

Judge CARTER pointed out, Mr. Speaker, they were going to be forced and are going to be forced to purchase health insurance that has first dollar coverage.

Do you think there's any plans ultimately to expand health savings accounts and let young people who are healthy, as the judge pointed out, and taking care of themselves and exercising and doing all of the right things to buy a health insurance policy they can afford, one with a high deductible, but a low monthly premium, and it has catastrophic coverage, they are not going to be permitted to do that? They are going to have to get these first dollar plans by 2014, and they can't afford it.

I thank the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to share my thoughts. My colleagues, I think, know that I have practiced medicine for 31 years, and I know of what I speak in regard to the American people being opposed to having the Federal Government come in lock, stock and barrel and take over one-sixth of our economy to make decisions that should be made in the sanctity of the exam room between a doctor and a patient.

I look forward to the rest of your comments.

Mr. CARTER. Thank you. Just going over this, this is a welcome sign for all. It may not be all the States now because more have joined in. Let's just look real quickly: Washington, Colorado, Nevada, Texas, Idaho, North Dakota, Arizona, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Dakota, Utah, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Indiana, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Florida.

That's a pretty good gallery of the States, and it's not just one region. It's across the country, and it's because the American people are being affected across the country. Ultimately, the courage of these attorneys general will stand up for every American citizen on this issue, and I commend them, and I congratulate them, and I am looking forward to in some small way if I can work with them, because I think it's an important thing.

The gentleman mentioned expert. You know, we say in the legal position an expert is a guy from out of town with a briefcase. I have seen that in the courtroom a lot, and I would have to say I agree with that in some instances. No, we are all in some form experts on the Constitution because we can all stick one in our back pocket and carry it around and we can read it and we can learn what it says. In fact, that's kind of what's going on in the country right now. An awful lot of the people are getting themselves a Constitution and they are reading it. I said, wait a minute, this thing was to restrict government. This doesn't restrict government.

One of the arguments is being made, making the ninth and 10th amendment the commerce clause. The commerce clause says the U.S. Congress shall

have the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several States and with the Indian tribes. The ninth amendment says the enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others of the rights retained by the people.

Remember, this Constitution starts off by saying, people have certain inalienable rights, rights that cannot be alienated. Granted by God, that's what the Constitution says by divine providence, and among those are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, which means there's more.

□ 2140

This Bill of Rights and the Constitution sets forth a lot of those rights, but they're not all the rights.

And remember, we go back to what were they starting to do? They were starting to get tyranny off our back; don't let the government impose its will upon us. That's what we started out with when the first Minuteman went to Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill to stand up against the Red Coats. It was because they felt like the government was imposing unfair will upon the individuals in the American colonies.

And then the 10th amendment goes on to say, "The powers not delegated to the United States"—that being the Federal Government—"by the Constitution nor prohibited to it by the States are reserved to the States respectively or to the people." So in other words, the rights that they don't deal with here belong to the States. And if the States are not going to be in charge of those rights, then back to the people. This is a hard concept because some people sitting at home and some people in this body are going to say, how do the people have rights that the government is not protecting? Well, they do. In fact, they took up arms once—and some would argue twice—in our Nation's history because of rights that people thought they had as individuals.

So this is part of this revolutionary republican society that we created. We created a republic and we were created out of a revolution. So we are fighting a basic argument, a basic constitutional argument that goes forward before the Supreme Court sometime hopefully in an expedited manner. And I agree with my friend, Mr. GINGREY, that expediting this is important for the American people.

I guess if there is ever anything written into a bill that turns out to be good news of this bill, it's that it does not get implemented until 2014, which means it kind of gets past a couple of election cycles where it might be an issue before it actually starts happening to us, which gives these Attorneys General the opportunity to carry this through the court system and hopefully to the Supreme Court so the Supreme Court can give us an opinion about this particular health care bill and whether or not we are going to ex-

pand the clause that says U.S. Congress can regulate commerce to the point where it can regulate individual activity of human beings to the point where it says you must buy something because it's for the good of you and the good of the Nation even if you don't want to buy it. That is where we are going to go and that is the question they are going to have to answer. It is going to be exciting to see what the conclusion is.

I have a tremendous amount of faith in the judicial system. And even though I have many times disagreed with the U.S. Supreme Court on issues, I have always—and still to this day by the oath I took, both as a judge and the oath we take as Members of Congress to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic. Now, that oath says the ultimate sovereignty, we declare it to be the Constitution. I have always had confidence that our Supreme Court, even when I disagreed with them, over the long haul it would all be for the good of the Constitution. I look forward to that opinion that is going to come out of the United States Supreme Court.

