

my colleague here today, MICHAEL BURGESS. He has been a good partner in promoting this. The MS Caucus is a bipartisan group of a 127 Members of this House actively engaged in discussions about access to quality health care, raising awareness, promoting education, and increasing MS research. I want to urge my colleagues here today to not just support this resolution, but if you're not already a member of the MS Caucus, I urge you to join us. I urge you to connect with your local chapters to help support the people that are living and suffering with MS, but also to help find that cure, to move research forward.

This year marks the fifth annual MS Awareness Week. The week was created by the MS Coalition and the National MS Society to raise national awareness about MS. I especially want to thank St. Louis' Gateway Chapter of the National MS Society for their unwavering dedication, for their help for people back in my home city, and for their support of my work here in the Congress. I'm grateful for their hard work to provide support and assistance for those living with and affected by MS.

This spring, in fact, more than 8,000 Missourians took part in the Walk MS event across the State, raising awareness and funds to help those living with MS every day, for the challenges they face from this disease.

Today, I want to again urge my colleagues to support this resolution to help create a world free of MS.

Mr. BURGESS. I will yield myself my remaining time.

I want to thank Representative CARNAHAN for the recognition and echo his call to other Members of this Congress to join the MS Caucus. This caucus does real work. We provide information. We provide conference calls. We provide educational time with either Members or staff, and it is a worthwhile endeavor.

While there is no cure for multiple sclerosis as it stands today, the treatment has evolved significantly. In my 25 years of medical practice, I saw a significant evolution. Although I was not the primary caregiver for multiple sclerosis patients in my general OB-GYN practice, I did have many patients who did suffer from that illness and, as a consequence, over the course of my professional lifetime, did see the treatment evolve from one that was essentially palliative to one that was more targeted towards the disease itself or targeted towards the damages the disease inflicts upon the central nervous system.

So I do encourage both sides of the aisle to join this caucus. It is an important endeavor.

Again, I want to thank everyone who has participated today. We've heard today that multiple sclerosis is a chronic, often disabling disease, but today, new treatments and advances in research are starting to give new hope to people affected by the disease, but more must be done to understand the course of this illness.

Most people with MS learn to cope. They learn to cope with the disease and to lead satisfactory, productive lives, but they do want answers. We recently capped off MS Week 2010 on March 8-14, and now prepare for World MS Day on May 26.

Texas, my home State, is getting into the act with the BP MS 150, which is a 180-mile journey from Houston to Austin. This event is a 2-day fundraising cycling ride organized by the Lone Star Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. That is the largest event of its kind in north Texas. This year's ride just took place this past weekend. In 2009, this event raised more than \$17 million for research for MS, and the fundraising goal for this year is \$18 million, with contributions still being tallied. But the Lone Star Chapter of the National MS Society is on its way to reaching this ambitious goal. And this was the 5th year of MS Awareness Week.

The Multiple Sclerosis Caucus is a bipartisan group of 127 Representatives and 23 Senators who are in full support of this resolution. But we can do more. In fact, we will be looking to have an MS briefing for Members and their staff sometime in June, and I hope many Members will be able to attend.

And, in addition, I urge everyone who supports this resolution to cosponsor H.R. 1362, to create a National MS Registry. This bill has over 150 cosponsors, and I urge my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee to take up this resolution because it is an important amount of work that needs to be done. And with all of the focus nowadays on genomic medicine, this registry is going to become increasingly important.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mrs. CAPPs. Madam Speaker, as we conclude this discussion on the importance of being aware of multiple sclerosis and adoption of this resolution, I will call attention to my colleagues all of our local chapters throughout the country.

Our colleagues have highlighted some of the chapters they represent, and I know I've had wonderful interactions with the Members and people who support our local chapter in my district as they seek to raise awareness within our local communities and also work together to raise funds through their walks and through their fundraising drives to provide quality of life and support for their members, those who are afflicted with multiple sclerosis and their families, and it is an honor to serve with them and work with them and represent them here as they would have us do.

And what they would want us to underscore, as well, is the importance of our funding adequately the national endowments for the health, the efforts for continuing research, for accentuating the research in all neurological disorders, those that affect a whole host of ranges that impact people's

lives; and among them, so important, are those who are afflicted with multiple sclerosis. That is surely what we can do on their behalf as we look forward to possibilities, as new discoveries are made, and much more research can be done in this arena.

So our resolution can bring all of that to fruition. I encourage all of our colleagues to honor and vote for House Resolution 1116, supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPs) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1116.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. DOROTHY IRENE HEIGHT

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1281) celebrating the life and achievements of Dr. Dorothy Irene Height and recognizing her lifelong dedication and leadership in the struggle for human rights and equality for all people until her death at age 98 on April 20, 2010.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1281

Whereas Dr. Dorothy Irene Height was a humanitarian whose life exemplified her passionate commitment to a just society and civil rights for all people;

Whereas Dr. Height was the godmother of the civil rights movement and tireless advocate of equality for women and women's rights in the United States;

Whereas Dr. Height led many national organizations, including 33 years of service on the staff of the National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), director of the National YWCA School for Professional Workers, and became the first director of the Center for Racial Justice, served as president of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) for 4 decades, as president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated during two consecutive terms, and continued to provide guidance as chair and president emerita of NCNW until her death;

Whereas Dr. Height was the recipient of countless awards and honors, including the Presidential Citizens Medal in 1989 by President Ronald Reagan, the Presidential Medal of Honor in 1994 by President William Clinton, and the Congressional Medal of Honor by President George W. Bush on behalf of the United States Congress in 2004; and

Whereas Dr. Height was a tenacious and zealous civil rights activist, social worker, advocate, educator, and organizer in the quest for equality: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) celebrates the life of Dr. Dorothy Irene Height; and

(2) expresses recognition for her life-long dedication and leadership in the struggle for civil rights for all people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise their remarks and include extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

This is a day we come to remember and honor the life and legacies of one of America's most celebrated civil rights leaders, the late Dr. Dorothy Height, who passed just yesterday and was one that brings back many memories for many of the Members of the House. Her connections with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosa Parks and all of the organizations that she was connected with are already a part of legendary record.

I was with her in 1963 when Dr. King led this March on Washington, and I remembered seeing her. I didn't know her at that time, but I sure got to know her a couple of years later.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, this resolution honors the life and achievements of one of the most celebrated and cherished women in the Civil Rights movement, the late Dr. Dorothy Height.

With Dr. Height's passing yesterday, heaven gained one of its most beloved treasures, while this nation lost a true soldier in the fight for equality for all men and women.

