

G. Russ Trimble, on the occasion that his business, Southwest International Trucks, Inc., has been awarded the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009 by the international dealer organization, Navistar, Inc.

The Circle of Excellence Award honors international truck dealerships that achieve the highest level of dealer performance with respect to operating and financial standards, market representation, and customer satisfaction. It is the highest honor a dealer principal can receive from the company.

Mr. Trimble's business, Southwest International Trucks, is headquartered in Dallas, Texas, where it was founded more than 25 years ago. Under his leadership, it has grown into a remarkable, locally owned and operated truck dealership with 305 employees and five dealer locations throughout Texas. With this most recent award, the business has now received the Circle of Excellence Award under Mr. Trimble's leadership a total of 16 times. Additionally, his success has been recognized by the industry and his business is a multi-year IdealGold Winner for Excellence.

Mr. Trimble has achieved this level of accomplishment and recognition through many years of hard work and service to the industry and to the community. A dedicated family man, he has been married to his high school sweetheart for almost 49 years. They have three daughters, ten grandchildren, one great-granddaughter and are expecting another great-granddaughter in a few weeks. A cancer survivor, Mr. Trimble supports the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Red Cross, Frisco Family Services, Collin County Services, and many others.

Through his commitment to hard work and outstanding customer service, Mr. Trimble has built an economically vital business of which he can be justly proud. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating Russ Trimble for his record of accomplishment and for his many contributions to the North Texas community, the State, and the entire Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, I was not present for 3 recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: roll No. 75—yea, roll No. 76—nay, and roll No. 77—yea.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT MARGARET'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 150th anniversary of the historic Saint Margaret Roman Catholic Church in Middle Village, New York.

Throughout their history, Saint Margaret's has withstood the test of time by wholeheartedly committing themselves to education, faith and service. Ever since its inception, the parish has continuously strived to reach out and respond to the changing needs of the community.

On March 18, 1860 Father Goetz broke ground on the first Catholic Church in Middle Village. Much of the original parishioners were farmers concerned for their crops and animals. To its parishioners, Saint Margaret's acted as the protector of those animals against life threatening epidemics and the crops against harvests that brought harsh weather. During the civil war, Father Goetz and numerous other priests from Saint Margaret's made regular visits to rebel prisons, which housed prisoners captured by Union soldiers.

A small frame school was built to house 20 pupils in 1890. Now that school holds 600 pupils with over 50,000 graduates. Their mission is comprised of community, charity and goodwill, in which they are tenaciously dedicated to pursuing. Throughout the years, Saint Margaret's Church has worked with some of the most extraordinary pastors and presiders in the country, and has developed a cadre of priests who have nurtured and challenged this ministry to continue to grow in purpose and commitment.

St. Margaret's School works at building a family spirit while providing an education where excellence is encouraged and Christian values permeate. They have dedicated their existence to these values and their ongoing service to the community, serving in such things as Ministry to the Homebound and their food pantry for the less fortunate.

I am pleased to note the 150th anniversary of Saint Margaret's Roman Catholic Church.

SALUTING AFRICAN AMERICAN SERVICEWOMEN OF THE KOREAN WAR ERA ON THE OCCASION OF THE 369TH HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AWARDS CELEBRATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute and honor African American servicewomen who served their Nation with distinction and great courage as the 369th Historical Society pays tribute to women in the military in celebration of their Annual Women's History Month Awards Dinner Dance taking place at the elegant Eastwood Manor in the Bronx, New York.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Korean War, in which I served in the United States Army. In recognition of the 369th Historical Society's salute to women in the military this month, I would also like to pay special tribute to all of the no longer forgotten heroes, African American Servicewomen who served our Nation valiantly during the Korean War Era, and during a time when the military was ordered to desegregate.

On July 28, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981 mandating equality of treatment and opportunity for all

persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin, initiating an end to segregation in the Armed Forces and in the military. African American servicewomen, because of their small numbers, were often the first and, sometimes, the only to train, command, work and live in desegregated settings.

Women like Army Nurse Captain Eleanor Yorke, Private Sarah Keys, Dovey Johnson Roundtree, Mary Teague Smith, Helen Gentry, Freddie Mae Hopson, Annie Graham and Ann Lamb not only served in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, but they were major factors and contributors in bringing down and wiping out Jim Crow in the United States military.

