

thanking Reverend Charles L. Allen, Sr., for all he has done to better the lives of his parishioners.

A RESOLUTION “CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND WORK OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DURING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STEVIE WONDER SONG TRIBUTE TO DR. KING, ‘HAPPY BIRTHDAY,’ AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce a resolution celebrating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the 30th anniversary of the Stevie Wonder song tribute to Dr. King, “Happy Birthday.” Joining me in this effort is the gentleman from Georgia, JOHN LEWIS, and I would like to acknowledge him at this time.

For over 40 years, we have commemorated the life and work of our nation’s greatest civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Since 1986, we have recognized Dr. King with a Federal holiday in his honor—a holiday that I worked hard to achieve. As we approach this year’s King Holiday, which coincides with the 30th anniversary of Stevie Wonder’s song tribute to Dr. King, “Happy Birthday,” I am honored to introduce this resolution for a few reasons.

First, we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for pursuing a dream of equality that made our nation a more free and just society. In his short life, Dr. King laid the foundation for a society that could live up to the ideal that “all men are created equal.” It is on the shoulders of Dr. King and others at the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement, that we are here today, able to acknowledge that much of Dr. King’s dream has been realized.

Our 44th President, President Barack Obama, is a testament to Dr. King’s pursuit and struggle for equality. At his Inauguration, President Obama acknowledged that he was a product of Dr. King’s legacy, when he expressed that the historic day be explained by “why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent Mall, and why a man whose father less than sixty years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath.”

Second, we are able to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the third Monday in January every year because of the commitment to continue Dr. King’s legacy by people like Stevie Wonder. Stevie Wonder’s 1980 song tribute to Dr. King, “Happy Birthday,” became a rallying cry for those supporting the campaign to honor Dr. King with a Federal holiday. It was that song that led to the collection of 6 million signatures in support of a Federal holiday that Stevie Wonder and Coretta Scott King presented to Congressional Leadership in 1982.

After legislation providing for a Federal holiday in honor of Dr. King had been enacted in 1983, and was first observed in 1986, it was Stevie Wonder that headlined a concert during

that first official commemoration of Dr. King. Significantly, Stevie Wonder’s work to advance the legacy of Dr. King did not end here. Mr. Wonder went on to address such racial and social ills as apartheid in South Africa, famine in Africa, and the AIDS epidemic.

Finally, I introduce this resolution commemorating the life and work of Dr. King during this 30th anniversary of “Happy Birthday” because, while the legacy of Dr. King lives on in Stevie Wonder and so many of us, we must realize that we still have work to do to live up to the ideal that “all men are created equal.” Advancing Dr. King’s mission of equality means eliminating the disparities that exist in so many aspects of our society, like healthcare, housing, employment, and education. Advancing Dr. King’s mission of peace means encouraging our nation to be a peaceful democracy.

Therefore, it is with this resolution that I ask the people of the United States to renew pledges to advance those principles and actions that are consistent with Dr. King’s dream, those principles of equality, freedom, peace, courage, and compassion. Let us allow Dr. King to live on in each of us, not just on the third Monday in January, but every day.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 3326, THE FY10 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3326, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for FY 2010.

Critical provisions have been added to this bill in order to help those facing incredible hardships during this difficult economic time.

The extension of expanded unemployment benefits until the end of February is a vital stopgap measure for those in dire need, and I would like to stress that this is only a piece of our urgent responsibility to restore the economic livelihood, and promise of opportunity to so many individuals and communities across the country.

I am also pleased to see that H.R. 3326 includes language prohibiting the establishment of permanent military bases in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, I cannot support the \$125 billion included in this bill for ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, nor can I support a continuation of runaway defense spending especially at a time when individuals and families across this nation are facing enormous challenges in simply trying to make ends meet.

Madam Speaker, I have been clear in my respectful disagreement with the President’s decision to escalate the United States military presence in Afghanistan, as well as my belief that the situation in Afghanistan will not be solved with a military solution.

This bill does not include additional funding for the proposed troop deployments, and I am hopeful Congress will hold an honest debate and up-or-down vote on the issue of a military escalation prior to obligating federal resources.

The direct costs of two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have reached nearly \$1 trillion, and

the indirect costs to our national security, our economy, and to our brave men and women in uniform are immeasurable.