I recall the first time I met Dr. Height. Her confidence in our nation's potential, and her passion for seeing every person obtain equality, made her a force to be reckoned with.

A few years ago, I was humbled when Dr. Height honored me for continuing to pursue the dream of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Today, I stand proud to have been her friend and to have the privilege to celebrate her life before this Congress.

Today, I would like to touch on three significant points about Dr. Height.

First, Dr. Dorothy Height was a centerpiece on the many stages of the Civil Rights movement.

In 1960, Dr. Height was the only woman team member in the United Civil Rights Leadership. She worked beside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., A. Philip Randolph, JOHN LEWIS, James Farmer, and many other celebrated civil rights leaders.

Although Dr. Height was not among the speakers who addressed the crowd gathered at the Lincoln Memorial at the March on Washington in 1963, she was the only woman to stand on the stage that day as Dr. King delivered his historic "I Have a Dream" speech.

And 45 years later, she watched that dream of equality move even closer to becoming true, as she attended the inauguration of our nation's first black President.

This historic moment was built on the hard work and perseverance of Dr. Height, whose tenacity led her to be known as the "god-mother of the Civil Rights movement."

Second, Dr. Height's commitment to equal treatment for every American has influenced American Presidents for over 70 years.

From President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to President Barack Obama, Dr. Height's influence and advocacy helped shape the Civil Rights issues that confronted each generation.

When Dr. Height was a young woman, she was one of 10 American youth invited by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to spend a weekend at her Hyde Park New York home, to plan a World Youth Conference in 1938.

Through this relationship, Dr. Height encouraged President Roosevelt to take action to desegregate America's public schools.

Later, in the 1960's, she went on to encourage the Johnson Administration to make unprecedented appointments of African American women to positions in government.

Dr. Height gained significant influence throughout her lifetime. She transformed her leadership into a movement of empowerment for those who were living under unfulfilled promises of their country.

She once said "greatness is not measured by what a man or woman accomplished, but by the opposition he or she has overcome to reach his goals."

Finally, Dr. Height's personal experience with segregation motivated her to become an excellent and educated leader who selflessly sought to ensure that others have similar opportunities.

Dr. Height dedicated herself to achieving a good education. At a very young age, Dr. Height was distinct amongst her peers, and provided great leadership to the Christian Youth Movement of North America, where she worked to prevent lynching, desegregate the armed forces, and reform the criminal justice system. She was also an advocate for free access to public accommodations.

Her focus and dedication paid off as she won scholarships, and recognition for her scholastic excellence. Although she was denied admission by one institution because it had reached its quota of two black students, she went on to attend New York University and Columbia University.

We should be very thankful for the sacrifices and hard work of Dr. Dorothy Height. A recipient of the President's Medal of Honor, the Congressional Medal of Honor, and a tireless advocate for individuals who had yet to see the American dream become a reality, we honor this outstanding woman.

I would like to commend my colleagues for their work on this important resolution. In particular, I would like to thank my good friend from the State of Ohio, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, who is the sponsor of this resolution.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

□ 1230

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I want to thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee for bringing this to the floor as quickly as possible. I support this resolution, H. Res. 1281, which commemorates the life of the late Dorothy Height, as the chairman said, who died just yesterday.

She was one of the key civil rights leaders who fought for racial and gender equality in the 20th century. She helped bring about school desegregation. She brought about, in her own way, the movement for an advocacy of voting rights and employment equality.

She was born in Richmond, Virginia, in 1912 and moved to Pennsylvania at an early age. In 1929, she was admitted to Barnard College, but she was denied admission when she showed up to register. The school had a policy of accepting only two black students.

So she went to New York University and graduated in 1932. She received her master's degree in educational psychology the very next year, and after her studies Mrs. Height served as a caseworker in New York City welfare department.

At the age of only 25, she joined the National Council of Negro Women, beginning her career as a civil rights activist on behalf of African Americans and all women.

In 1944, she joined the YWCA and served as the national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, from 1946 to 1957. Then from 1957 to 1997, she was President of the National Council of Negro Women, and during the 1960s, she established "Wednesdays in Mississippi" to join black and white women from the North and South to engage in a dialogue as a means toward social integration.

Many American leaders respected Mrs. Height. She lobbied First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to help civil rights efforts in the 1940s. In later years she encouraged President Dwight Eisenhower and President Lyndon Baines Johnson to desegregate schools and appoint black women in positions of government.

Mrs. Height herself served on the President's Committee on the Status of Women, and she was a consultant on African affairs to the Secretary of State.

Mrs. Height was on the platform with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., when he gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963. As Chairman CONYERS has mentioned, he was at that event in 1963.

For Mrs. Height's six decades of selfless work on behalf of civil rights and for her dedication, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2004. Yesterday, at the age of 98, Dorothy Height passed away at Howard University Hospital here in Washington, D.C.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. I thank Judge POE for co-leading this resolution from the Judiciary Committee.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished majority leader, JAMES CLYBURN, the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. CLYBURN. I thank the chair for yielding me the time. Thank you so

much, Ranking Member POE, for joining in this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I was born and raised in the little town of Sumter, South Carolina, and just outside of Sumter is a little town of Mayesville, the birthplace of Mary McLeod Bethune, the founder of the National Council of Negro Women.

When I was growing up, my mother, who was a beautician, and Mrs. Bethune organized the National Council through beauty shops. My mother thought that Mrs. Bethune was the greatest person to ever live, and she made me learn everything I could about Mrs. Bethune.

Later, as I labored on the staff of Governor John West back in 1971, I received a phone call from Dorothy Height. I knew Mrs. Height—she had been a long-time president of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the sister sorority to my fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, so I knew her. I also knew her because she had become the national leader of the National Council of Negro Women.

She said to me that she wanted my help, because she thought that South Carolina, being the birthplace of Mary McLeod Bethune, would be the place that ought to honor her. She thought that Mrs. Bethune's portrait should be in the State House of South Carolina. At that time no African American was so honored. There never had been an African American's portrait placed in the State House and I went to Governor West and I told him that I thought this was something we should do.

Well, as you can imagine, Madam Speaker, this was not met with as much collegiality as we displayed toward each other here on this floor.

So I called Mrs. Height to tell her that I thought this was going to be very, very difficult.

She said to me, now, young man, I didn't ask for your help because I thought it was going to be easy. She said things to me that day that made me understand a lot about who and what I am, and we joined together. We covered and counseled each other, and I am pleased to report that because of Mrs. Height, Dr. Height, the portrait of Mary McLeod Bethune hangs in the State House of South Carolina, the first African American so honored.

Others have joined us later, Willie Mays, Rev. I.D. Quincy Newman, but she blazed that trail, and she did so because of Dr. Height.