Tonight I have to cut this a little bit short. We will be back talking about this on other days. So I thank my colleague for joining me, I thank my other colleagues for listening, and I yield back the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings or other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

MEMORIALIZING DOROTHY HEIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 60 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and exclude extraneous materials on the subject of memorializing Dorothy Height.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, we come with heavy hearts today to memorialize a woman who made such a great impact on us who passed away early this morning.

Dorothy Height was a founding matriarch of the American civil rights movement whose crusade for racial justice and gender equality spanned more

than six decades. She fought for equal rights for both American Americans and women. She was among the coalition of African American leaders who pushed civil rights to the center of the American political stage after World War II and she was a key figure in the struggle for school desegregation, voting rights, employment opportunities, and public accommodations in the fifties and the sixties.

In high school, Dorothy was awarded a scholarship to Barnard College for her oratory skills, yet upon arrival she was denied entrance. At the time, Barnard admitted only two African Americans per academic year, and Height had arrived after the other two had already been admitted. At its 1980 commencement ceremonies, Barnard College awarded Height its highest honor, the Barnard Medal of Distinction. She also went to New York University and received a master's degree in educational psychology and eventually became the recipient of no fewer than 36 honorary doctorates.

Dr. Dorothy Height began her career as a caseworker for the New York City Welfare Department. In 1944, Dr. Height joined the national staff of the YWCA and she was instrumental in bringing about an interracial charter for YWCAs in 1946.

Dr. Height also served as National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority from 1946 to 1947 and developed leadership training programs and interracial and ecumenical education programs.

In 1957, Dr. Dorothy Height was named President of the National Council of Negro Women, a position she held for 40 years, in which she emphasized self-help and self-reliance, including programs in nutrition, childcare, housing, and career counseling.

During civil rights struggles in the 1960s, Dr. Dorothy Height helped orchestrate strategy with movement leaders, including Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Roy Wilkins, A. Philip Randolph, Whitney Young, James Farmer, Bayard Rustin, and JOHN LEWIS.

During the 1960s, Dr. Dorothy Height organized "Wednesdays in Mississippi," which brought together black and white women from the North and South to create a dialogue of understanding.

In the mid-1960s, Dr. Height wrote a column entitled "A Woman's Word" for the weekly African American newspaper, the New York Amsterdam News.

□ 2150

In the 1970s and 1980s, the National Council of Negro Women helped organize and operate development projects in African countries. Because of her experience and depth of knowledge, she later served on a number of committees, including as a consultant on African affairs to the Secretary of State, on the President's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped, and on the President's Committee on the Status of Women.

In 1974, Dr. Height was named to the National Council for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research, which published the Belmont Report, which was a response to the infamous Tuskegee Syphilis Study and an international ethical touchstone for researchers to this day.

American leaders regularly took her counsel, including First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. Dr. Height also encouraged President Dwight D. Eisenhower to desegregate schools and President Lyndon B. Johnson to appoint African American women to positions in government.

I remember her telling me a story that the location of her office and their office building right now down on 7th Street, where you can see the Capitol in the background, was the last place that they retrieved two young African sisters who were running away from slavery. They brought them back and sold them off of the spot which is an historical preservative for her National Conference of Negro Women. What irony. She was that great lady who could see into the future, and I think that property just beckoned to her.

When she turned 90 years old, I was there at her birthday celebration here in Washington, D.C. They had purchased property that was very, very expensive, but they were able to get it for \$8 million. Oprah Winfrey came, and she said, I understand that you owe \$5 million. She said, Well, I have something with me that I think will help you. She gave a check for \$2.5 million. Now deduct that from the \$5 million. Then she proceeded that evening to go around the room and get those who were lobbyists, those who were advocates, to commit to paying off the balance. Within a few months' time, every penny of that property was paid for.

What a story.

It used to be Sears, the headquarters for Sears. As you know, that's in Chicago now, but the history of the property and where she still went when she was able to get there was the place they sold the last two young African women into slavery. I thought it was important to let you know the spiritual impact, the special gifts that she had for using her judgment to make the right decisions.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is the Nation's highest civilian honor. The musical stage play, "If This Hat Could Talk," is based on her memoirs. "Open Wide the Freedom Gates" is the name of her book of memories. It showcases her unique perspective on civil rights movements, and it details many of the behind-the-scenes figures and mentors who shaped her life.

