

body image, respectful relationships, and leadership skills. As our nation reflects this week on the importance of healthy eating habits and the destructive effects of eating disorders, we are presented with a unique opportunity to empower girls to lead healthier lives. We recognize that the self-esteem issues in young women are getting worse and the time to take action is now.

It is in this spirit that I encourage all of my colleagues to partner with the Girl Scouts in their efforts to promote media messages that feature girls and women who have diverse body images and act as positive role models.

As co-chair of Troop Capitol Hill, the Honorary Congressional Girl Scout Troop for all women Members of Congress, it is an honor to partner with the Girl Scouts to promote policy solutions that improve girls' lives.

ORLANDO ZAPATA TAMAYO: A
CUBAN HERO

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, Friday's Washington Post featured an editorial which posed the following question: "Since the critique of the old Cuba policy was grounded in its supposed ineffectiveness, it seems fair to ask: Is the new, Castro-friendly approach working?"

The Post continued, "A good answer to that question came Tuesday, when Orlando Zapata Tamayo, a 42-year old Afro-Cuban political prisoner, died after an 83-day hunger strike."

Last week, just 90 miles off our shores, Mr. Tamayo's heroic protest against his treatment by the Cuban regime tragically ended.

Mr. Tamayo had been active in several disident organizations and was arrested in 2003 during a government crackdown and sentenced to a lengthy prison term. Forced to endure what he described as repeated beatings among other abuses, he stopped eating solid foods on December 3. At the time of his death he was he was facing a total of 36 years in prison for a variety of baseless charges, among them "disobedience."

He was not alone in his repression. The U.S. State Department's annual human rights report outlines in grim detail the reality of life in a country where the government continues to deny its citizens the most basic human rights. The 2009 report indicated that at year's end there were "at least 205 political prisoners and detainees. As many as 5,000 citizens served sentences for 'dangerousness,' without being charged with a specific crime," according to the report.

I'd be curious to know how many of those political prisoners or their families have been visited by any of the international delegations, including U.S. congressional delegations, that frequent Havana.

I have long held the belief—in Democrat and Republican administrations alike—that America is most true to its defining principles when in the face of tyranny, fear and oppression, we boldly speak for those whose voices have been silenced. Ronald Reagan did this

time and again with the Soviet Union. And when the Wall had crumbled, and the dust had settled, stories emerged of dissidents who found the hope to carry on when word reached their cells of this American president who had raised, by name, their individual plight.

Let us speak out for heroes like Mr. Tamayo who cannot speak for themselves.

ROSEHAVEN MANOR

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rosehaven Manor on their 20th Anniversary as a retirement community in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. A celebration is planned for Thursday, March 4th to honor this milestone.

Associated Management recognized the need for senior housing in the Flint area and broke ground at the building site on December 20, 1988. The work was completed on the 123 units in February 1990 and the grand opening was held in March of that year. All the units were rented and at that time there was a waiting list. Today there are three original residents still living at Rosehaven Manor; my sister, June Crockett, Kathleen Shepard and Clarence Henderson.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the staff and Associated Management for providing senior housing to the Flint community. I commend them for their service to the residents of Rosehaven Manor for the past 20 years.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND ABRAHAM
BROWN

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Reverend Abraham Brown—and to acknowledge his contributions to education, social progress, and to the community of Tampa Bay.

Rev. Brown was born in downtown Tampa, the youngest of 3 children. He graduated from Tampa's Middleton Senior High School in 1946 and continued his education as an All Conference Student Athlete at Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University (FAMU). He graduated in 1950 and ultimately earned a Master's Degree in Administration and Supervision.

Rev. Brown returned to Tampa and went to work for the students in the public Hillsborough County Schools for thirty-eight years as a Teacher, Coach and Administrator. His coaching promoted sixteen athletes to professional football. These professional players attribute their success to the firm foundation and inspirational teachings of Coach Abe

Brown. "Coach" retired from Hillsborough's school system on January 29, 1988 as Dean of Boys at Chamberlain High School.

