

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 predominately 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, Bethsaida 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 Klan 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.

## READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

SPEECH OF

## HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 2010*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate Read Across America Day, designated as March 2nd, 2010, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. For the past thirteen years, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers across our nation have participated in Read Across America Day by bringing together families and books. It is a pleasure to use this occasion to also recognize the importance of reading and the successes of reading interventions.

Read Across America Day focuses on motivating children and teens to read by providing parents, caregivers, and children the resources and activities they need to make reading a year-round event. Read Across America Day has encouraged more than fifty national nonprofit organizations and thousands more local partners to join in celebratory events to promote children's reading. An estimated forty-five million people will participate in the Read Across America program in 2010.

Members of our communities are working hard to motivate children to read because they know that reading is an important factor in student achievement. Children who spend more time reading do better in school and develop lifelong passions for reading. In order to prepare our youngest citizens for a successful academic career, it is critical that we encourage parents to read with their children on a consistent basis.

Theodor Geisel, known as Dr. Seuss, spent his life encouraging children of all ages to love reading. Through his playful prose and cheerful rhymes, Dr. Seuss created books that are an effective tool for teaching young children the basic skills they need to be successful. As we celebrate Dr. Seuss and reading, we send a clear message to America's children that reading is important and exciting.

The continued support of Read Across America Day is essential in creating more opportunities for children to thrive in education and become the leaders of tomorrow. Reading is a lifelong activity and children especially deserve us to contribute to their success. In the words of Dr. Seuss, "the more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

## CORRECTION OF COSPONSORSHIP

## HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, it's come to my attention that I was incorrectly added as a cosponsor to H.R. 4529 due to another Member's staff error. They have apologized and made the correction.

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HONORABLE ANNE C. CONWAY

## HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the judicial and civic contributions of the Honorable Anne Conway. The Honorable Anne C. Conway is a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida. She was appointed by President George H. W. Bush in 1991, and is presently the Chief Judge of the Middle District of Florida. She presides over the Orlando Division. Judge Conway has an impressive record of serving the Florida Judicial system and its people.

Judge Conway attended the University of Florida's College of Law, graduating with honors in 1975. She served as an executive editor of the law review. As a result of her work for the Center for Governmental Responsibility, she received the McIntosh Foundation Award. In addition, Judge Conway served as a Legal Aid Student Intern.

Judge Conway began her legal career with a federal clerkship with the Honorable John A. Reed, Jr. in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida. After completing her clerkship, Judge Conway joined the firm of Young, Turnbull & Linscott, P.A. as an associate. In June 1978, she began practicing with the firm of Wells, Gattis & Hallows, P.A., where she became a partner and shareholder of the firm in March 1981. In July 1982 Judge Conway joined the firm of Carlton, Fields, Ward, Emmanuel, Smith & Cutler, P.A. She also became a shareholder of the firm in February 1985. While in private practice as a member of The Florida Bar, Judge Conway was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States District Courts for the Middle, Northern and Southern Districts of Florida.

Judge Conway currently serves on the Judicial Conference Committee on Defender Services and served on the Case Management/Electronic Case Filing Working Advisory Group. Prior to becoming Chief Judge she chaired the Middle District of Florida Budget Committee and participated in several other court committees including Security, Space and Facilities, Case Management, and Automation. Judge Conway served on the Board of Directors of the Federal Judges Association from 2001–2004 and was Eleventh Circuit membership chair from 2003–2007.

Judge Conway serves on multiple boards and has represented the United States speaking out on issues ranging from national security to the freedoms protected by the First Amendment. She presently serves on the University of Florida Law Center Association Board of Trustees and the Board of Advisors for the Center for Governmental Responsibility. She participated in the Centers Annual Conferences on Legal & Policy Issues in the Americas in Lima, Peru in May 2006 and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in May 2008 speaking on Judicial Education and Professionalism. She also served as a panelist for the Center for Governmental Responsibility's inaugural symposium.

Madam Speaker, as Women's History Month begins, it is with great honor that I recognize the Honorable Anne C. Conway for her judicial leadership and commitment to social justice. Her impressive record and contributions to the Central Florida community must and should be praised. Judge Conway is an outstanding role model for young women who want to positively impact their communities through the legal system.

## COMMENDING THE PEACE CORPS FOR 49 YEARS OF GLOBAL SERVICE AND RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

## HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Peace Corps for 49 years of global service and to recognize National Peace Corps Week.

Since its inception in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, the Peace Corps has placed nearly 200,000 American Volunteers in 139 countries around the world to contribute to the cause of peace and human progress. Its impact has been felt in developing nations across the globe where Peace Corps Volunteers have assisted on a variety of issues, working hand in hand with the people of these nations to build a better future for their communities.

There are currently 7,671 Volunteers serving in 76 countries who are dedicated to better understanding the people of other nations while helping to promote a better understanding Americans in an effort to find common ways to work together to address global challenges.

Among those Volunteers are three distinguished individuals from the 23rd Congressional District. Laura Alexander has been serving in Tanzania since August of 2008. Aysa Gray is currently serving in Namibia, where she has been since September of 2008. And Peggy Defray started in April of 2009 her service in Namibia as well.

With the help of these dedicated young people and the generations of current and former Volunteers from all over the United States, the Peace Corps has become a symbol of America's commitment to expand opportunities and assist those in need throughout the world.

For example, the commitment of Peace Corps Volunteers in the area of HIV/AIDS assistance, awareness, and prevention has been a crucial part of the global response to this pandemic. Volunteers have also made significant efforts in the areas of education, agriculture, the environment, and more recently, business development and information technology.

The lasting contributions made by those in the Peace Corps, past and present, are truly remarkable. I am thankful for the opportunity to honor the Peace Corps for 49 years of excellence during this National Peace Corps Week.