My mother is now 100. I am reminded that my grandmother, her mother, used to sit us down at her feet. Because most of the history of Africa is Aro, she used to tell us these stories of Mary McLeod Bethune. Mary McLeod Bethune, out of Florida, started the

first college for colored girls. My grandmother used to talk about her all the time. I finally found out that she went to school with Mary McLeod Bethune when she lived and had her first child in Florida, and so I always thought that Mary McLeod Bethune was an aunt. I was so disappointed when I found out she wasn't related. She talked about the line of Judah. That was Haile Selassie, and they feel that most black people were descendants of Haile Selassie. My grandmother talked about Mrs. Roosevelt. She also talked about Marcus Garvey and that back-to-Africa movement.

All of these were powerful figures in the history of black people here in America. So, when we would see Dr. Height, regardless of how ill she was—but her mind was sharp—she would bring forth this history that we could only read about.

Dorothy Height had served on the advisory council of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and on the National Advisory Council on Aging. Wasn't that wonderful. She lived to 98. She passed this morning.

On March 24, 2004, her 92nd birthday, she received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest decoration Congress can bestow, and I am so proud to say that I was the author of the bill that gave her the Gold Medal. As I circulated around these Chambers, I went to that side of the aisle and would sit next to various Members and would tell them, I am carrying the Gold Medal bill for Dr. Dorothy Height.

They would ask, Who is Dr. Dorothy Height?

I'd get very quiet, and I'd say, I'm going to tell you who she is, but you'd better not let other people know you don't know who Dorothy Height is. She proceeded Rosa Parks, and she was 19 years old when Mary McLeod Bethune handed her the mantle of leadership. She took it at age 19 and held it until her demise. Of course she had to have other people take over after she retired.

I knew her story because my grandmother related it to me. She started telling me about it when I was 3 years old. My sister, 18 months older than I, would have to sit there, too. She is deceased now. My grandmother read us the newspaper. She could have read it upside down, sideways or bottom up, but I remembered what she said because, traditionally, the story of our history was Aro, and that's why I took great pride after I entered these most honored Chambers to pay tribute to a woman who is part of all of our history.

Dr. Dorothy Height was the chairperson of the Executive Committee on the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the largest civil rights organization in the United States of America. Dr. Dorothy Height was an honored guest and was seated among the dignitaries at the inauguration of our current President, Barack Obama, on January 20, 2009.

□ 2200

She helped create and organize the Black Family Reunion celebration held annually since 1985. These gatherings were intended to honor the traditions, the strengths, and the history of African American families, while seeking solutions to such social problems as teen pregnancy, drug abuse, and violence. She attended these National Black Family Reunions celebrated on the National Mall in Washington, DC, every year until her death this morning.

Her death was something that we all feel so terrible about. We mourn her loss, but she leaves us a great legacy; and we all stand on her shoulders. She had the insight to keep our families together. Because when we were kidnapped off of the continent, when they brought us here to America, they separated husband and wife and took the babies away from their mothers' breasts and sold them for more property. And she knew that strength was with unity. And when you can bring families together, then you can be empowered.

So we owe so much to Dr. Dorothy Height. And we pay tribute to her strength, her vision, her dedication, and her brilliance. Her voice will never die out. We will continue to hear it when we talk about equality and justice and opportunity and fairness.

With that, Madam Speaker, I would like to call up the most distinguished Member of Congress from Los Angeles, MAXINE WATERS, for as much time as she might consume.

Ms. WATERS. Thank you very, very much Congresswoman DIANE WATSON. Thank you for taking out this hour to remember Dr. Dorothy Height. I appreciate the fact that you not only organized this time, but you understood how important it is for all of us who knew her, who loved her, who worked with her to just stop and remember her in this very, very special way.

When I learned of her death, I immediately thought about March 24, 2004. That is when she received the great recognition from the Congress of the United States, receiving the Gold Medal, the highest civilian award that can be given to a United States citizen. I remembered that because when that ceremony took place I remember watching her and reflecting on all that she had done for this country.

I remember not only the fact that she was the one woman in the civil rights movement that was dominated by men who sat in on the discussions about the civil rights legislation, the voting rights legislation, and this was at a time when women were not welcomed at the helm of the civil rights movement, but Dorothy Height was a very special woman. And I am sure that no matter what some of the men thought, they couldn't have turned her down because of her special way of handling situations. She was a highly cultured woman, articulate, refined, and always able to help temper situations

that could be explosive. So Dorothy Height had a way of not only managing herself, but managing those around her.

I heard Congresswoman WATSON as I was coming in talking about the Black Family Reunions. And they stand out as part of her tremendous work. At a time when black families were being demonized, being talked about as dysfunctional, she not only showed that we are a people who care and love our families, but we came out to these great reunions in very special ways. I remember seeing young black males carrying their babies, and I remember seeing young children being held by the hand by their grandmothers. So the mothers and the fathers, the sisters and the brothers, the uncles and the aunts, everybody came out to these tremendous family reunions. And I can recall not only attending in Washington, DC, but in my hometown of Los Angeles. I was there with Dorothy Height, number one, because I respected her, I admired her; but she expected me to be there.