When I got elected to the Congress, Dr. Height called again, and she told me that the National Council is going to put a statue here, in, I believe, Lincoln Park here in Washington. She wanted me to come and be a part of that dedication. I joined her there that day, and from that day on, very often, we would meet, we would talk on the phone, and I just believe that she is very close to being as great a woman as Mary McLeod Bethune was, and I am pleased to be here to say a few words in honor of her and in memory of her great life and tremendous legacy.

Mr. POE of Texas. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. I am pleased to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) one of our newest Members of the Congress, who knew, worked for, studied under, and was a mentee to Dorothy Height.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On yesterday, Madam Speaker, a civil rights icon and humanitarian, Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, passed away at the age of 98. She was my friend, my mentor, and one of my predecessors as the national president of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Dr. Height was passionate about justice and equality. Everything she did, every position she held, and every policy she advocated served her life's mission, which was to eliminate barriers to success for women and blacks, while inspiring the next generation.

Even though Presidents and other world leaders sought her counsel, she always took the time to advise and encourage young women, including myself.

While we mourn her loss, I am not sad. She lived a great life. We often talk about life is not the longevity, but it is the breadth, and she had a great life. So we celebrate her life today, a great humanitarian who leaves a legacy of strong and caring women. That is why I am honored to introduce this resolution celebrating Dr. Height's life and recognizing her work.

Dr. Height served as president of the National Council of Negro Women for four decades, stepping down from the position in 1997. In her position with the Council, which, by the way, connected nearly 4 million women worldwide, she tackled issues that affected all families, including child care for working mothers, health and nutrition, and providing adequate housing for families in need. She served as the national president of Delta Sigma Theta from 1947 to 1957.

Widely recognized as one of the founding members of the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Height was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994 by President Bill Clinton, and in 2004 she received the Congressional Gold Medal. Dr. Height fought for equal rights for both women and blacks and was active in such causes as securing voting rights, equal employment opportunities and desegregation of public schools.

Marching alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., she advocated women's rights during the civil rights struggle. Dr. Height was instrumental in the fight for equal pay for women and organized numerous programs to help women achieve equal rights and independence.

Dr. Height was a tenacious and zealous civil rights activist, social worker, advocate, educator, organizer, mentor and friend. She was my friend. I will miss her, but my life has been better just by knowing her.

Mr. POE of Texas. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Let me thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee and my colleague from Texas (Mr. POE) for his presence and comments on the floor about Dr. Dorothy Height and, as well, the author of the resolution.

I am very proud to have joined Congresswoman FUDGE to be an original cosponsor of this legislation and come to the floor today, as we did yesterday, for I believe that the celebration of Dr. Height's life needs no stopping, if you will. If we continue to commemorate her throughout this week, it will not be able to account for her service.

And for those who may not be familiar with Dr. Dorothy Height, I only wish that this picture was in color. For maybe as you look at this lady adorned with this fabulous hat, well attired, you will remember seeing in many pictures with Presidents, kings and queens, international leaders, a lady who was appropriately attired with that dapper and beautiful hat. The color that I remember most is her beautiful aqua, and I say that only because many times we look at women as to how they are adorned.

I think that Dr. Height did not fail to be noticed when she came into a room, both by her stature and her attire, but certainly by her words. I would count her the most influential woman in the Civil Rights Movement, a friend to many, one who empowered women and clearly progeny of Mary McLeod Bethune, what a wonderful legacy that was given to Dr. Height in her leadership of the National Council of Negro Women for some 40 years.

There are chapters throughout the Nation, and I am grateful to be a member of the Dorothy Height Chapter in Houston, Texas. There are many, and I must remind my colleagues and those that are listening, that the name continues to be the National Council of Negro Women, which was the name that was given by Mary McLeod Bethune. No one dared view that as any undermining of the dignity and purpose, reliability and, of course, the power of this organization.

□ 1245

No one ran away from the word "negro" because we knew that in that word there was struggle, there was a showing of what we overcame. And to the instruction of Mary McLeod Bethune, we knew that it captured the empowerment of women, but it also spoke to the education of our children. Dr. Dorothy Height was in the center point of that.

I had the privilege of coming here to the United States Congress and being able to look up to Dr. Height as I got to know her even before my congressional duties. What a pleasure to be

able to join C. DeLores Tucker at her annual events and the National Council of Black Political Women to deal with her seeking empowerment for women, and as well to be able to join with then Betty Shabazz, Dr. Dorothy Height, and Coretta Scott King. What a powerful group of women whose history paralleled each other, but in essence they were sisters.

And so I rise today to be able to acknowledge this glorified woman who came eagerly to the National Council that was headed by C. DeLores Tucker and now by E. Faye Williams, and to be able to thank her.

When we were looking to pass legislation to include Sojourner Truth as the only standing figure now of an African American woman in this United States Congress, this great heroine, this great woman added her leverage, her power, her support and sisterhood to ensure that we placed Sojourner Truth, a suffragette and an abolitionist, here.

So Dr. Height, as you rest today, let it be known that we do recommit ourselves to the universal access of education for all children, for the education of America's children, for reminding us that Haiti's children—now suffering in the wake of an earthquake—must be provided education, and to be reminded that there is no shame in being an agitator and a provocateur and someone who fights for freedom and justice.

We are in your debt, the godmother, if you will, of civil rights. We will be forever in your debt. And the women and the men and the many different rainbow colors of these United States and around the world, people will be indebted to you for your common touch, for your spirit, and, yes, for saving so many of us.

May God bless your soul. May you rest in peace as we celebrate over these days your life. God bless you, Dr. Dorothy Height.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1281, Honoring the life and Achievements of Dr. Dorothy Height and Recognizing her Lifelong Dedication and Leadership in the Struggle for Human Rights and Equality for All People Until Her Death at Age 95 on April 20, 2010.

I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Dorothy I. Height who was a national treasure and a civil rights icon. For more than half a century, Dorothy Irene Height 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.

Dr. Height was a social justice and civil rights activist, a servant of the people, one who served a number of Presidents, a humanitarian, American, a hero, and a great patriot. She believed in women's rights and the empowerment of minorities. She was an inspiration to all women. She never ran away from the fight for justice. All of those are words without motion, unless you had the privilege to know Dr. Dorothy Height as I did. You would then be captured by her charm, her energy, her insight, her intellect and her compassion.

Her legacy is one of a glorious and wonderful champion of the people.

