military, veterans and family coverage. Dougherty's commentary indicated 20 percent of people who called the VA suicide prevention hotline are homeless. He also emphasized that coordination of services and benefits are crucial, along with building relationships and new partnerships with others. Moreover, the VA is moving to a proactive stance in terms of criminal justice and justice outreach, court diversion, the GI Bill, expedited VA claims and planning, as well as plan redesign. Dr. Woodard's commentary, on the other hand, posed a more difficult set of questions: 'what is the nexus of sick care to health care transition, individual responsibility (vs. governmental obligation) and VA access and treatment issues?'

All told, the outcomes of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust 'Coming Home' forum (including the Howard University PTSD Symposium) can be measured in terms of: (1) three summary reports (a) Resulting Trauma: Identifying the Signs, Symptoms & Impact of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in African Americans; (b) Coming Home: Transitioning from Military Service to Civilian Life & Veterans Stakeholders Roundtable Discussion, Part II; and (c) Affirming Life: Suicide Prevention & Intervention in Communities of Color; (2) potential enhancements for Representative CHARLES RANGEL's legislation (H.R. 1963) and recommendations for CBC Chairwoman BARBARA LEE's (D-CA), Task Force on Veterans; (3) an outline of questions for future GAO research in the following three critical areas: (a) veterans' homelessness, (b) women veterans, particularly those single parents with children, and (c) mental health, especially PTSD, TBI, depression, suicide, and mental illness stigma; (4) the successful launching of a new round of issues education outreach workshops based on content and information from September 25th's Veterans Braintrust (2010 New Abstracts: Meeting the Needs of African American Homeless Veterans; U.S. Military Personnel: Women & Veterans of African Descent; & The Veterans Braintrust as a Strategic Intervention); (5) uncovered or identified at least four clearly relevant, but essentially unanswered questions with implications for veterans policy in the future: (a) why are Iraq and Afghanistan combat returnees not using the system, or VA services?, (b) why are African American veterans disproportionately represented among the homeless?, (c) why are only one-third of the entire veterans population enrolled in the VA?, and (d) what is the most effective method for advocating the VA system's needed 21st century transformation, especially, with respect to cultural competence and cultural diversity, or racial, ethnic, and gender differences based

on veteran's health equity? Last, but not least, several recommendations for legislative consideration or action in the future.

The evening's gala reception, "Saluting Veterans & Their Support Organizations" and "African Americans in Transportation," featuring special musical guest Chuck Brown, the 'Godfather of Go-Go', was sponsored by the Association of American Railroads and the A. Philip Randolph Institute and recognized me for my work as Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials. The U.S. Army's Freedom Team Salute awardees included Lt. Col. William Calbert, USA, Ret., William Dabney, Herculano Dias, Sgt. Maj. Yolanda Glover, USA, Ret., Col Kathaleen Harris, USA, Ret., Stanley Murphy, Capt., USA, Vietnam, MSgt. Edwards Posey, USA, Ret., Dovey Johnson Roundtree, USA, WWII, Horace Taylor, USA, WWII, and Dr. James Woodard, Ed.D., JD, Capt., USA, Vietnam. Emile Milne, Legislative Director for the Hon. CHARLES RANGEL (D-NY) was presented the Citizens Beneficiary Award by the Mike Handy Foundation & Fund for his unique contribution to our Nation's veterans, along with 2009 Veterans Braintrust awardees, including: Dr. E. Curtis Alexander, Leroy Archible, Lt. Gen. Julius Becton, Jr., USA, Ret., Aseneth (Mays) Blackwell, Maj. Gen. Joseph Carter, Dr. Darlene Collins, Roy Foster, C.R. Gibbs, Brig. Gen. Stayce Harris, Wanda Ruth Lee, BGen. Allyson Solomon, Barbara Ward, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Enoch Williams, Joe Wilson, Jr., Eddie Beard Veterans Home, 9th Ordinance Training Battalion Alumni Association, The Units K-West & B-East (US) Reunion Booster Club, The Friends of Charlton Gardens, Sister Soldiers Project, African American Veterans Project of Lancaster County, Dayton African American Legacy Institute, The Legacy Museum of African American History—Much in Demand Exhibit, Tangipahoa African American Heritage Museum & Black Veterans Archives.

Furthermore, in trying to capture the mood of the moment during the festive 2009 awards ceremony honoring veterans, their families, and friends the word that best describes the long, rich legacy of African American military contributions is "Service", not money. They admirably and nobly performed service to God and country despite the challenges of race and discrimination. And, no less important, their "Service" to family and friends constituted the essential building block of community.