In 1952, Army Nurse Captain Eleanor Yorke was the only female passenger among 4,200 men sailing on military transport from the Far East to San Francisco. Captain Yorke had spent more than two years in Japan and eight more months in Korea treating war wounded. On the 13-day trip home, her fellow passengers treated Captain Yorke like a queen. Besides being the only woman aboard military transport, Captain Yorke was one of only about 600 women, only a few of whom were African American, stationed in Korea during the entire three years of the Korean War.

"It was a terrible eight months, but I was too busy to be scared. We received the wounded 20 to 45 minutes after they were hit, treated them on the spot and then shipped them to the rear depending on how badly they were wounded. They came by helicopter and ambulance. The helicopters flew continuously from dawn to dusk and the ambulances rolled on constantly. It got pretty rough at times, working under artillery bombardment, and many times, I was rocked to sleep in my army cot from the reverberations." Captain Eleanor Yorke, Army Nurse Corps, speaking to a reporter from the Baltimore Afro American in May 1952.

Also in 1952, two African American military women challenged segregation law to end Jim Crow policies on interstate transportation. Private Sarah Keys was on leave, travelling in uniform on a bus from New Jersey home to North Carolina. When the bus reached Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina after midnight, there was a change of drivers. The new bus driver requested that Private Keys, seated toward the front of the bus, exchange seats with a white Marine, also in uniform, seated near the back of the bus. Keys refused. She was arrested, detained overnight in jail, and fined \$25.00. Convicted of disorderly conduct, Keys began a legal battle against discrimination and prejudice.

Dovey Johnson Roundtree, a former WAC officer and then an attorney in Washington, DC, agreed to take the Keys case. In 1942, Roundtree had volunteered for the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) at the advice of her mentor, Mary McLeod Bethune. Bethune had worked for years to desegregate the military, both men's and women's services, and actively recruited qualified African American candidates. Roundtree became one of 36 African American women to graduate in the Army's first class of commissioned officers. After World War II, she attended Howard University Law School on the GI Bill, becoming one of the school's first female law students.

Dovey Johnson Roundtree and her partner Julius Robertson initially filed suit for Keys in

the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in October 1952, but the court decided the suit was out of their jurisdiction and refused to hear the case. Roundtree then filed suit with the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC). The suit, *Keys v. North Carolina Coach Company*, stated that Keys had experienced unjust discrimination, undue and unreasonable prejudice, and false arrest and imprisonment on the basis of race and color. In 1955, an eleven-man ICC commission agreed with Keys and Roundtree and reversed the separate-but-equal Jim Crow policy in force on all interstate transportation since 1877. A few months later in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a city bus, and a 381-day boycott ensued. The Supreme Court subsequently ruled that state and local segregation laws for public transportation were unconstitutional.

In Fort Lewis, Washington, Mary Teague Smith, the Detachment Commander of a predominantly African American WAC Unit noticed that women in her unit were promoted more slowly than white women in other units. Commander Smith complaints went up the chain of command without results, and by 1952, she was reassigned to Japan. Desegregation efforts usually meant placing African Americans into white military units. White women assigned to the detachment complained because they were in the minority; the Secretary of the Army informed a congressional committee on the armed services of intentions to reassign personnel so that African American women would comprise only 20 percent of the unit. The detachment at Fort Lewis, Washington was an exception. It remained predominantly black throughout the Korean War.

Helen Gentry remembered the transition of the Air Force from segregation to desegregation.

"I experienced the termination of the Air Force segregated by race when our base unit was integrated in 1949–50. As an Intelligence Specialist I was assigned to a Fighter Wing headquarters at McChord Air Force Base, Washington. My top secret clearance attuned me to world wide events long before public revelation, events such as our extensive spy plane flights over the Soviet Union."

In 1949, the first flight of African American Women in the Air Force (WAFs) graduated from an eleven-week basic training course at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. These 17 women from 11 states were a small group compared to the 330 trainee strength of white flights, but on graduation day, they came in third in the first "All Basic Training Parade," competing against over 10,000 men. In 1949, the Air Force officially mandated desegregation and the service disbanded Jim Crow units.

In the United States Navy, African American servicewoman served in desegregated units. Freddie Mae Hopson enlisted in the Navy in early 1952. In 1953, she received an assignment to Hawaii as the assistant to the Foreign Liaison Office of the Port Control Office at Navy Headquarters where she once served as hostess for a USO dance for soldiers returning from Korea. "There were 3000 men and 1000 females . . . the band would play three songs . . . 1000 men would be allowed into the hall and at the end of the third song, they would be sent out one door and the next 1000 would be let in the front door . . . That was indeed an experience." Stated Freddie Mae Hopson.