We were friends for many, many years, dating back to our struggles in the Carter administration, when we had created the International Women's Year. And we all convened in Houston, Texas, to create the Women's Commission that was appointed by Carter. I was there as a young woman long before I came on the national scene and helped to organize on that floor the final statements that we delivered to President Carter that created the National Women's Commission.

As a matter of fact, Dorothy Height has been at the center of every significant development on behalf of women. Not only did she work in the civil rights movement, she worked for women. And she has been there in those struggles working with the National Organization for Women, the National Women's Political Caucus, all of those organizations that sprung up when we finally began to realize that we had power and we could exercise power and influence not only in helping to advance women in this country, but advance public policy as it related to women and families.

So Dr. Dorothy Height, who sat at the foot of Mary McLeod Bethune, the greatest educator that ever involved herself in education in this country, had a great impact on Dorothy Height. And Dorothy Height was a big supporter of education. And she often told of the stories of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune. She often shared with us the very special moments she had with her and the kind of influence that she had on her and her leadership.

So she is gone. And there are those who are asking who is going to take her place. Well, no one can really take her place. There is no other and will be no other like Dorothy Height. Of course there are many brilliant women. There are visionary women. There are articulate women. There are women who can manage at the highest levels.

But you can't replicate Dorothy Height. We can hope that someone takes her place who will honor the contributions that she has made and give leadership to the National Council of Negro Women in a manner that she would be proud of, but no one can actually take her place.

I stand here this evening to say that Dorothy Height not only was special and one of a kind; I loved her. I honor the time that I was able to spend with her. I honor the birthday celebrations that I was able to go to. I honor the times that she attended all of the chapter meetings across this country and I happened to be in some city or some State where she was where I attended those chapter meetings. I honor having known her because I think it certainly gave me not only insight into what she was all about, but the inspiration that she provided for me and the lessons that I learned from her.

So this evening I simply say that we wish her journey to heaven to be the kind of journey where she will certainly rest in peace and get the rest that she so richly deserves. But we want her family to know, and all of those who perhaps didn't know her, how much she has meant not only to women and to the civil rights movement, but to this country. And we want to honor her in this very, very special way on the floor of Congress so that it will be recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, adding to all of the other ways that she will be etched into the history of this country and this world.

Thank you, Dorothy, for having served. Thank you for having led us. Thank you for having been the kind of public servant who helped this country to be a better country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. I want to thank you, Representative WATERS, for your association over the years with her and following in her footsteps. You know, we all joined hands together because I think those family reunions were a very special moment in our communities.

□ 2210

And we remind each other of the importance of our family bonds, and we show this country that we can stay together and our families are not dysfunctional. And that's what she stood for. And so I thank you for your words this evening.

And I have asked that all of these statements be recorded. And as we close out this late hour, I just want to say that we have had the privilege to live at a time when such a great, great woman whose ancestry emanated from what we call the Dark Continent, lived among us, taught among us, and touched us all. May God rest her soul.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, today we lost an American

treasure with the passing of Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, a matriarch of the civil rights movement, a staunch advocate for women's rights, and an all-around phenomenal woman.

Dr. Height was a bold and brilliant African American woman who blazed many trials and opened many doors to the American Dream for women and people of color. Tonight I join with people around the world as we mourn the death and celebrate the life of Dr. Height.

Throughout her life, Dr. Height wore many hats, both literally and figuratively. She wore them with elegance and dignity, with excellence and determination. From her legendary stewardship as the national president of Delta Sigma Theta sorority to her unprecedented 41-year tenure at the helm of the National Council of Negro Women, Dr. Height was a woman of courage and strength.

Dr. Height's commitment to equality was reflected in so many of her pursuits. In the 1930s, for example, Dr. Height traveled across the United States to encourage YWCA chapters to implement interracial charters. After dedicating more than 60 years of her life to the YWCA, Dr. Height remained proudest of her efforts to direct the YWCA's attention to the issues of civil rights and racial justice. She was committed to this work. In fact, Dr. Height was the first director of its new Center for Racial Justice. This was in 1965. I believe it was in New York. Imagine, though, the resistance that she felt and that she was faced with in her efforts to desegregate the YWCA in the 1930s.

As the leader of the United Christian Youth Movement of North America, Dr. Height worked to desegregate the Armed Forces, prevent lynching, reform the criminal justice system, and establish free access to public accommodations. At a time when racial segregation was the standard and resistance to integration was often very fierce, Dr. Height forever remained true to her convictions, even when it was not the comfortable thing to do.