Dorothy Height witnessed or participated in virtually every major movement for social and political change in the last century. During the 1963 civil rights March on Washington, Dorothy Height was the only woman on the podium when Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech. For nearly 75 years, Dorothy Height 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 the National Council of Negro Women the premier organization in advocating for the health, education, and economic empowerment for all women of African descent around the 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 compiling a distinguished academic record, she enrolled in New York University where she earned both her bachelor and master's degrees in just 4 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 1 of only 10 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.

Madam Speaker, 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 1 of 10 young Americans invited by Eleanor Roosevelt 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 33 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 Martin Luther King, 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, and 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 36 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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 17 minutes remaining; the gentleman from Michigan has 5½ minutes remaining.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to recognize our former State senator, former ambassador, and now a Member of Congress, who has served here with such distinction, DIANE WATSON, Hollywood, California. I yield her 1 minute.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I come to contribute and to continue to contribute to a woman that really was the matriarch of the American civil rights movement, and I want you to know her crusade for racial justice and gender equality spanned more than six decades.

This is a fact you need to know: it was at age 19 that Mrs. McLeod saw the leadership, the skill, and the brilliance of Dorothy Height. She was 19 years old when Mary McLeod Bethune passed the mantle of leadership over to her, and she held it high and she served all people well.

I just want you to know that I found out, with a little research, that my grandmother went to school with Mary McLeod Bethune, and she used to tell us about her when we were 3 years old, my sister and I. And so it was many, many decades ago that the leadership was struck, and we stand on her shoulders.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield to Mr. CONYERS an additional 10 minutes and ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. I want to thank Judge POE for his generosity.

At this time, I am going to yield 2 minutes to DONNA EDWARDS of Maryland.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I rise today to mourn and to join our Nation in mourning Dr. Dorothy Height. She was an American icon who dedicated her life to racial justice and to gender equality. And at a time when women and African Americans were regarded as second class citizens, this strong, powerful, beautiful African American woman stood up for us and

she strove to change that and rose to become a key figure in the civil rights movement, meeting with first ladies and Presidents and heads of state.

I want to step back for a minute because I look back fondly to the time when I first met Dr. Height, and it was more than 20 years ago as a young advocate working on domestic violence. It was through Dr. Height's voice and her leadership and her kindness and generosity of intellect and of spirit that enabled me to become a really strong advocate for domestic violence and to speak on behalf of the needs of African American women and women of color in a feminist movement that was not always open to those kinds of voices. It was really Dr. Height who enabled us to meet those challenges with our other feminist colleagues. And so I regard Dr. Height as a strong woman of color in the civil rights movement, but also a really strong feminist and a committed feminist.

Just a few weeks ago, I greeted Dr. Height when she was out in my congressional district with her beloved Deltas. She was feeling as strong and healthy then and healthy of spirit and mind and intellect as she always had been. And so with that, I rise to remember her, to value her, and as a novice political leader, to know that when it really counted, Dr. Height was on my side, too.

Mr. POE of Texas. I continue to reserve my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize our Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI, for 1 minute.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the chairman for yielding and for giving us this opportunity to honor the life, legacy, and contributions of the godmother of the civil rights movement and a champion of social justice, Dr. Dorothy Height. Her loss is felt by all of us who knew her, respected her, and followed in her footsteps; but it is also felt by people who may never know her name, but for whom she worked, for whom she led, and for whom she made a difference. The Nation mourns the passing of this giant of American history; and our thoughts and prayers are with her family, friends, and the loved ones of this extraordinary woman.

Men and women of every race and faith are heirs to the work, passion, and legacy of Dorothy Height. From her earliest days as an activist, she fought for equality under the law for every American, recognizing that the battle for civil rights extended to African American women and anyone denied the chance to succeed because of who they are.

For four decades, she stood at the helm of the National Council of Negro Women, continuing the struggle for an America that lived up to the ideals of liberty and opportunity for all. In every fight, Dorothy Height turned the tides of history toward progress. Because of what she achieved, schools are no longer separate and unequal, and

the voting booth is open to all striving to participate in our democracy. Because of what she did, a steady job and a decent home are not limited to a person based on their background, color of their skin, or means.

Today, we live in an America Dorothy Height helped to build, a Nation defined by equality, shaped by civil rights, and driven by the pursuit of justice for all. The pledge we take every day, "liberty and justice for all," that is what Dorothy Height was about.

I was very proud to join President Bush and the House and Senate, Democrats and Republicans, in 2004 when we presented the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow, on Dr. Dorothy Height. At that time, President George W. Bush said, "In the presence of Dorothy Height, you realize you're in the presence of grace. But you've got to realize that behind that grace there is a will of steel and absolute determination." The President later quoted from her book, but then he went on to say how Dorothy Height "always stressed the importance of institutions closest to us: our families, our churches and our neighborhoods." He said: "She understands that those institutions are important in shaping the character of an individual, and therefore the character of the Nation."

President Bush—President of the United States, imagine—even quoted Dorothy Height's memoir where she wrote: "It is in the neighborhood and communities where the world begins. That is where children grow and families are developed, where people exercise the power to change their lives," President of the United States quoting Dorothy Height as we presented her with a Congressional Gold Medal.

It is important to note that with all of those honors, it was also a pleasure for us to hear from Dr. Alexis Herman; she was the Secretary of Labor. Secretary Herman was very, very close personally and professionally, in every way, to Dorothy Height. And at that time she sang her praises and talked about what she did in the civil rights movement and what she did to advance women and young girls and the rest, but she also talked about how she made the best sweet potato pie. So personally, professionally, patriotically, Dorothy Height was all systems go.

I have been passed a note because I was asking about a film that I recently saw on TV that I hope can be available now again. It is called, "The Life and Surprising Times of Dorothy Height." It is an inspirational presentation of the life of a person, a person who was instilled by her own mother with the idea that she could do whatever she set out to do and had a responsibility to do so.

Over Dorothy Height's lifetime in the trenches for social justice, human rights, and equality, Dorothy Height advocated on behalf of our neighborhoods and our communities. She stood tall for our children and families. She

truly exercised her power to change lives.

As we state in our resolution today: "Dr. Height was a tenacious and zealous civil rights activist, social worker, advocate, educator, and organizer in the quest for equality." And I join my colleague, Congresswoman EDWARDS, in focusing on that equality for women as well.

I last saw Dorothy Height about a month ago at the 70th birthday party for JOHN LEWIS, our colleague. As others regaled us about stories of the civil rights movement, there she sat, as dignified as a queen reigning over the proceedings, one who had seen it all, seen the struggle, seen the change, and now recognized then by the Congress of the United States and now in her passing by the entire Nation.

Our country is better off because of Dorothy Height's commitment, compassion, grace and patriotism. We will miss her tenacity and zeal for the fight for equality—our Nation's heritage and our hope. We will each take inspiration from the story of progress and her countless victories for the American people.