Finally, as a member of the Veterans Braintrust leadership I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to speakers, panelists, authors, and attendees, but particularly Dr. Frank Smith, Jr., Dr. William Lawson, Dr. Donna Holland Barnes, Guilaine Kraft, Jason Young, Jean Davis, Constance Burns, Dr. Clarence Willie, Edna Wells Handy, Dr. Diane Elmore, Lucretia McClenney, Ralph Cooper, Robert Blackwell, Ervin Russell and T. Michael Sullivan, as well as congressional staff members Roshan Hodge, Lee Footer, Emile Milne, Robin Peguero, Kristen Rice-Jones, Holly Biglow, and Jonathan Halpern for what can only be described as, the best ever Veterans Braintrust.'

I want to once again thank the presenters at the forums and awardees for their long, rich

legacy of service, both in the military abroad and in the fight for equal rights at home.

CONGRATULATING SOUTH AFRICA ON FIRST TWO CONVICTIONS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to express my support for House Resolution 1412, congratulating the Government of South Africa upon its first two successful convictions for human trafficking. I would like to thank Representative SMITH for his efforts on this resolution and his dedication to eradicating human trafficking throughout the world.

This summer people all over the world are watching South Africa. The country is hosting the 2010 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup. South Africa is estimated to attract nearly 2.7 million local spectators and anywhere between 350,000 and 500,000 visitors from around the world. South Africa has made huge efforts within the last several months to ensure that their country is safe, secure, clean, and comfortable for tourists and visitors. A large part of that effort to prepare for this event has been a notable reduction in, and increased prosecution of, human trafficking. This resolution congratulates South Africa on its efforts and the recent successful convictions for human trafficking.

The Department of State reports that, "South Africa is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficked men, women, and children . . . Children are largely trafficked within the country . . . to urban centers like Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, and Bloemfontein—girls trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and domestic servitude; boys trafficked for forced street vending, food service, begging, crime, and agriculture . . ." I am very pleased that the South African government, in conjunction with other nongovernmental agencies including the Tshwane Counter-Trafficking Coalition for 2010 and Cape Town Tourism has invested resources and energy into preventing human trafficking during the 2010 FIFA World Cup and I hope that these efforts will continue.

I want to congratulate the South African Government for its enormous stride in addressing human trafficking. I also want to urge the government to move quickly to adopt the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill in order to facilitate future prosecutions, as well as prioritize anti-trafficking law enforcement during the 2010 FIFA World Cup through expanded law enforcement presence, raids, and other measures in areas where trafficking for labor and sexual exploitation are likely to occur. I truly believe that we can eradicate human trafficking and make this world a safer place for all people, and urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY & IN GRATITUDE OF DENNY MOE'S SUPERSTAR BARBERSHOP SECOND ANNUAL CUTTING FOR A CURE 48 HOUR MARATHON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of an outstanding act of community service by the organization and non-profit, Cutting For A Cure, and its founder, Dennis Mitchell. I am proud of the work being done by extraordinary people in the fight to bring awareness and combat very serious health issues, like HIV/AIDS, which has disproportionately affected Blacks, women and other minority members of the Harlem community and the city at large. At the forefront of that movement is Denny Moe's Barbershop and Cutting for a Cure, a community based organization founded to increase the awareness of preventive health care and the importance of early detection and screening.

In hosting the 2nd Annual Cutting for a Cure event, a 48 hour hair-cutting, medical screening and entertainment marathon which commenced on June 25 and ended on June 27, in partnership with National HIV Testing Day to gain exposure for its cause, the organization employed the help of volunteer barbers, entertainers, doctors, nurses and medical technicians to cause a tangible effect in Harlem by raising the awareness of early screening as a means of preventive health maintenance.

With a mobile medical van and team of medical personnel on location, the organization offered screening for diseases ranging from diabetes, high blood pressure and hypertension, high cholesterol, breast, prostate and colon cancer, asthma, kidney disease, and of course, hepatitis and HIV/AIDS in its effort to provide people with the means of early detection. Doctors have repeatedly offered evidence that early diagnosis of certain diseases such as cancers of the colon and the prostate give those who are diagnosed early ability to aggressively combat their illness in the hope of eliminating it and continuing their lives free of disease.

I would like to formally commend Cutting for a Cure for its work in raising health awareness and promoting early diagnosis of the health issues which unevenly affect minorities in our urban centers. The aim of the organization is to offer free health screening clinics with the support of local and corporate business sponsorship, area hospitals and health care professionals to provide local residents an opportunity to get tested right in their own neighborhoods and on their commercial streets and blocks. With help from sponsors such as the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, St. Luke's Roosevelt, Harlem Hospital Center, Central Harlem Health Revival, Harlem United, Barbershop Quartet, Apple Bank, The New York Times, Crunch Gyms and many others, Cutting for a Cure is effectively addressing an epidemic of preventable disease and death right here in Harlem, throughout my Congressional District and the greater New York City at large.