African American women were not allowed in the U.S. Navy until 1944 after months of debate to define the service's racial policies. Once they were allowed to join, women in the Navy served in desegregated assignments, but the numbers were minute. In early 1948, the Navy could claim only one African-American woman officer and only six African-American women among an enlisted force of 1,700. New York's first African American Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., charged that the status of black women in the Navy proved that the service was practicing "not merely discrimination, segregation and Jim Crowism, but total exclusion." The Navy worked to improve its public image and during the Korean War, announced the achievements of African American women through black newspapers.

In the Marines, African American women had never served in the Marines until Annie Graham and Ann Lamb volunteered in 1949. Annie Grimes became the third to enlist in 1950 and the first black woman officer to retire after a full 20-year career. Segregation shaped many of their experiences. Off-base they were not welcome in public places with their fellow Marines and on-base, white beauticians would not cross the color line to provide standard personal services.

The American cultural climate of the time relegated most women to non-professional, low-paying jobs and promoted a feminine ideal of domesticity and maternalism. The armed forces reflected this attitude, offering women "pink collar" jobs with little room for advancement. As the Korean War began, the effects of decades of protest, and political and legal activism had made few inroads into racial segregation. The inequities of the "separate-but-equal" doctrine of the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* Supreme Court decision still shaped public policy, race relations and white attitudes in most of America.

Madam Speaker, African American women who volunteered in the military during this period broke through barriers to gender and race in order to serve their country and test new policies.

The 369th Historical Society is an all volunteer non-profit organization, chartered by the New York State Board of Regents. Established in 1960 to collect, preserve and maintain artifacts, books, papers, photographs, film and articles on the history of the 369th Regiment, its allies and affiliates, and of African American soldiers who served in the Military Service of the United States. The 369th Historical Society Museum is housed in the 369th Regimental Armory, home of the famous Harlem Hellfighters. The Museum's holdings consist of an extensive collection of photographs and artifacts of the 369th Soldiers from WWI to the present.

As we remember and celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War, let me thank the President of the 369th Historical Society, Major General Nathaniel James, Ret. and all of the officers and staff for your annual tribute to women in the military and for preserving the history and contributions of African American servicemen and servicewomen whom served our nation with distinction, courage and honor.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE
CHARLES "CHUCK" BURRIS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the Honorable Charles "Chuck" Burris, a man who dedicated his life to improve Georgia. An accomplished public servant who was devoted to his community, state, country, his family, and friends, Chuck passed away on February 12, 2009. Tomorrow, on what would have been his 59th birthday, we celebrate his life.

Chuck Burris' numerous accomplishments span an incredible career. He began as a Merrill Scholar at Morehouse College and received proclamations from the Georgia State House and Senate. Chuck was a leader, serving as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., 100 Black Men (DeKalb Chapter), Leadership DeKalb, DeKalb Democratic Club, National Democratic Club, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Spiritual Living Center of Atlanta, Bethesda Baptist Church (Stone Mountain), Martin Luther King March Committee, Stone Mountain Memorial Association, Georgia Municipal Association, Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials, Georgia Conference of Black Mayors, National Conference of Black Mayors, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and as the Third Vice President of the World Conference of Mayors. He was appointed by Governor Roy Barnes to sit on the board of Stone Mountain Park and was an invited guest of First Lady Hillary Clinton at the 1998 State of the Union Address. These roles and accolades are merely titles, and do not fully explain the extent of his work.

His legacy is best remembered through his initiatives. While serving as Executive Director of the Southern Regional Council, Chuck led an initiative, which was cosponsored by the Carter Center Library, to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Brown vs. the Board of Education. As Mayor of Stone Mountain, he installed a 5,000-pound "Freedom Bell" on Main Street in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s declaration to "let freedom ring from Stone Mountain, Georgia!"

As the first African-American mayor of Stone Mountain, he did more than bridge a racial gap. One of Chuck's first accomplishments as Mayor was uniting Stone Mountain by installing six miles of sidewalks. By making Stone Mountain pedestrian-friendly, he connected downtown businesses with residential areas, saying, "When people walk through town, they get to know their neighbors, and this enhances their sense of community."

The community was not always an inclusive one. Stone Mountain was once dominated by the Ku Klux Klan, but Chuck declared there's "a new Clan in Stone Mountain." He spelled it with a C: C-L-A-N, for Citizens Living As Neighbors. Now, it is a home where all are welcome, due in part to the tremendous dedication and work of Chuck Burris. Chuck did everything he could to honor Stone Mountain and the state of Georgia, and it is fitting that he be honored tomorrow.