□ 1300

Mr. POE of Texas. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to my friend and colleague from Michigan, CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK, a distinguished member of the Appropriations Committee and an activist in her own right.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the gentleman for yielding us the additional time. I appreciate it very much.

Madam Speaker, I have known the honorable Dorothy Irene Height for many years. This last weekend, several of us went to Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, North Carolina.

I was a speaker at the Heights of Excellence Scholarship Luncheon for the young women who go to that university. It was quite an honor for us to pay homage to Dr. Height—quiet, courageous. Just imagine 70 years ago when she stepped out as a woman, working with leaders—speaking, giving, organizing, and teaching. Here we are, in 2010, wanting to be like Dorothy Irene Height.

I want to honor former Secretary Alexis Herman, who served as her adopted daughter and who was with her for all of these years as we have served here in Washington.

I also honor Dr. Barbara Skinner, who worked tirelessly and who surrounded Dr. Height in prayer for the last 3 weeks, 24 hours a day.

Thank you, my sisters. Let us rise up and have the strength that Dr. Height showed each of us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Dr. Height, you are in all of us, and as we

go forward as women—as Congresswomen, as mothers—and as we raise the young children to be future Dr. Heights, just know that the height of excellence will remain in each of us.

Rest in peace, our dear, beloved mother. Join Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, and the others who have gone before.

Mr. POE of Texas. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. I am pleased now to yield 1 minute to my colleague, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin, GWEN MOORE.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Thank you so much.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Dorothy Height gave not only her height but loaned her depth and breadth and width and weight and length of service to the civil rights movement and to gender equality. Mother to no children, wife to no one, she was queen mother, nurturer, and lover of the civil rights movement through seven decades of advocacy. Although she was the queen, she treated each one she encountered with equity, and it was my privilege to bow down to her each time I encountered her.

Thank God for the life of Dr. Dorothy Height, and thank God for her legacy. May her life be more than a memory. May it be a compelling force to press on in the unfinished work of the civil rights and gender equality movement.

Mr. POE of Texas. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, the distinguished gentlelady from Oakland, California, BARBARA LEE.

Ms. LEE of California. I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding and for his leadership, Congressman JOHN CONYERS, one of the great civil rights leaders.

Madam Speaker, I also want to say, as we think about and honor and mourn, yes, and celebrate her life, Dr. Height was one of our greatest civil rights leaders, a woman, who often-times, with the great men of the civil rights movement, had to make sure that a woman's voice, an African American woman's voice, was heard.

Dr. Height wore many hats literally and figuratively. I am going to miss her so much.

A couple of months ago, she insisted that I participate in the National Council of Negro Women's annual conference in Maryland. Dr. Height, of course, knows the schedule here on the Hill, and said, Well, just come out for the breakfast.

I said, Okay, Dr. Height.

I got there at, maybe, 7 o'clock in the morning. She was there to greet me at 7 a.m.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. LEE of California. You knew you were in the presence of greatness when you were with Dr. Height.

Whenever we called on Dr. Height, she was there to support our efforts. Just recently, for example, she joined the Congressional Black Caucus in our efforts here on the Hill to support the 2010 census. Her passion was an inspiration to all of us here in Congress. It is hard to imagine that, in the thirties, she provided a resistance movement in her efforts to desegregate the YWCA.

We are going to deeply miss her. We love her. We celebrate her life and mourn her death.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support and as an original co-sponsor of this resolution honoring the life and legacy of a true American treasure—Dr. Dorothy Irene Height. I want to thank my colleagues MARCIA FUDGE and her staff and our leadership for working so quickly to get this resolution to the House floor. Today, I join with my House colleagues, the Congressional Black Caucus and people around the world as we celebrate the life of Dr. Height.

A Matriarch of the Civil Right Movement, staunch advocate for women's rights and all-around Grand Dame, Dr. Height was a bold and brilliant African American Woman, who blazed many trails and opened many doors so that we all may lead freer and more prosperous lives.

Throughout her life, Dr. Height wore many hats—both literally and figuratively—with elegance and dignity, excellence and determination. From her legendary stewardship as the National President and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., 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, 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 YWCA's attention to issues of civil rights and racial justice. She was so committed to this work in fact, that the YWCA named Dr. Height the first director of its new Center for Racial Justice in 1965.

As a 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 fierce, Dr. Height forever remained true to her convictions, even when it was not the comfortable thing to do.

A life-time advocate for peace, equality, and justice, Dr. Height was especially committed to empowering women and girls. She stood toe-to-toe with male civil rights leaders, 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.

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 Advancement in New York City to prepare women for entry level jobs. During her tenure as President of the NCNW, they were able to buy a

beautiful building just a few blocks away from here at 633 Pennsylvania Avenue—a site where slave traders legally operated what was known as the "Center Slave Market". To this day it is the only African American-owned building on Pennsylvania Avenue, proving that she was not only a great leader, but an astute business woman as well.

Dr. Height remained a fighter until her last breath. During my time here in Congress and particularly as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. I always knew that I could call on Dr. Height and she would be there to support our efforts.

Last year, she attended President Barack Obama's first signing of a bill into law at the White House—the Lilly Ledbetter Act. She was present 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.

Her passion was an inspiration to all of us here in Congress, and I was honored and privileged to call her a mentor and friend.

With the passing of Dr. Height, our Nation mourns the loss of a true national treasure. Dr. Height's leadership in the struggle for equality and human rights serves as an inspiration to all Americans. Her undying commitment to a just society and her vision for a better world undergirds the work of the Congressional Black Caucus, and the CBC is deeply grateful for her mentorship, wisdom, and guidance.

Today we mourn the loss, but celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Height—a visionary and great humanitarian who gave us all so much. We love you Dr. Height and we promise to continue your legacy of service to all human kind.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina, Judge BUTTERFIELD.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Let me thank the chairman, my good friend Mr. CONYERS, for yielding me the time.

Mr. CONYERS. I didn't want our female colleagues to have a monopoly on the floor today. Plus, I wanted to come down and say a few words about Dr. Dorothy Height.

Madam Speaker, I had the privilege of knowing Dr. Height for at least 50 years. She and my mother, as well as Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, were very good friends. They were all active participants in the National Council of Negro Women.

In the early 1950s, I would come to Washington, D.C., with my mother to attend those meetings. It was Dorothy Height and Mary McLeod Bethune who opened up the Willard Hotel for the women to have their convention. At that time, hotels in D.C. were segregated, and it was Dr. Height who helped open up the Willard Hotel for that purpose. At that time, she was helping to build the organization on behalf of Dr. Bethune, who was beginning to fail.

