

Truman. In fact, during his time as a journalist and radio personality, Billy would interview five presidents and several country music stars. But most importantly, he always made time for folks in the community.

Over the past twenty years, Billy has hosted "The Billy Dilworth Show" on WNEG-TV. During the show, he and co-host Michelle Austin have entertained viewers with their great humor, music selections, and updates from political, civic, and religious leaders. One of their regular segments that I can certainly relate to was named "Doctor's House Calls" and allowed live call-in questions.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this Georgia legend. Though he is stepping away from the limelight, he can never be replaced. I, along with the rest of his viewers, will miss him. His talent and work will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I regret that yesterday a prior engagement prevented my timely return to Washington. I was, therefore, unable to cast a vote on a number of roll-call votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 4425, designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2-116th Street in North Troy, New York, as the "Martin G. 'Marty' Maher Post Office." I also would have voted "yes" on H.R. 4238, designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 930 39th Avenue in Greeley, Colorado, as the "W.D. Farr Post Office Building."

TRIBUTE TO VERNON HUNTER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American hero. Vernon Hunter was an unsung hero who was thrust into the national spotlight when his life was tragically cut short last week in the senseless attack on his office in Austin, Texas.

Mr. Hunter was a model citizen who spent his life in the service of his country. He served in the Army for 22 years, including two combat tours in Vietnam. After his service ended, Mr. Hunter spent several years in the private sector before starting work at the IRS where he was employed for 27 years.

Friends and family indicate that Mr. Hunter was a loving father and husband who remained fiercely committed to public service and those around him for all his days. They report that Mr. Hunter was considering retiring from the IRS to start a new career as a special education teacher.

Mr. Hunter was born and raised in Orangeburg, South Carolina, a city I am proud to represent. He grew up there and graduated from Wilkinson High School in 1959.

He is survived by his wife Valerie and their six children. The citizens of South Carolina,

Texas and Americans everywhere mourn his tragic loss.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in expressing our sincere condolences to Vernon Hunter's family and to recognize his heroic contributions to his country. Mr. Hunter represents the unsung American heroes who dedicate themselves every day to serving their country and their fellow men and women. We owe them all a debt of gratitude.

RECOGNIZING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1046, "Recognizing the significance of Black History Month" and for other purposes, introduced by my distinguished colleague from Texas, Representative GREEN. "Black History Month," recognizes, reflects, and honors the many contributions, achievements and works of African-Americans who have influenced American history through their selflessness and sacrifices. The origins of "Black History Month" derived from Negro History Week, in efforts to enhance the knowledge of Black history started through the Journal of Negro History, published by Dr. Carter G. Woodson's Association for the Study of African-American Life and History. The birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week.

Negro History Week is the precursor to Black History Month, and the month of February has been celebrated as Black History Month since 1926 when a special period of time was set aside to recognize and celebrate the heritage and achievements of African-Americans. Whereas the first African-Americans were brought involuntarily to the shores of the America as early as the 17th century and despite being held in slavery, African-Americans in all walks of life have made significant contributions throughout the history of the United States. Significant contributions made by African-Americans include the—

(1) Writings of Booker T. Washington, Phyllis Wheatley, James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, Ralph Ellison, Zora Neale Hurston, and Alex Haley;

(2) Music of Mahalia Jackson, Billie Holiday, John Coltrane, Bessie Smith, and Duke Ellington;

(3) Resolve of athletes such as Jackie Robinson, Althea Gibson, Jesse Owens, Wilma Rudolph, and Muhammad Ali;

(4) Scientific advancements of George Washington Carver, Charles Drew, Benjamin Banneker, and Mae Jemison;

(5) Vision of leaders such as Frederick Douglass, Mary McLeod Bethune, Thurgood Marshall, Martin Luther King, and Shirley Chisholm; and

(6) Bravery of those who stood on the front lines in the battle against oppression, such as Sojourner Truth, Fannie Lou Hammer, and Rosa Parks.

In the face of injustices, United States citizens of good will and of all races distinguished

themselves with their commitment to the noble ideals upon which the United States was founded and courageously fought for the rights and freedom of African-Americans, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. lived and died to make real these noble ideas. He is most known for his "I Have A Dream" speech.

The Honorable Barack Hussein Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States, making him the first African-American Chief Executive. President Obama's election to the U.S. Presidency broke one of the last racial barriers in politics in this country. President Obama has inspired hopes in the lives of many Americans across the country and to people across the globe.

Black History Month is an important time that we recognize the contributions of African-Americans in the Nation's history and encourages the continued celebration of February to provide an opportunity for all peoples of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have helped shape the Nation.

HONORING REVEREND RANDOLPH BRACY, JR.'S SERVICE TO THE FLORIDA COMMUNITY

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Randolph Bracy, Jr. for his dedicated service to his church, our central Florida community, and our great State of Florida. Born on November 4, 1944, Reverend Bracy, Jr. is a native of Jacksonville, Florida and has since given a great deal back to our community.

Reverend Bracy, Jr. graduated from Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology. In 1970, he pursued graduate studies in Guidance and Counseling, and graduated from Florida A&M University with a Master's of Education Degree. Later in 1974, he earned the Doctor of Education Degree from the University of Florida in Higher Education Administration. In 1982, he received the Master of Divinity Degree from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, New York. In 1999, he earned a certificate at the Center for the Study of Values in Public Life at the Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts with the Summer Leadership Institute. In 2004, he presented a paper at the Oxford Round Table on Religion, Education and the Role of Government at the University of Oxford in England. Reverend Bracy's educational accomplishments are only surpassed by his commitment and work in the community.

In 1991, he joined the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church of Orlando, Florida. In August 1992, he and his wife, Dr. LaVon Wright Bracy, led the organization of the New Covenant Baptist Church of Orlando. The New Covenant Church has grown to a membership of more than 2,000. The New Covenant Church has created a charter school to educate and mentor hundreds of youth. They have created a community development corporation that has rehabbed neighborhoods, created safe havens for after-school and community activities, and provided financial and housing counseling.

As President of the local NAACP, he has worked tirelessly for human and civil rights for all people. He has inspired and mentored a generation of new leaders and for that I am proud to call him my friend and ally for justice.

Madam Speaker, as Black History Month comes to a close, it is with great honor that I recognize Reverend Bracy, Jr.'s incredible work and his leadership in the African American community and in our Florida community

as a whole. He provides inspiration for the people in his community and is a great activist.