

Robin Hood Truck Stop and Restaurant, and Robin Hood Oil Company.

In addition to his entrepreneurial endeavors, Mr. Hood served as mayor of the town of Benson from 1971–1979. He was instrumental in the development and growth of Benson, where he was a strong advocate for the community. He played a key role in developing a water line to Benson from the Neuse River and argued strongly for 1–40's current route near Benson over a counterproposal that would have taken it further north. He was named Benson's Citizen of the Year in 1973.

Whitley remained an active member of the community long after his public service. He was a member of the Benson Lions Club, a past patron of Eastern Star, a member of the Benson Stock Club, a member of the Benson GBO, an active member of Benson Baptist Church and a past deacon. He was also a prominent Mason and Shriner.

My best memories of Whitley involve his work as director of the Sudan Clowns for almost 50 years. Whitley loved to bring joy to people's faces and to spread laughs and good cheer to those he met. Many of the Dunn community are familiar with "Happy" the clown and the clown cards he would leave behind; I know that I will never forget the happiness he brought to those around him and I am sure his bright light will not soon be forgotten by others in our community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Mr. Robin Whitley Hood, a beacon of his community and a true exemplar of civic involvement. May he even in passing bring a smile to his loved ones' faces for the wonderful legacy he has left behind.

EXCERPTS FROM TESTIMONY  
GIVEN BY LORNE CRANER

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 1, 2010*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I submit excerpts from the testimony of Lorne Craner, president of the International Republican Institute, IRI, speaking before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on June 10.

Mr. Craner spoke with great clarity about a number of important issues regarding the promotion of human rights and democracy in the context of U.S. foreign policy.

He opened with reflections on President Reagan's conviction that freedom is a birthright—one that ought to be enjoyed by all peoples. Mr. Craner testified:

"President Reagan said 'We must be staunch in our conviction that freedom is not the sole prerogative of a lucky few, but the inalienable and universal right of all human beings. So states the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights . . .'

"But Reagan went beyond simply noting the importance of freedom in the speech. He laid out a strategy to achieve it, stating that 'If the rest of this century is to witness the gradual growth of freedom and democratic ideals, we must take actions to assist the campaign for democracy. While we must be cautious about forcing the pace of change, we must not hesitate to declare our ultimate objectives and to take concrete actions to move towards them.'

"Further, he enunciated a method to help achieve the strategy, saying 'the objective I propose is quite simple . . . to foster the infrastructure of democracy, the system of a free press, unions, political parties, universities, which allows a people to choose their own way to develop their own culture, to reconcile their differences through peaceful means.'

"Reagan counseled patience, noting that 'the task I've set forth will long outlive our generation.' He would be characteristically modest about his role, but within eight years, the number of 'free countries' in Freedom House's survey had risen to 76, compared to 51 at the time of his inaugural, 'partly free countries' had risen to 65 from 51, and 'not free' countries had declined from 60 to 42. Most dramatically, the Soviet bloc had disintegrated. While many West Europeans now claim it was engagement—exemplified by 'Ostpolitik'—that ended the Cold War, those who lived under Soviet domination instead give much credit to Pope John Paul II, Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan . . ."

Later in his testimony Mr. Craner remarked on the critical role that Congress plays in pressing the State Department to elevate these issues of human rights and religious freedom . . . issues which often are downplayed in the name of bilateral relations. Craner noted:

"Indeed, for more than 30 years, beyond the inception of NED, Congress has truly been at the forefront on issues of human rights. For example, the State Department Bureau I headed, for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, was also founded by an act of Congress. On many occasions the Congress has actually led on human rights and democracy policy. The annual State Department Country Reports on Human Rights were established over the objections of the then-administration. I referred earlier to Congressional action on human rights early in the Reagan administration. In the 1990s and this decade, a number of the entities within the State Department intended to advance human rights—the Office of International Religious Freedom, the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism—were also established over administration opposition. The recent Advance Democracy Act was opposed by the then-administration. Legislative action regarding human rights in various countries, from China to El Salvador to South Africa, has been taken by Congress despite the administration's wishes. It is especially important to note that passage of such legislation was undertaken by Congresses with Democratic or Republican majorities during both Democratic and Republican administrations."

Lastly, he spoke compellingly of the need for "Strong, consistent, leadership on democracy and human rights from the top of the administration . . ." He gave several reasons:

"First, much attention is paid to the administration's funding levels for democracy programming. This is substantively important, given what democratic foreign leaders point to as the results of America's democracy programming over the past quarter century, from Chile to the Philippines to Poland, Mongolia, Serbia, Georgia, Moldova, and many others. Here in Washington, it is also seen as a symbolic measure of U.S. support for democracy in countries in remaining repressive countries such as Cuba, Belarus, Iran, and Burma. In in-

stances such as these, Congress can exert its influence by earmarking funds certain countries. The implementation of such earmarks can be greatly influenced by the second reason for strong presidential/administration support: the message sent within the bureaucracy.