A lifelong advocate for peace, equality, and justice, Dr. Height was especially committed to empowering women and girls. She stood toe to toe with the great male civil rights giants of our time, steadfast in her dedication to ensure that black women's needs were addressed. She was forever dedicated to helping women achieve full and equal employment, pay, and education.

Dr. Height was instrumental in establishing a multicultural "Wednesdays in Mississippi." This was a program to assist freedom schools and voter registration drives. She knew that the fight for racial justice and for women's equality go hand in hand.

As the national president of the National Council of Negro Women, Dr. Height led the NCNW in helping women and families combat hunger. She also established the Women's Center for Education and Career Achievement in

New York City to prepare women for entry into jobs and careers. During her tenure as president of NCNW, they were able to buy a beautiful building just a few blocks from here on Pennsylvania Avenue. And to this day it is the only African American-owned building on Pennsylvania Avenue, which is on the site where slave traders legally operated a center slave market, and where in 1848, 76 slaves, including Emily and Mary Edmondson, attempted to escape to the Underground Railroad.

Dr. Height said, and this is Dr. Height's quote, she said, "It seems providential that we stand today on the shoulders of our ancestors with an opportunity to claim the site and sustain a strong presence for freedom and for justice."

I tell you Dr. Height remained a fighter until her last breath. Last year she attended President Barack Obama's first signing of the Lilly Ledbetter Act, his first bill he signed into law. She was present here for the unveiling of the Shirley Chisholm portrait and the bust of Sojourner Truth here in the Capitol. She worked diligently on various issues with the Black Women's Roundtable and the Black Leadership Forum and often participated in panels here on Capitol Hill. Just recently, she joined us in our efforts to support the 2010 census. We always knew that we were in the presence of greatness. And we always knew, especially now as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, that Dr. Height, when we called, she would be there to support us.

We mourn the loss tonight of Dr. Height. We celebrate her life and her legacy. We love you, Dr. Height, and we promise to continue your legacy of service to humankind. May your soul rest in peace.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I to pay tribute to a national treasure and icon who passed early this morning. I am speaking, of course, of the incomparable, irrepressible, and legendary Dorothy Irene Height. For more than half a century, Dorothy Height has played a leading role in the never-ending struggle for equality and human rights here at home and around the world. Her life exemplifies her passionate commitment for a just society and her vision of a better world.

Dorothy Height was born in Richmond, Virginia March 24, 1912, and educated in the public schools of Rankin, Pennsylvania, a borough of Pittsburgh, where her family moved when she was four. She established herself early as a dedicated student with exceptional oratorical skills. After winning a \$1,000 scholarship in a national oratorical contest on the United States Constitution, sponsored by the Fraternal Order of the Elks, and a compiling a distinguished academic record, she enrolled in New York University where she earned both her bachelor and master's degrees in just four years. She continued her postgraduate studies at Columbia University and the New York School of Social Work.

In 1933, Dorothy Height joined the United Christian Youth Movement of North America where her leadership qualities earned her the

trust and confidence of her peers. It was during this period that she began to emerge as an effective civil rights advocate as she worked to prevent lynching, desegregate the armed forces, reform the criminal justice system, and provide free access to public accommodations. In 1935, Dorothy Height was appointed by New York government officials to deal with the aftermath of the Harlem riot of 1935.

As Vice President of the United Christian Youth Movement of North America, Dorothy Height was one of only ten American youth delegates to the 1937 World Conference on Life and Work of the Churches held in Oxford, England. Two years later she was selected to represent the YWCA at the World Conference of Christian Youth in Amsterdam, Holland.

It was in 1937, while serving as Assistant Executive Director of the Harlem YWCA, that Dorothy Height met Mary McLeod Bethune, founder and president of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). Mrs. Bethune was immediately impressed with young Dorothy Height's poise and intelligence and invited her to join the NCNW and assist in the quest for women's rights to full and equal employment, pay and education.

In 1938, Dorothy Height was one of ten young Americans invited by Eleanor Roosevelt to come to Hyde Park NY to help plan and prepare for the World Youth Conference to be held at Vassar College.

For the next several years, Dorothy Height served in a dual role: as a YWCA staff member and NCNW volunteer, integrating her training as a social worker and her commitment to rise above the limitations of race and sex. She rose quickly through the ranks of the YWCA, from working at the Emma Ransom House in Harlem to the Executive Directorship of the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA in Washington, DC to the YWCA National headquarters office.

For thirty-three years, from 1944 through 1977, Dorothy Height served on the staff of the National Board of the YWCA and held several leadership positions in public affairs and leadership training and as Director of the National YWCA School for Professional Workers. In 1965, she was named Director of the Center for Racial Justice, a position she held until her retirement.