In 1976 a former player of Rev. Brown was charged with murder and Brown realized that he had taught young men how to play football but had not taught them how to live productive lives. In response to this he founded Prison Crusade Ministries, Inc. (now Abe Brown Ministries, Inc.) a non-profit organization that enables offenders, ex-offenders, their families, and others at risk, to achieve productive and spiritually fulfilling lives.

Rev. Brown continued his social outreach and in 1991, he received nationwide coverage and honor through an article in the Readers Digest regarding his active establishment and implementation of an effort to stop street drug sales in Tampa's College Hill community.

In 1993, he was awarded the America's Award ("The Nobel Peace Prize for Goodness") for dedication through the Norman Vincent Peale Foundation. Rev. Brown was named Father of the Year in 2007 by the 100 Black Men of Tampa Bay and was also honored by the Tampa Chapter of the NFL and Hall of Fame with the J. Rex Farrior Award. In 2008, Tampa's new Middleton High School stadium was named "Abe Brown Stadium" in his honor.

Rev. Brown is a tremendous role model for our youth and an inspiration to our community. He selflessly devoted his life to others and instead of abandoning those who had lost their way he worked tirelessly to help them get back on track. He not only helped numerous individuals, he helped an entire community. That is why I rise today to honor the life of Reverend Abraham Brown.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I attended the grand opening events of the Kia Motors manufacturing facility in West Point, Georgia. As a result, I missed a number of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

Nay on Reyes of Texas Amendment, as Modified on Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2701 (rollcall No. 69)

Aye on Hastings of Florida Amendment, on Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2701 (rollcall No. 70)

Aye on Schauer of Michigan Amendment, on Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2701 (rollcall No. 71)

Aye on Motion to Recommit with Instructions, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (rollcall No. 72)

Nay on Passage, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (rollcall No. 73)

Aye on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to Recognizing the difficult challenges Black veterans faced when returning home after serving in the Armed Forces, their heroic military sacrifices, and their patriotism in fighting for equal rights and for the dignity of a people and a Nation (rollcall No. 74)

HONORING WILSON COUNTY,
TEXAS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Wilson County, Texas on its sesquicentennial year. It was 150 years ago when Wilson County was founded in south Texas by an act of the state legislature. The area is rich in culture and history and serves a great part to the state of Texas.

Before the founding of the county, the first Spanish explorers traveled through the area in the early eighteenth century and used the land mostly for ranching. Most notably, the birthplace of commercial ranching took place at Rancho de las Cabras. This was a ranching outpost for Mission San Francisco de la Espada where the first ranches and cowboys settled near Floresville in Wilson County. By the 1800s, Anglo American, German and Polish settlers began moving into the area. Soon after, the state Legislature founded Wilson County on February 13, 1860. The county was named after James Charles Wilson, who was an early settler of Texas and a state legislator.

Throughout the years, Wilson County has played a significant role in south Texas history. After the Civil War, Wilson County's population underwent the greatest growth due to the completion of the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway, which reached Floresville in 1886. By the early nineteenth century, farmers who were once known for cotton crops as the most important cash crop, then diversified into a wider range of peas, watermelons, and peanuts. Today, some call Floresville the "Peanut Capital of Texas." One of the county's best known natives is John Connally, who was born in 1917 near Floresville. Later Connally served as governor and survived a shot during President John F. Kennedy's assassination in 1963. One hundred and fifty years has shaped the county and development of Texas through its historical sites, involvement in diversified farming, ranching, and even oil discovery.

Wilson County includes towns and cities such as Carpenter, Floresville, La Vernia, Pandora, Poth, Saspamco, Stockdale, Sutherland Springs, Grass Pond Colony, Kicaster, Doseido Colony, and Sandy Hills. It totals 809 square miles and has a population of more than 40,000.

From a legacy in ranching, to its honorable natives and rich historical culture, Wilson County celebrating its sesquicentennial year is a milestone for the county and for Texas. I am honored to have had this time to recognize Wilson County on its sesquicentennial year. I thank you for this time, Madam Speaker.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Native American Caucus, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2314, the Na-

tive Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, which will formally extend the federal policy of self-determination and self-governance to Native Hawaiians.