When I came to Congress 6 years ago, I brought with me a picture of the organization that was taken in 1942. I went over and presented it to Dorothy Height. She immediately recognized the picture and told me that it was taken in front of the Department of Labor in 1942. When I asked her where she was in the picture, Dr. Height told me, Well, honey, I was inside, doing the work of the organization while the members were outside, taking the picture.

Thank you for the time, Mr. CONYERS. This was a lifetime of service to the American people and to African American women. I want to thank her for her service to equality, fairness, and inclusion.

Mr. POE of Texas. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands, Dr. DONNA CHRISTENSEN.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues in support of this resolution honoring Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, who is the godmother of the women's movement, a leader in the fight for equality and justice for all Americans, one of the civil rights movement's greatest pioneers, and a true drum major of justice to the very end. It is because of her unwavering dedication, dogged determination, and invaluable leadership that many of us stand proudly here today. She motivated and inspired men and women of all creeds and colors here and the world over.

Today, our entire Nation stands with us to commemorate the passing of our beloved leader. While we mourn her loss, we joyously celebrate her full giving and meaningful life and her selfless visionary and rich legacy. She has passed the torch to those of us who remain. Let us carry it with pride.

My family, my staff, and the people of the Virgin Islands join me today in extending our deepest condolences to her family and loved ones.

Mr. POE of Texas. I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the recitations of many of the Members in memory of Dorothy Height have been marked by the personal knowledge and their own intimate relationship with her. I am no different from the rest.

I knew and worked with her on a regular basis. She was attending all of the functions. Up until recently, I could see her anywhere in Washington if there was a civil rights event or women's event, a national event, and so it was good to see her. Sure, she was slowing down, but most of us are anyway, so I appreciated that she was as stylish as has been referred to as always. She always had that spirit, and

it is with great pleasure that I remember through the many occasions, starting from our first public meeting at the March on Washington in 1963. She, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosa Parks were very important figures as I participated in the struggle that would lead to the culmination of the great civil rights movement in American history. It is with fond memory that I remember her activity, her friendship, her helpfulness. I think that there may be some kind of national commemoration for her that might be appropriate now that we've reviewed all of the medals, commendations, and awards that she has received thus far.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. I am pleased now to yield 1 minute to the majority leader of the House, the gentleman from Maryland, the great STENY HOYER.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the chairman for yielding.

I want to thank Chairman CONYERS for his extraordinary leadership on behalf of the rights of all peoples. His role in the civil rights movement has been extraordinary, and it continues to this date.

Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of this resolution and in memory of an extraordinary woman.

I had the privilege of knowing Dorothy Height for some four decades. That does not mean that I saw her regularly during those four decades, but I saw her frequently during those four decades. She also exuded the positive, constructive approach that she took to solving problems, to bringing people together. The historian Taylor Branch rightly called Dr. Height's brothers and sisters in the civil rights movement the "modern founders of democracy."

Today, we honor the legacy that she leaves behind. What a wonderful, long, productive, constructive, important life we honor in Dorothy Height.

Dorothy Height was an extraordinarily gracious human being. When meeting with her, I never failed to leave her side and not feel better. I would feel better about the relationship that I had with her and that she had with others as I saw her interface with others in the room, in the crowd, in the meeting. Dorothy Height was and is a giant. The Washington Post had on its front page today a very large picture of Dorothy Height. It was appropriate that, in the Nation's capital, Dorothy Height would be given such prominence, not for her death but for the life that she lived, for the contributions she made.

We are all better for Dorothy Height's life. We are all freer for Dorothy Height's life. We were lifted as a society by Dorothy Height and by those with whom she worked from a segregated society where the perception was that some Americans were not equal to other Americans. That was contrary to the premise articulated by Thomas Jefferson but not lived out by

Thomas Jefferson and our Founding Fathers. Their premise was accurate, but their practice was not. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Dorothy Height; JOHN CONYERS; JOHN LEWIS, who serves with us; JIM CLYBURN, our whip; and so many others called America's attention to the fact that it was not living out the reality of its promise, not just to African Americans but to all Americans.

Dorothy Height showed extraordinary courage and conviction in the face of bigotry and discrimination. Like so many in this body who faced bigotry and discrimination, they did not allow that to poison their souls. They did not allow that to diminish their relationships even with those whom they saw as oppressors. To that extent, they rose above the conduct directed at them in order to change that conduct through love and positive engagement. Dorothy Height is a perfect example to all of us, young and old, who are participating in this society which, unfortunately, too often we see today falls into anger and confrontation rather than civility and discussion.

□ 1315

I am worried about the anger that I see in the society today. In some respects I think not justified at the level that we find it. Yes, there is room for disagreement, but Dorothy Height shows us that notwithstanding the fact that there may be disagreement, notwithstanding the fact that there may be people who do not treat us as we would want to be treated, that the way to solve that is to do so constructively and civilly with debate that states the facts and the truth but does not devolve into hate and division.

So I am pleased to join my friend JOHN CONYERS. I came to Congress some 30 years ago, and we were talking about making Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a national holiday, not a holiday to play but a holiday to recognize the contribution that was made then and the work that still remains to be done. JOHN CONYERS had me out in front of the Capitol on January 15 or close to that time every year, and I was so proud to stand with him and say to America let us recognize those who, as Taylor Branch has said, are the modern founders of democracy.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership. Thank you for bringing this resolution to the floor to recognize an extraordinary, wonderful, lovely person whose spirit enriched us all and enriched our country.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I had to come down to the floor just to support this resolution.

I served as the co-chair of the 107th Women's Caucus, along with Juanita Millender-McDonald, and as we sat down to plan the events for the year,

the first name that appeared on our list was Dr. Dorothy Height. We had that event over in one of the hotels on the Hill, and it was the most interesting thing that I have been to. Dorothy Height was in her hat, as she always wore a hat. We all arrived in our hats. And I still have that hat hanging on my coat hanger in my house here in Washington, and every time I see it I always think of her.

Here was a person that had such a dramatic effect on our country. Such a strong personality, but everything that she did was with such great graciousness. And think of the times that she saw in her 98 years and what transpired in this country. And I think that Juanita Millender-McDonald would have been the first one down here too if she had not also passed on.

So that was a great year and it started off with a great event to have this wonderful person, Dorothy Height, be the speaker at our first event. And she did that with such grace, such gentleness; yet she always was very strong on her beliefs. And I would call her a change agent, but she did so with the civility that we don't often see, almost the white gloves mentality and the hats and the type of person that she was.