In 1952, Dorothy Height lived in India, where she worked as a visiting professor in the Delhi School of Social Work at the University of Delhi, which was founded by the YWCAs of India, Burma and Ceylon. She would become renowned for her internationalism and humanitarianism. She traveled around the world expanding the work of the YWCA. She conducted a well-received study of the training of women's organizations in five African countries: Liberia, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria under the Committee of Correspondence.

Dorothy Height loved and led her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta. She was elected National President of the sorority in 1947 and served in that capacity until 1956. She led the sorority to a new level of organizational development, initiation eligibility, and social action throughout her term. Her leadership training skills, social work background and knowledge of volunteerism benefited the sorority as it moved into a new era of activism on the national and international scene.

In 1957, Dorothy Height was elected the fourth National President of NCNW and

served in that position for 40 years, when she became Chair of the Board and President Emerita.

In 1960, Dorothy Height was the woman team member leader in the United Civil Rights Leadership along with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Whitney H. Young, A. Philip Randolph, James Farmer, Roy Wilkins and John Lewis. In 1961, while Dorothy Height was participating in major Civil Rights leadership, she led NCNW to deal with unmet needs among women and their families to combat hunger, develop cooperative pig banks, provided families with community freezers and showers.

In 1964, after the passage of the Civil Rights Act, Dorothy Height with Polly Cowan, an NCNW Board Member, organized teams of women of different races and faith as "Wednesdays in Mississippi" to assist in the freedom schools and open communication between women of difference races. The workshops which followed stressed the need for decent housing which became the basis for NCNW in partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development to develop Turnkey III Home Ownership for low income families in Gulfport, Mississippi.

In 1970, Dorothy Height directed the series of activities culminating in the YWCA Convention adopting as its "One Imperative" to the elimination of racism. That same year she also established the Women's Center for Education and Career Advancement in New York City to prepare women for entry level jobs. This experience led her in 1975 to collaborate with Pace College to establish a course of study leading to the Associate Degree for Professional Studies (AAPS).

In 1975, Dorothy Height participated in the Tribunal at the International Women's Year Conference of the United Nations in Mexico City. As a result of this experience, NCNW was awarded a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to hold a conference within the conference for women from the United States, African countries, South America, Mexico and the Caribbean. This was followed with a site visit with 50 of the women to visit with rural women in Mississippi. Under the auspices of the USAID, Dorothy Height lectured in South Africa after addressing the National Convention of the Black Women's Federation of South Africa near Johannesburg (1977). Since 1986, she has worked tirelessly to strengthen the Black family.

Madam Speaker, under the leadership of Dorothy Height:

NCNW achieved tax-exempt status in 1966; NCNW dedicated the statue of Mary McLeod Bethune in Lincoln Park, Washington D.C. in 1974; the first woman to be so honored on public land in the Nation's Capital;

Developed model national and community-based programs ranging from teen-age parenting to pig "banks"—which addressed hunger in rural areas;

Established the Bethune Museum and Archives for Black Women, the first institution devoted to black women's history;

Established the Bethune Council House as a national historic site;

Transformed NCNW into an issue-oriented political organization, sponsoring "Wednesdays in Mississippi" when interracial groups of women would help out at Freedom Schools; organizing voter registration drives in the South; and fostering communications between black and white women.

Established the Black Family Reunion Celebration in 1986 to reinforce the historic strengths and traditional values of the Black family.

Among the major awards bestowed upon Dorothy Irene Height in gratitude and appreciation for her service to our nation and the world are the following:

Presidential Medal of Freedom presented by President Bill Clinton;

Congressional Gold Medal presented by President George W. Bush;

John F. Kennedy Memorial Award;

NAACP—Spingarn Medal;

Hadassah Myrtle Wreath of Achievement;

Ministerial Interfaith Association Award;

Ladies Home Journal—Woman of the Year;

Congressional Black Caucus—Decades of Service;

President Ronald Reagan—Citizens Medal;

Franklin Roosevelt—Freedom Medal

Essence Award; and

The Camille Cosby World of Children Award.

Dorothy Height was also elected to the National Women's Hall of Fame and is the recipient of thirty-six honorary degrees from colleges and universities as diverse as: Tuskegee University, Harvard University, Spelman College, Princeton University, Bennett College, Pace University, Lincoln University, Columbia University, Howard University, New York University, Morehouse College, and Meharry Medical College.