We further cannot afford to squander our resources on costly cold-war era weapons that in many cases are outdated and truthfully inappropriate for reducing the real threats facing our nation.

The fact is, as we work to reform our nation’s healthcare and education systems, invest in housing and infrastructure, and put American’s back to work, sending more than 50 percent of the federal discretionary budget to the Pentagon represents a clear and unacceptable tradeoff.

For those reasons I cannot support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LIFELONG IMPROVEMENTS IN FOOD AND EXERCISE ACT (LIFE)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, as we come close to the enactment of historic health care legislation, I introduce the Lifelong Improvements in Food and Exercise Act (LIFE), authorizing a national initiative to attack a major health problem in the United States that cannot be remedied through the health care system alone. Growing problems of overweight and obesity are now found in Americans of every age, race, and major demographic group, and threaten the health of Americans like no other single disease or condition does. In fact, the key to eliminating many of the most serious health conditions is reducing overweight and obesity. The LIFE bill would provide \$25 million in funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a coordinated effort to reverse increasingly sedentary lifestyles and diets that are high in fat and sugar. Despite rising consciousness of this epidemic, from NBC’s “The Biggest Loser” to a steady stream of diet books, startling rates of obesity among adults and children continue in the United States. In 2007, estimates from the CDC National Center for Health Statistics showed that the percentage of children who are overweight has more than doubled, and among adolescents, the rates have tripled since 1980. Today, 13 million overweight children have an 80 percent chance of being overweight adults, with the health conditions that follow, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, and cancer. The CDC reports that Type 2 diabetes, considered an adult disease, is now widespread in children. The health care system is already paying the price, and the consequences for kids will follow them throughout their lives. If we are serious about health care, we must start where the most serious health conditions begin: in the epidemic of overweight and obesity.

The LIFE bill directs the CDC to pursue obesity and sedentary lifestyles in three ways: train health professionals to recognize the signs of obesity early and educate people concerning healthy lifestyles, such as proper nutrition and regular exercise; conduct education campaigns to teach the public about how to recognize and address overweight and obesity; and develop intervention strategies to be

used in everyday life at worksites and in community settings. This important legislation is the minimum necessary to address this major health care crisis. Already, chronic diseases, many of which are caused or exacerbated by overweight or obesity, account for 70 percent of all deaths in the U.S., which is 1.7 million each year, and 60 percent of U.S. medical care expenses annually. According to the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity, the cost of obesity in the United States was more than \$117 billion in 2000. Currently, an estimated 300,000 deaths per year are related to obesity.

A focused national health initiative is necessary because unhealthy lifestyles have become a normal part of everyday life. Participation in high school physical education classes has dropped from 42 percent in 1991 to 33 percent in 2005. National data show an increase in unhealthy eating habits for adults and no change in physical activity. Changes in nutrition are equally critical because 60 percent of young people consume too much fat, a factor doubling the percentage of overweight youth.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation to mobilize the country now, before entirely preventable health conditions, that often begin in children, overwhelm the nation's health care system.

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR JACK DAVIDSON

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kansas University Professor John P. [Jack] Davidson, who died on January 10th.

Jack Davidson, along with his wife Mary, was a consistent voice for enlightened, progressive leadership in Lawrence and Douglas County, Kansas. I was proud to have him as a constituent and very much appreciated his thoughtful advice on many of the pending issues of the day. Jack was a candidate for the Kansas Board of Education in 1998, the same year I first was a candidate for the U.S. Congress, and he later served a term as an elected member of the Lawrence U.S.D. No. 497 School Board. Jack was a longtime, dedicated Democratic Party activist whose dedication, hard work and creativity will be missed by all who knew him and worked with him through the past several decades. I am pleased to include with this tribute an obituary for Jack that appeared in the Lawrence Journal World.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for this opportunity to pay tribute to a Kansan who worked tirelessly to make his community, his nation and the world a better place.

[From the Lawrence Journal World, Jan. 12, 2010]

Jack Davidson (John P. Davidson) died at home in Lawrence on January 10. A memorial service is planned at the Ecumenical Christian Center on Feb. 15.

He was born on July 22, 1924, in Los Angeles, the son of John Pirnie Davidson and Istalia Rhine.

After graduating from Glendale High School, Jack followed his interests in rock-

etry and science to the University of California, Berkeley.

From 1943 to 1946, he served in the Army Signal Corps in the European Theater of Operations until he was honorably discharged as a first sergeant.