"Too often it is easy for the career bureaucracy to minimize democracy and human rights because these elements complicate other bilateral issues, such as economic or trade or security relationships. Skilled diplomats know that it is possible to achieve both. But clear statements by the President and Secretary of State on democracy and human rights contribute to the degree to which efforts will be made by U.S. Country Teams to implement programs and seek to garner international support for those seeking to better their conditions under authoritarian regimes. Under President Clinton and Secretary Albright and President Bush and Secretaries Powell and Rice, for example, U.S. diplomats understood that human rights and democracy were strong emphases of U.S. foreign policy.

"Third, and perhaps most important, the degree of administration support for democracy and human rights is watched closely by autocratic and totalitarian foreign leaders. They are trying to discern how to manage relations with the world's most powerful country. When American leaders diminish our emphasis and consistency on democracy and human rights, foreign leaders understand that they don't have to do as much on those issues to maintain good relations with Washington."

Mr. Craner closed by noting that the Obama administration has gotten off to a weak start on these issues, and that this has not gone unnoticed by those to whom U.S. policy in this regard matters most . . . "democrats and dissidents."

Craner remarked, "Commenting on President Obama's delayed meeting with the Dalai Lama, former Czech President Vaclav Havel said of Beijing 'they respect it when someone is standing his ground, when someone is not afraid of them. When someone soils his pants prematurely, then they do not respect you more for it.'

"Cyberdissident Ahed Al-Hendi stated that previously, in Syria 'when a single dissident was arrested . . . at the very least the White House would condemn it. Under the Obama administration, nothing.'

"Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim said 'Our concern is that the Obama administration is perceived to be softening on human rights . . . once you give a perception that you are softening on human rights, then you are strengthening the hands of autocrats to punish dissidents throughout the world.'

"According to Egypt's Saad Eddin Ibrahim, 'George W. Bush is missed by activists in Cairo and elsewhere who—despite possible misgivings about his policies in Iraq and Afghanistan—benefited from his firm stance on democratic progress. During the time he kept up pressure on dictators, there were openings for a democratic opposition to flourish. The current Obama policy seems weak and inconsistent by contrast.'

I share Mr. Craner's concerns and echo his charge to Congress to stand in the gap even in the face of an administration that is struggling to find its voice on matters which ought to be central in American foreign policy.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTER FOR  
INFORMATION DOMINANCE,  
CORY STATION

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 1, 2010*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise to recognize the Center for Information Dominance (CID) Corry Station for their countless hours of service to the community of Northwest Florida. CID Corry Station has gone above and beyond the call of duty, further serving their country through their community involvement.

Encompassing all branches of the Armed Forces, the service members of CID Corry Station have set a shining example for Americans everywhere through their unwavering and unselfish dedication. Members of every rank have contributed toward an astronomical number of hours being recorded in the period spanning July of 2009 to June of 2010. In this period, the members of CID Corry Station have contributed a total of 9,481 volunteers recording 87,801 community volunteer hours. These volunteers have touched the lives of 107,807 citizens of Northwest Florida, all of which are eternally grateful for the selflessness of these service members.

The service members of CID Corry Station have assisted the efforts of many volunteer organizations in Northwest Florida. CID Corry Station has volunteered alongside organizations such as Manna Food Pantry, Pensacola Boys Base, Meals on Wheels, Saturday Scholars, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Youth Sports, Junior Achievements, and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program, just to name a few of the enumerable ways in which these service members have bettered their community.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to recognize the service members of Center for Information Dominance Corry Station for their service to their country and the community of Northwest Florida. May they continue in their efforts to provide a brilliant example for others to follow.

IN HONOR OF THE UNIFEM-U.S.  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE 2010 NA-  
TIONAL CONFERENCE

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 1, 2010*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to UNIFEM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, and to the United States National Committee for UNIFEM. This month, the UNIFEM-U.S. National Committee (USNC), in partnership with the National Council for Research on Women, is holding its 2010 Annual National Conference in New York City. The theme of this year's conference, "Strategic Imperatives for Ending Violence Against Women," is timely and important, and I salute UNIFEM-USNC for convening prominent leaders and activists to address these critical issues. The Conference is being held at Hunter College of the City University of New York on Manhattan's Upper East Side and is being co-hosted by

the College's Women & Gender Studies Program and historic Roosevelt House.