Founder, Mr. Dennis Mitchell, affectionately known as Denny Moe, is the Harlem barber-

shop owner of Denny Moe's Superstar Barbershop and the catalyst for the creation of Cutting for a Cure. Denny Moe was diagnosed earlier this year with Type II diabetes and has used his detection and influence in the community as a business owner to take action with the end goal of bettering lives. Inspired by the health concerns and issues he heard from his many customers who sat in the chairs of his barber shop and friends and family members who became affected by disease and various cancers, he noticed a pattern of certain diseases affecting his customers more than others and the tragedy of people dying due to being diagnosed too far along into their illnesses.

Denny realized that something must be done to stem the tide of African Americans who were losing their lives unnecessarily prematurely due to lack of awareness and inadequate health care. That realization was the seed for the birth of Cutting for a Cure and the work began to offer the community help in the form of education and medical evaluation. Emphasizing the importance of periodic check-ups and healthy living in order to prevent disease is the means used by Denny Moe's Superstar Barbershop to help the people of Harlem and the community around him in his effort to highlight the disparity in the quality of health care offered in urban communities across the nation.

Madam Speaker, the efforts of this organization to effect positive change in the lives of other New Yorkers is invaluable and I am honored to commend its work. The organization's motto of "One ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure" is an ideal which it promotes heavily while educating the community that disease prevention is the best method of living a healthy life. The citizens of New York City can only benefit from individuals and organizations such as Mr. Dennis "Denny Moe" Mitchell and Cutting for a Cure as they enrich the lives of others as they continue to help our community.

CONGRATULATING 17 AFRICAN NATIONS ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res 1405, a resolution celebrating 50 Years of African independence. I thank Mr. RUSH for sponsoring this important resolution and for his work as a champion for Africa here in Congress. Mr. RUSH's leadership, along with that of Representatives DONALD PAYNE and ED ROYCE, in shaping policies that help foster economic vitality and good governance on the continent is truly commendable.

I was a lead cosponsor of this resolution because it recognizes the importance of good governance and democratic principles, which have flourished in many African countries over the past decade. Indeed, more than two-thirds of sub-Saharan African countries have held democratic elections since 2000. Moreover, several nations, from Senegal to Tanzania, and from Ghana to Zambia have seen suc-

cessful power changes over the past decade. The United States Department of State has expressed its commitment to supporting African efforts to fortify government accountability and overall good governance, which is crucial to the continent's future growth and global influence.

The resolution commends the socio-economic and political progress being made by African countries, while acknowledging the associated challenges that many still face. According to a June 2010 McKinsey Global Institute report entitled "Lions on the Move: The Progress and Potential of African Economies," over the past decade "Africa's economic pulse has quickened, infusing the continent with new commercial vibrancy." Africa's combined consumer spending in 2008 was \$860 billion, and America is committed to partnering with African nations to foster economic development, entrepreneurship and trade in the continent.

Kofi Annan, Chair of the Africa Progress Panel (APP) recently noted that "Africa's future is in its own hands, but that success in managing its own affairs depends on supportive global policies and agreements." H. Res. 1405 comes at a time when the world is taking notice of Africa's great progress in recent years and it reaffirms the United States' commitment to growth and prosperity in Africa.

This resolution is a celebration of the hope that resonates in the hearts and minds of the many Africans, African Americans, policy-makers, and NGOs that are committed to Africa's progress and prosperity. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important resolution.

RECOGNIZING OF THE STICKBALL HALL OF FAME ON THE OCCASION OF THE INDUCTION OF ITS 2010 HONOREES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Stickball Hall of Fame, an institution that promotes and preserves the great athletic tradition of stickball that has been a mainstay of urban life in America and has helped countless youths learn about the precepts of fair play, teamwork, and the pursuit of excellence. The Stickball Hall of Fame has recognized and commemorated a sport which truly represents the spirit and innovation that exemplifies New York, our nation's greatest city.

Adapted from and closely linked to our great national pastime of baseball, stickball helped transform the urban landscape of 20th century America. Since the 1920s, the game of stickball has been an important team sport in cities across the country, where it served to strengthen personal relationships between families and friends, and forged strong bonds within the communities in which it was played.

In 1968 in New York City, a group known as the 111th Street Old Timers was formed. It organized an annual festival centered around the game of stickball. In 1999 the group began to focus its efforts on reaching out to the kids and seniors within the community. The group raised money to send youths to summer camp, established a scholarship fund, and distributed toys to children in hospitals. Today we