So I just wanted to come down and say that I really support that resolution and thank you for doing it.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

I want to once again voice my support of this resolution. Dr. Height died at 98. The most important influential person in my life was my grandmother, who lived to her late 90s as well. Chairman CONYERS would like to know, of course, that she was a Roosevelt Democrat, never forgave me for being a Republican, but once we got past that, she made a lot of comments that influenced me and made a lot of statements that were true then and are true now.

She said that "there is nothing more powerful than a woman who has made up her mind." I think that definition fits Dr. Dorothy Height. She made up her mind about two issues: civil rights and the equality of women in our society.

So today we honor her. I support this resolution and I urge its adoption.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I would like to close by thanking all the presenters, particularly singling out my dear friend on the Judiciary Committee, Judge POE, who has done a very good job here.

It occurred to me that Dorothy Height has already received so many awards, commendations, citations during her lifetime that if the distinguished President of the United States were to ask us what further could be done, I would recommend that there be

some kind of event, bipartisan obviously, but one that draws in Americans who may not have participated in the struggles and the experiences that distinguished Dorothy Height's long career, and that might be a wonderful way for her to be remembered, as she no doubt will in the course of history as more and more historical books are written about her contribution going all the way back to the 1930s.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, our Nation mourns the loss of one of our most influential civil rights leaders, Dr. Dorothy I. Height, a native of Richmond, Virginia. Dr. Height spent the better part of her lifetime working to ensure that others would have the freedom to accomplish their dreams. As the only woman in the inner circle of leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, her presence provided the much needed female perspective on decisions made in the struggle to achieve equal rights for all Americans. Even though she was on the dais with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as he delivered his "I Have a Dream" Speech in 1963, her integral role in the movement was not always known to the general public. That role was finally recognized nationally when President Clinton awarded Dr. Height the Medal of Freedom in 1994 and Congress awarded her the Congressional Gold Medal in 2004.

Dr. Height was an outspoken advocate for racial and gender equality both before and after the Civil Rights Movement. Her life of social activism spanned eight decades. From working as a caseworker with the New York City Welfare Department to her four decades as president of the National Council of Negro Women to serving as national president of Delta Sigma Theta, Dr. Height's life has touched countless Americans. Political leaders and heavyweights, such as Eleanor Roosevelt and Presidents Eisenhower and Johnson, regularly sought out her counsel and wisdom. Yesterday's loss is a heavy one. America owes Dr. Height a heavy debt of gratitude for her lifetime of selfless service to her fellow citizens. Our Nation is a better place because of her. She will be greatly missed.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am deeply saddened by the passing of legendary civil rights pioneer Dr. Dorothy Irene Height. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Height as our Nation mourns the loss of a true visionary, champion, and leader in the fight for civil rights and justice for all Americans.

Dr. Height began her career as a civil rights activist when she joined the National Council of Negro Women. She would later serve as president of the organization from 1957–1998. In her position with the Council, which connected nearly 4 million women worldwide, she tackled issues that affected women, including child care for working mothers, health and nutrition and providing adequate housing for families in need.

She also served as National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated from 1946–1957. She remained active with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority throughout her life. While there she developed leadership training programs and interracial and ecumenical education programs.

Widely recognized as one of the founding members of the Civil Rights movement, Dr. Height was awarded the Presidential Medal of

Freedom in 1994 by President Bill Clinton. In 2004, she also received the Congressional Gold Medal.

In 1998, she told *People* magazine, "I want to be remembered as someone who used herself and anything she could touch to work for justice and freedom. . . . I want to be remembered as one who tried." There is no doubt that Dr. Height will be remembered as someone who not only tried, but went a step beyond to secure liberty and justice for all Americans.

Dr. Dorothy Height's leadership in the struggle for equality and justice for all people will continue to serve as an inspiration to our Nation.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of one of the most prominent figures of the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Dorothy Irene Height.

Dr. Height, a leading voice during the civil rights era, worked side by side with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other pioneers to bring about social justice and equality for African-Americans. Having faced racism much of her young life, she received a scholarship from Barnard College; however, she was turned away because the two-person quota for accepting black females had been reached. . . . further thrusting her to fight vigorously to eliminate racial and gender inequality.

Dr. Height, described as the "glue" that held together the family of black civil rights leaders, was the most influential and often the only female voice at the table working to emphasize and amplify social injustice across this country.

Familiar with the strength, compassion and courage of women such as Fannie Lou Hamer, at the height of the civil rights movement, Dr. Height helped to organize "Wednesdays in Mississippi", a project to create a dialogue of understanding between both interracial and interfaith groups from the North and South.

Dr. Height, through her selfless acts and noble devotion to the movement, encouraged President Dwight D. Eisenhower to desegregate schools and President Lyndon B. Johnson to appoint African-American women to positions in government in the 1960s.

Dr. Height rose through the ranks of leadership and became the President of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) while simultaneously leading the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), an organization she had been discriminated against by as a child.

Additionally, Dr. Height served as the National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated from 1946–1957 and later helped from the National Black Family Reunion that celebrated and promoted the tradition, tenacity and history of the black family.

Today, I would like to honor the life and eternal legacy of one of our Nation's greatest heroes and humanitarians.

Dr. Height's legacy as one of the 20th century's social justice giants will live forever. Her lifetime of contributions to education, gender equality and broad civil rights issues inspires all, as she was not afraid to tackle the biggest, most looming issues of her day.

For that, we are grateful and eternally indebted.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for

H. Res 1281, Honoring the life and achievements of Dr. Dorothy Irene Height. I would also like to commend Representative FUDGE, the sponsor of this resolution, for her commitment to preserving the accomplishments of Dr. Height.

Madam Speaker, as a life-long crusader for women's rights, civil rights, racial justice and gender equality, the legacy of Dr. Height's efforts can be seen in many facets of American life, from school integration to voting rights, and fair labor standards.

Born in Richmond, VA in 1912, Dr. Height, the valedictorian of her high school class, soon encountered the first of many obstacles to equality that she would face, after being denied entrance to Barnard College due to discriminatory admissions practices. She later went on to graduate from New York University in 1932 and earned a masters degree in educational psychology the following year. Inspired by the efforts of Adam Clayton Powell Sr. and Mary McLeod Bethune, the president of the Harlem YWCA, she took a job on the staff of the YWCA in 1944, where she remained until 1975. From her position on the YWCA staff, Dr. Height was instrumental in providing leadership training and education, eventually organizing and directing the YWCA's Center for Racial Justice.