Madam Speaker, Dorothy Height has witnessed or participated in virtually every major movement for social and political change in the last century. For nearly 75 years, Dorothy Height has fought for the equality and human rights of all people. She was the only female member of the "Big 6" civil rights leaders (Whitney Young, Jr., A. Philip Randolph, Martin Luther King, Jr., James Farmer, and Roy Wilkins). Her vision and dedication made NCNW the premier organization in advocating for the health, education and economic empowerment for all women of African descent around the world.

Thank you, Dorothy Height, for your service to our nation. You have made America a better place for all persons of all races, religions, and backgrounds. You have mentored hundreds, been a role model to thousands, and a hero to millions. You are an American original. I am glad to count you as a friend.

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences on the passing of Dr. Dorothy Irene Height. Born March 24, 1912, in Richmond, Virginia, Dr. Height went on to become one of the most influential civil rights activists and a symbol of African American advancement in the United States.

After graduating with a Master's degree in psychology from New York University, Dr. Height continued her early career with post-graduate work at Columbia University and the New York School of Social Work. In her lifetime, she eventually received 36 Honorary Doctorate Degrees, along with a plethora of awards in recognition of her outstanding work in the field.

In 1937, she was invited to join the National Council of Negro Women in her quest for women's rights to full and equal employment, pay and education. This is when her career as civil rights activist began. She fought for equal rights for both African Americans and women alongside of the big six of the civil rights

movement—Dr. Martin Luther King, Whitney Young, A. Philip Randolph, James Farmer, Roy Wilkins, and JOHN LEWIS. She served in many leadership roles with prominent groups such as the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, National Council of Negro Women, and the YWCA.

Among her many awards, Dr. Height was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of the US Congress—our nation's highest honors bestowed upon extraordinary citizens like Dr. Height.

Dr. Height passed away on April 20, 2010. It is with deep sadness that I offer my condolences to her family, friends, and to the many lives touched by Dr. Height.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of a trailblazing civil rights leader and dedicated American citizen, Dr. Dorothy I. Height.

Dr. Height was born on March 24, 1912 in Virginia and spent her formative years in Pennsylvania. She completed a degree at New York University in 1932 and a year later received a master's degree in educational psychology. She would spend the rest of her life active in the civil rights movement working diligently to ensure that every American was treated equally and fairly.

As a natural leader, Dr. Height led the National Council of Negro Women for forty years from 1957 to 1997. Her service and dedication to both this organization and all African-Americans were tireless, and she will forever be remembered as one of the most influential and important women in the civil rights movement. In 1963, when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, Dr. Height stood mere feet from him as he addressed the crowded mall that day. Four and a half decades later, she would hear the echoes of the civil rights movement resound in the inauguration of Barack Obama, America's first African-American President. Truly, she saw some of the most famous and unique events of the last century, many of which were due in large part to her work and efforts.

Dr. Height was the recipient of countless awards throughout her lifetime including the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal. She received 36 honorary doctorate degrees from various universities across the country, and additionally, met, spoke with, and offered counsel to Presidents from Eisenhower to Obama.

Madam Speaker, America and the world has lost a giant with the passing of Dr. Dorothy Height. I will remember her as a woman of conviction who fought and worked until her final days at 98 years old. Truly, we have benefitted immensely because of her, and we owe her a deep debt of gratitude for giving everything she could so that our country might be better and fairer. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in honoring her and remembering her dedication to the American people.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in mourning of Dorothy Height—a dynamic, resilient spirit who served as the matriarch and female voice of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement—and in celebration of a career that spanned eight decades, beginning as a teenager in the budding United Christian Youth Movement. By her 20s, she was the group's leader in campaigns against lynchings and

segregation in the Armed Forces, including a stint as the lead in dealing with the outcome of the Harlem riot in 1935. Her meteoric rise to influence came as president of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), a post she retained for three decades. In an era of racial tension and the march towards greater minority rights, Height set herself apart as a pioneer, marching with Martin Luther King, Jr., A. Phillip Randolph, and my esteemed colleague, Rep. JOHN LEWIS. Forty years ago, she stood alongside King, a marble and limestone Lincoln, and a reflecting pool, as he announced a dream he had of a more perfect union. She not only stood at the precipice of history, she helped carve out a significant and indelible part of it.

The cause of her life proved to be dealing with the unmet needs of the downtrodden and forgotten. As president of NCNW, she focused on improving the lot of women and their families, working tirelessly to combat hunger and establish home ownership programs for those of low income. After 30 years at the helm of NCNW, she became its chair and never gave up the fight well into her late 90s. She recently met with President Obama as part of a group of key African American leaders meeting at the White House for a summit on race and the economy. In 1994, President Clinton awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and ten years later, this Richmond, Virginia native born to working-class parents earned the highest civilian and most distinguished award presented by this Congress, the Congressional Gold Medal.