The 2010 Conference is helping to increase awareness of the nexus between violence against women and its harmful effect on key indicators, be they economic, educational, or relating to public health. Convening prominent leaders and activists from the worlds of business, academia, philanthropy, advocacy, non-profit organizing, and public policy, the Conference will advance UNIFEM's critical mission and develop and promote strategies to combat gender-based violence.

UNIFEM's vital mission is to advance women's rights and achieve gender equality around the world. UNIFEM begins with the fundamental premise that all women have a right to live a life free from discrimination and violence. By supporting national as well as local programs, UNIFEM has helped pave the way toward a more just society, free of gender discrimination and the oppression of women. UNIFEM supports the advancement of existing international commitments for gender equality on a national level. It has helped advance some of our loftiest ideals, values of human and civil rights embraced by the vast majority of U.N. member nations, as embodied by important initiatives such as the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

UNIFEM is active all across the globe, from sub-Saharan Africa to the islands of the Caribbean. Its staff works with countries to formulate and implement laws and programs to promote gender equality in all aspects of civil society, working to secure fair and fairly compensated employment opportunities for women, to end the scourge of violence against women, and to help secure their inheritance and property rights. In Sudan, UNIFEM has partnered with the United Nations Mission in Darfur to promote awareness of, and to try to stem, the surge in violence against women. Its staff works closely with tribal leaders and refugee camps to teach women how to protect themselves from sexual assault and violence, achieving a noticeable positive impact on the area.

UNIFEM also strives in collaboration with governments to achieve greater gender equality and increase awareness of the basic human rights of women. In collaboration with various NGOs, UNIFEM has successfully pushed for increased female representation in the legislatures of numerous governments in the Middle East and Asia.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join in recognizing the remarkable contributions toward improving the quality of women's lives around the world made by UNIFEM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, and the UNIFEM United States National Committee, on the occasion of its 2010 Annual National Conference. For thirty-four years UNIFEM has worked closely with governments and organizations across the globe to make the ideals that we hold a reality, and all citizens of the world owe a debt of gratitude to UNIFEM and to UNIFEM-USNC.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NETTIE B.  
ROGERS

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 1, 2010*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Nettie Brown Rogers, a woman of keen faith and conviction who selflessly served the spiritual community of Memphis, Tennessee for over fifty years. Born in Memphis to Arthur and Bertha Brown on October 25, 1922, Nettie Rogers was a committed wife to Floyd Rogers, a caring mother of seven children and a community leader among the city's Baptist Churches.

Deeply devoted to her Christian faith, Mrs. Rogers was a pioneering woman who accepted her calling to religion "no matter what men might say." In 1958, she and 22 other community members co-founded Grace Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis. A committed member of Grace M.B. Church, Mrs. Rogers also served for ten years as an associate minister at New Salem Missionary Baptist Church where she was said to have done everything but preach.

In 1968, Mrs. Rogers founded the Memphis Inter-Denominational Fellowship, Inc., a non-profit that supports spiritual growth, Christian and public education and initiatives to reduce crime, juvenile delinquency and illiteracy. Under Mrs. Rogers's leadership, the Memphis Inter-Denominational Fellowship pursued creative initiatives, such as the "Back to Church School Crusade," which established National Church School Day on the first Sunday in June. Through Operation Bread Basket, Mrs. Rogers provided food for over 30 years to individuals, churches, nursing homes and other community agencies. Endowed with faith, wisdom, and an unselfish love, Mrs. Rogers's life was characterized by such acts of unwavering commitment to Christian and community service.

Mrs. Rogers's home in South Memphis was adorned with awards and letters from churches, schools and organizations documenting the achievements of her distinguished life. In 2009, she was posthumously awarded the Ruby R. Wharton Outstanding Woman award in the area of Youth and Delinquency by Mayor AC. Wharton. That same year she was inducted into the Memphis African American Museum's Hall of Pulpits, the only woman among 12 male preachers. In 2007 and 2008, I issued Congressional proclamations commending her outstanding work in the community supporting youth engagement. In 2006 and 2008, the State of Tennessee House of Representatives passed Joint Resolutions honoring Mrs. Rogers for her strength in character and commitment to selfless good works. In 2002, the City of Memphis renamed the street she lived on to Fountain Court in her honor. Mrs. Rogers also received awards and recognition from the April 4th Foundation, Grace M.B. Church, the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club and LeMoyne-Owen College, among other well-deserved distinctions.

Nettie Rogers passed away at her home in South Memphis on February 12, 2009 at the age of 86. She is survived by four daughters, two sons, 14 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and the legacy of her faith and public