I would like to acknowledge Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader REID, and Chairman RAHALL for their leadership in bringing this milestone bill to the floor. I would also like to thank my colleague Congressman AKAKA, the author of this legislation, who worked so hard for so many years to give Native Hawaiians the opportunity for self governance.

Mr. Speaker, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act provides Native Hawaiians with an opportunity for self determination and cultural preservation, while empowering them to be an equal partner with the state and federal government. They will finally be on equal footing in federal policies toward American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

I am pleased to champion H.R. 2314, which provides the self governing opportunities that have been denied to this community for so long. Native Hawaiians should have the same opportunity for cultural preservation and self-determination as indigenous people on the mainland U.S. Just to be clear, this bill does not recognize a Native Hawaiian government upon passage, nor exempt a Native Hawaiian government from any provision of the U.S. Constitution, Federal law, or taxation.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill because it will finally extend the federal policy of recognition to Native Hawaiians. This legislation is yet another example of how Congress is responding to calls for change in America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2314.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA SOWELL
HARRIS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding business, civic and community leader who is a wonderful example of why we celebrate Black History Month. Patricia Sowell Harris is the global chief diversity officer for McDonald's Corporation in Oak Brook, Illinois. Under her leadership, McDonald's has become a global leader in workplace diversity.

I am proud to say that Patricia is a fellow South Carolinian and a good friend. She was born and raised in the small town of McBee. One of 11 children, she earned her bachelor's degree in public administration and personnel administration from Roosevelt University in Chicago. In 1976, she was hired by the McDonald's Corporation to work in its legal department. Nine years later, she was named the company's affirmative action manager. Pamela was appointed assistant vice president in 1997, and in 2001 she was appointed to her current position as global chief diversity officer.

Charged with spearheading McDonald's diversity initiatives, Ms. Harris responded with considerable resolve and her efforts have produced astonishing successes. As a result, McDonald's is widely recognized as a diverse and welcoming place to work. Fortune maga-

zine listed McDonald's 2 years in a row as the no. 1 company for diversity. Other publications that have lauded McDonald's for its inclusive philosophy include Essence, Hispanic Business, Latina Style and Black Enterprise.

Patricia's hard work has not gone unnoticed in other quarters. In the course of her career she has been the recipient of many accolades and tributes. She was awarded the National Restaurant Association's Salute to Excellence and was inducted into their 2006 Hall of Diplomats. Working Mother magazine called Patricia one of the top 10 diversity champions in the country. McDonald's presented her with the Eagle Award and named its annual award for achievements in diversity the "Pat Harris Diversity Award."

Her ascent through the ranks of the McDonald's Corporation is a testament to her professionalism and strong work ethic. Her extensive work in her community is a demonstration of her imitable character and strong moral foundation. She has said that "the best accomplishment one can receive is to be asked to serve and give back to the community." Her unyielding commitment to this philosophy is evident in her numerous philanthropic pursuits.

Patricia is a founding member and former chair of the Multicultural Foodservice and Hospitality Alliance and a founding member and past board member of the Women's Foodservice Forum. She is the chair of the NAACP ACT-SO Advisory Council and is the board president of the Y-Me National Breast Cancer Organization. She is also a board member of DePaul University's Business and Ethics Committee, the International Franchise Association's Diversity Institute and co-chair of the Rainbow/PUSH EXCEL board of directors.

In 2009, Wiley published her book None of Us Is as Good as All of Us, which documents her rise from humble beginnings as a farmer's daughter to the top ranks of American business. The book also details her corporate philosophy and the steps McDonald's has taken under her leadership to improve workplace diversity.

Patricia currently resides in Chicago and is a proud mother and grandmother to her son Dwayne and granddaughter Cydnii.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Patricia Sowell Harris on her impressive career at McDonald's and her ongoing commitment to her community. I am proud to add my voice to the chorus of individuals, media outlets and organizations that have praised Ms. Harris for her many accomplishments. She serves as a tremendous example of why we celebrate the contributions of African Americans during Black History Month, and I commend her for all that she has done and will continue to do on behalf of people of color.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, I was not present for votes on Friday, February 26, 2010. Had I been present, this is how I would have voted: On rollcall #69 I would have voted "no." On rollcall #70 I would have voted "yes." On rollcall #71 I would have