Dorothy Height taught us all—women and men of all faiths and races—to never relent in the struggle for equality. With a steel spine, grit, and determination, she lent a powerful female voice to a movement that needed her personal grace and perseverance. She had no tolerance for sitting idly by or leaving the hard work for generations that followed, famously noting that “if the time is not ripe, we have to ripen the time.” May we carry that sentiment and her uplifting spirit as we face the challenges that confront us as a nation. She will be missed, but the power of her life’s work will not: it will continue to inspire and motivate us for generations to come.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the legacy of Dr. Dorothy Height, who passed away this morning at the age of 98. As one of the most significant figures of the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Dorothy Height was a true American heroine. Dr. Height spent her entire life fighting injustice and discrimination, and, in doing so, helped make our society more equitable and tolerant.

Dr. Dorothy Height was born in Richmond, Virginia in 1912, a setting in which racism and sexism were the norm. However, Dr. Height did not let this oppressive environment prevent her from following her dreams. After being denied entrance to Barnard College due to a quota allowing only two African-American students per class, she enrolled at New York University, where she earned a Master’s degree in educational psychology.

Although Dr. Height began her career as a caseworker, she soon felt called to the arena of social justice and joined the National Council of Negro Women. In 1957, Dr. Height was elected President of the National Council of Negro Women and proudly served in that post for 40 years. Dr. Height also served as the

president of the historically black Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, where she developed programs that promoted education and leadership among African-American women.

Dr. Height is often referred to as the “god-mother of the Civil Rights Movement” due to her founding role in the Movement and her consistent voice of guidance and inspiration in the fight against discrimination. Dr. Height fought to desegregate public schools, obtain voting rights for African-Americans, and ensure equality for women of all races. Dr. Height marched alongside Dr. Martin Luther King and gave advice to Presidents Dwight Eisenhower and Lyndon Johnson on civil rights and women’s rights issues.

Dr. Height’s amazing and inspirational work has been honored by our nation’s most prestigious awards. In 1994, President Bill Clinton awarded Dr. Height with the Medal of Freedom and in 2004, President George W. Bush presented her with the Congressional Gold Medal. Dr. Height has also received the Presidential Citizen Medal, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Freedom From Want Award, the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP, and the 7th Annual Heinz Award Chairman’s Medal.

Dr. Height never stopped fighting for justice and equality, and in January 2009, Dr. Height was honored as a distinguished guest at the inauguration of our nation’s first African-American president.

Our country has lost a true leader and a beacon of social justice. I extend my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Dorothy Height, as they grieve the loss of this special individual. All Americans mourn her loss, but we take solace in the certain knowledge that our country is better because of her.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible life and legacy of a great leader in the Civil Rights Movement and a dear friend and neighbor, Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, who passed away this morning, at the age of 98.

Dr. Height was always elegant, full of grace and poise, naturally commanding attention. She led an extraordinary life fighting for civil rights and women’s rights. Her fight began when she was denied entrance into college because the school had filled its annual quota of black students, and she never gave up the fight.

Over the years, she continued the fight for justice and equality for all Americans. In fact, Dr. Height was on stage at the Lincoln Memorial with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech. She was in Birmingham, Alabama to comfort the families of the four African-American girls who perished in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. She watched as President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act to eliminate wage disparity based on sex. She also helped create and organize the Black Family Reunion Celebration, and was among the few women present at the Million Man March in 1995.

Throughout her life, she befriended countless people as she strove for justice. Among her many friends were the American educator and National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) founder Mary McLeod Bethune, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and Dr. King, to name a few.

Dr. Height also served as the Director of the YWCA’s Center for Racial Justice, as a visiting professor at the Delhi School of Social

Work in India, as National President of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, and as the fourth President of the NCNW. Her forty-year tenure as President of the NCNW was the highlight of her distinguished career.

In addition to her tireless work for racial justice and gender equality, she served on the advisory council of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the National Advisory Council on Aging. Along with her 36 honorary doctorates from colleges and universities, she is a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Although she received many accolades, she did not put forth her best efforts to achieve notoriety or fame. She said, “Stop worrying about whose name gets in the paper and start doing something . . . We must try to take our task more seriously and ourselves more lightly.”

Dr. Dorothy Irene Height was a remarkable woman. Her years were long as were her accomplishments. Leonardo da Vinci said, “As a well-spent day brings happy sleep, so a life well used brings happy death.” May Dr. Height sleep happily now for a life well used.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, April 26 and 27.

Mr. POSEY, for 5 minutes, April 22.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, April 26 and 27.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and April 21, 22, and 23.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, April 26 and 27.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today and April 21.

Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today. (The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)