In 1957, Dr. Height was named the fourth president of the National Council of Negro Women, a position she maintained through the height of the civil rights movement. Over the next four decades, she would use her influence to develop a national platform for a wide range of issues regarding civil rights. The creator of programs such as Wednesdays in Mississippi, this 1960s effort brought together interracial groups of women to volunteer at Freedom schools and with voter registration drives, to improve education and civil rights across the State. She would later oversee the "pig bank" program through the 70s and 80s. The program was designed as a sustainable initiative to provide pigs to poor families throughout Mississippi.

Madam Speaker, although Dr. Height's work never drew the national recognition of other well known civil rights activists, her efforts have not gone unnoticed. This did not trouble her, however, as she once said, "If you worry about who is going to get credit, you don't get much work done".

She would go on to receive several honors including the Presidential Citizens Medal in 1989, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Freedom from Want Award in 1993, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994. I applaud the House of Representatives for honoring Dr. Height's lifetime of leadership, her many cultural contributions to American society, and her service to her fellow citizens. Please join me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, today, I am honored to commemorate the life and many achievements of Dr. Dorothy Irene Height. Born in my hometown of Richmond, Virginia on March 24, 1912, Dr. Height became a leader and national champion of the civil rights movement.

As one of the only women at the table when contemporaries like Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others were formulating plans for the civil rights movement, Dr. Height distinguished herself as a civil rights activist and leader. Faced with many obstacles, Dorothy overcame each and every challenge taking

on many leadership roles throughout her career, including President of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and her thirty-three years of service with the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).

Her wise counsel has been sought by many American leaders such as First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. She has also earned several awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom and I was proud to add my name to a bill in 2003 that was supported unanimously in Congress to award Dr. Height the Congressional Gold Medal. Though we are saddened by Dr. Height's recent passing, it is my firm belief that she will be an inspiration for future generations of Americans and will always be remembered for her hard work, courage, and determination in the fight for equality and opportunity for all.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of this resolution to honor and celebrate the life of Dr. Dorothy Irene Height.

Widely recognized as the godmother of the civil rights movement, Dr. Height devoted her life to the cause of equality and justice for all people. A social worker by training, Dr. Height served on the staff of the Young Women's Christian Association for thirty three years and as president of the National Council of Negro Women for four decades. With uncommon dignity and her trademark hats, Dr. Height advised Presidents from Dwight Eisenhower to Barack Obama. In the 1960s, she organized the "Wednesdays in Mississippi" initiative to further understanding between white women and black women in the north and the south. She penned a regular column called "A Woman's Word" in the venerable African-American weekly the New York Amsterdam News. And she chronicled her unique experience in the leadership of the civil rights movement in her 2005 memoir "Open Wide The Freedom Gates". For her service to our nation, Dr. Height was presented with the Presidential Citizens Medal by President Reagan in 1989, the Presidential Medal of Honor from President Clinton in 1994 and the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2004.

Today, I add my voice to those celebrating her life's work and achievements, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I was saddened to hear of the loss of one of the foremost leaders of the civil rights movement and a true national treasure, Dr. Dorothy Height. I always say, when you're born you get a birth certificate, and when you die you get a death certificate—but it's what you do with the dash in between that really matters. And that saying really encapsulates the essence of Dorothy Height's life.

As an African-American woman and long-time Member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am particularly grateful for the courage, wisdom and determination she employed to create opportunities for women and for African Americans in our country.

Dorothy Height began her career in 1937 by serving those in dire need as a welfare case-worker and had the ear of every President since Eisenhower. Most recently, she was an honored guest and seated dignitary at the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Along the way, Dr. Height was behind every major civil rights movement and progressive effort for social change throughout the century.

As president of the National Council of Negro Women for four decades, she tackled issues that affected all women, including child care for working mothers, health and nutrition, as well as providing housing for families in need. As a civil rights activist, Dr. Height participated in protests in Harlem during the 1930s, and went on to be instrumental in lobbying first lady Eleanor Roosevelt on behalf of civil rights causes a few years later. Dr. Height was also a key player in advocating for President Dwight D. Eisenhower to move more aggressively on school desegregation issues. Dr. Height is one of two people to earn all three of our nation's highest civilian honors: the Presidential Citizens Award (1989), the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1994) and the Congressional Gold Medal (2004).

My thoughts and prayers are with the family, friends, and loved ones of Dr. Dorothy Height. The nation will never forget her, the mother of the civil rights movement, especially those of us who have followed her lead in working for social justice.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1281.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMEMORATING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 255) commemorating the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and honoring the founder of Earth Day, the late Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 255

Whereas Gaylord Nelson, former United States Senator from Wisconsin, is recognized as one of the leading environmentalists of the 20th Century who helped launch an international era of environmental awareness and activism;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson grew up in Clear Lake, Wisconsin, and rose to national prominence while exemplifying the progressive values instilled in him;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson served with distinction in the Wisconsin State Senate from 1949 to 1959, as Governor of the State of Wisconsin from 1959 to 1963, and in the United States Senate from 1963 to 1981;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson founded Earth Day, which was first celebrated on April 22, 1970, by 20 million people across the United States, making the celebration the largest environmental grassroots event in history at that time;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson called on Americans to hold their elected officials accountable for protecting their health and the natural environment on that first Earth Day, an action which launched the Environmental

Decade, an unparalleled period of legislative and grassroots activity that resulted in passage of 28 major pieces of environmental legislation from 1970 to 1980, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the National Environmental Education Act;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson was responsible for legislation that created the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and the St. Croix Wild and Scenic Riverway and protected other important Wisconsin and national treasures;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson sponsored legislation to ban phosphates in household detergents and to ban the use of Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), and he worked tirelessly to ensure clean water and clean air for all Americans;

Whereas in addition to his environmental leadership, Gaylord Nelson fought for civil rights, enlisted for the War on Poverty, challenged drug companies and tire manufacturers to protect consumers, and stood up to Senator Joe McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee to defend and protect civil liberties;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson was a patriot, who as a young soldier honorably served 46 months in the Armed Forces during World War II, and then, as Senator, worked to ban the use of the toxic defoliant Agent Orange;

Whereas, in 1995, Gaylord Nelson was awarded the highest honor accorded civilians in the United States, the Presidential Medal of Freedom;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson's legacy includes generations of Americans who have grown up with an environmental ethic and an appreciation and understanding of their roles as stewards of the environment and the planet; and

Whereas Gaylord Nelson was an extraordinary statesman, public servant, environmentalist, husband, father, and friend, and who never let disagreement on the issues become personal or partisan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress commemorates the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and honors the founder of Earth Day, the late Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 255. This measure was introduced by my colleague the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) on March 19, 2010. It was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which ordered it reported by unanimous consent on April 14 of this year. The measure has the support of 70 cosponsors.

Madam Speaker, tomorrow marks the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. Our planet faces serious environmental