Returning to Berkeley, he graduated from the University of California in 1948, with highest honors in physics.

As a graduate student at Washington University in St. Louis, he worked with Mary Rieser and others to organize the Student Committee for the Admission of Negroes. Although most students supported that effort, Arthur Holly Compton, the Chancellor, declined to challenge community traditions at that time. Jack and Mary were married in September 1949.

Jack received his doctorate in 1952, working under Eugene Feenberg. He did postgraduate work at Columbia University and eventually published more than 40 research papers, a monograph, and encyclopedia entries.

He taught at the Brazilian Center for Physical Research in Rio, and at the Joint Establishment for Nuclear Energy Research in Lillestrom, Norway. His research for the Norwegian merchant marine on the possibility of outfitting the fleet with nuclear reactors included the possibility that the reactor core might breach containment and melt down through the hull. This was the first use of the term "meltdown" in nuclear reactor literature.

He taught and did research at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute through 1966, and after that at the University of Kansas. He was chairman of the Department of Physics and Astronomy from 1977 to 1989. He also taught at Tsing Hua University in Taiwan in the summer of 1969.

Jack Davidson led summer camps in astronomy for high school students for many years. He is a member of the American Astronomical Society, the American Physical Society, and the Kansas Academy of Sciences.

After his retirement in 1996, he served on the USD 497 School Board from 1999 to 2003. He was also active in local Democratic Party politics and in flying clubs.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Duncan Davidson. He is survived by his wife, Mary Davidson, of the home, and by four sons, John Pirnie Davidson III and his wife, Shirley Schaeffer, Scarsdale, New York; Robert Kenneth Davidson and his wife, Monica Davidson, Ottawa, KS; Tom Davidson and his wife, Diane Davidson, Lexington, MA; and Jim Davidson, Lawrence, KS; and by six grandchildren, Jessica, Julia, Anna, Nathan, Owen, and Alice.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made to the Ecumenical Christian Center, 1204 Oread.

RESOLUTION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I introduce a resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of North American Inclusion Month.

Whereas one in every five Americans struggles with some sort of disability, be it intellectual, physical or otherwise, and the need for inclusion of individuals with disabilities is a family, community and national priority;

Whereas a similar ratio exists in the Jewish community, with over 1 million Jewish individuals living with a form of disability;

Whereas individuals with disabilities face significant disadvantages in educational and employment opportunities;

Whereas 70 percent of individuals with disabilities are unemployed or significantly underemployed;

Whereas special education and related programming do not address underlying needs for appropriate training to lead to greater independence and employment;

Whereas Yachad, the National Jewish Council for Disabilities, and its parent organization, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, is dedicated to addressing the needs of all individuals with disabilities and including them in the Jewish community;

Whereas Yachad provides programming for individuals with disabilities and their families to foster inclusion in communal happenings and assists in placing individuals with disabilities in employment;

Whereas Yachad and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America are cosponsoring North American Inclusion Month in February to increase public awareness of the life circumstances of individuals with disabilities, and the need for increased employment opportunities, better special education and increased inclusion of these individuals on the family, communal and national levels: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of North American Inclusion Month.

NONNIE BURNS—A CHAMPION OF JUSTICE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on March 25th, when we will be in session I assume, an excellent organization known as Discovering Justice will present the Champion of Justice Award to a great advocate of fairness, Nonnie Burns. Nonnie Burns, I should say at the outset, is an old friend of many years, going back to the days when she was a strong supporter of mine when I first ran for the State Legislature in the Beacon Hill section of Boston in 1972. Since then, she has gone on to an extraordinarily distinguished career, first as an extremely respected judge in the Massachusetts trial courts, and then as the state's Commissioner of Insurance, a position from which she has since retired.

Throughout her career as an attorney, judge and commissioner, Nonnie Burns has exemplified the legal profession at its best—namely in a commitment to seeing that justice is done for all. It is entirely appropriate that Discovering Justice, housed I should note in the Federal Courthouse in Boston named for our beloved late colleague Joe Moakley, is honoring her. Discovering Justice educates young people about the justice system and what they can do to make sure that it functions as it should. They run a particularly large program called Children Discovering Justice, which Nonnie Burns inspired and which she has championed. The program for children in grades 1–5 is taught in 25% of the public schools in Boston.