

Later, in 1971, she was named Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania making her the first female, African-American secretary of a state in the nation.

The rights of African Americans and the rights of women were never far from Mrs. Tucker's thoughts. In 1965, she participated in the White House Conference on Civil Rights, and she marched with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama in support of the 1965 Voting Rights Bill. She also founded the National Congress of Black Women in order to aid in the educational, political, economic, and cultural development of African-American women and their families.

Mr. Speaker, America lost a great soul and noble spirit with the passing of Cynthia DeLores Tucker. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in honoring her legacy by supporting this resolution. Truly, she will be missed.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1094: "Commemorating the life of the late Cynthia DeLores Tucker."

Although it has been almost five years since the world lost a true pioneer and leader, but the legacy of C. DeLores Tucker endures. October 13, 2005 did not mark a tragedy; rather, it marked a day of celebration as to the achievements and legacy of a paragon of the woman leader. It is an honor for me to stand here today to celebrate the passing on of Dr. C. DeLores Tucker to her rightful place among other angels and saints.

Dr. Tucker represented a major segment of African American and political history in the U.S. She was among the many women stalwarts of our lifetime that led on so many different issues. The key aspect about Dr. Tucker's efforts was that they were not for personal gain. I would compare her to an eagle that spread its wings to help other women—not only African Americans, but all women. She provided the wind and momentum for other women to ascend to equality and a better quality of life.

Given the long fight that our dear DeLores and I endeavored together in the Halls of Congress, I ask your short indulgence as I cite an excerpt from the words spoken by a similar pioneer, Madame Sojourner Truth, in her "Ain't I a Woman?" speech delivered at a women's rights convention in Akron, Ohio in 1851:

That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man—when I could get it—and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman? . . .

If my cup won't hold but a pint, and yours holds a quart, wouldn't you be mean not to let me have my little half measure full?

Then that little man in black there, he says women can't have as much rights as men, 'cause Christ wasn't a woman! Where did your Christ come from? Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman!

Man had nothing to do with Him. If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again! And now they is asking to do it, the men better let them.

Obligated to you for hearing me, and now old Sojourner ain't got nothing more to say.

Dr. Tucker did just this—she fought until the fight was made, she spoke until "she ain't [had] nothing more to say." For women's rights, civil rights, the disenfranchised, or the underrepresented, she stood up like a warrior and a leader, and the progress she made will be enjoyed by many for as long as man exists. As author Ron Daniels said in his opinion piece in the Madison Times, DeLores was not afraid to denounce gang violence, fratricide, or the denigration of women in rap lyrics; not afraid to implore our children to devote less time to athletics and more to academics; and staunchly advocated excellence in education, improved parenting skills, and the harnessing of our economic resources as a distinct market. It did not have to be sexy, popular, or self-promoting to be right for Dr. C. DeLores Tucker, and I had the privilege of standing next to her in the trenches of the fight for equality.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. C. DeLores Tucker was a close and valued friend for many years. Her crusade for women's and civil rights served not only as an inspiration to women, minorities, and other traditionally disadvantaged groups, but to all of society, and her lifelong service indeed worked for its betterment. From her devout involvement in the Democratic Party to her founding of the Philadelphia Martin Luther King, Jr., Association for Non-Violent Change, she embodied the tenacity and courage necessary to eradicate the disparities and bigotry that continues to constrain the attainment of equality.

Of her many endearing qualities were the fact that her service was never for personal gain and that it was boundless—she never hesitated to travel the extra mile to help others. This was evident in her singular work as the lead advocate to urge the recognition and honor of abolitionist Sojourner Truth with the addition of her likeness to the statue commemorating women's suffrage in the rotunda of the United States Capitol. Bill, as you know, her determined, passionate, and powerful efforts have ultimately resulted in the honoring of Sojourner Truth. Our own DeLores was in her own right a guiding light of truth. The love and devotion that she displayed in this endeavor continue to inspire legislators and supporters.

□ 1515

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to commemorate the life and to honor the legacy of Cynthia DeLores Tucker by supporting this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1094.

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.

CONGRATULATING THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 62) congratulating the outstanding professional public servants, both past and present, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 62

Whereas the well-being of the United States is dependent on productive soils along with abundant and high-quality water and related natural resources;

Whereas the Natural Resources Conservation Service (in this resolution referred to as "NRCS") was established as the Soil Conservation Service in the Department of Agriculture in 1935 to assist farmers, ranchers, and other landowners in protecting soil and water resources on private lands;

Whereas Hugh Hammond Bennett, the first Chief of the Soil Conservation Service and the "father of soil conservation", led the creation of the modern soil conservation movement that established soil and water conservation as a national priority;

Whereas the NRCS, with the assistance of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, State governments, and local partners, developed a new mechanism of American conservation service delivery, which brings together private individuals with Federal, State, and local governments to achieve common conservation objectives;

Whereas the NRCS provides a vital public service by supplying technical expertise and financial assistance to cooperating private landowners for the conservation of soil and water resources;

Whereas the NRCS, as authorized by Congress, has developed and provided land conservation programs that have resulted in the restoration and preservation of millions of acres of wetlands, forests, and grasslands that provide innumerable benefits to the general public in the form of recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, water quality, and reduced soil erosion;

Whereas the NRCS is the world leader in soil science and soil surveying;

Whereas the NRCS is the national leader in the inventory of natural resources on private lands, providing national leaders and the public with the status and trends related to these resources and helping forecast the availability of critical water supplies;

Whereas the NRCS has helped communities develop and implement thousands of locally led projects that continue to provide flood control, soil conservation, water supply, and recreational benefits to all Americans, while providing business and job creation opportunities as well;

Whereas since its establishment, the NRCS has developed, tested, and demonstrated conservation practices, helped develop the science and art of conservation, and continues to strive toward innovation;

Whereas the NRCS encourages and works with landowners and land users to adopt conservation practices and technologies in a

voluntary manner to address natural resource concerns;

Whereas NRCS employees serve in offices in every State and territory, while other employees assist other countries and governments;

Whereas while some NRCS employees work directly with landowners, other employees serve in support of NRCS field operations, but all work toward a common goal of improving the condition of all natural resources found on private lands, knowing when they succeed, all Americans benefit; and

Whereas the NRCS has been "helping people, help the land" for 75 years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) congratulates the outstanding conservation professionals of the Natural Resources Conservation Service on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

(2) recognizes the vital role conservation plays in the well-being of the United States;

(3) expresses its continued commitment to the conservation of natural resources on private lands in both the national interest and as a national priority; and

(4) recognizes the services that the Natural Resources Conservation Service provides to the United States by helping farmers, ranchers, and other landowners to protect soil, water, and related natural resources.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. Con. Res. 62.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. Con. Res. 62, congratulating the outstanding professional public servants, both past and present, of the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

I am proud to say that Members on both sides of the aisle support this resolution. I join Agriculture Committee Chairman COLLIN PETERSON, Ranking Member FRANK LUCAS, and many of my colleagues on the Agriculture Committee in cosponsoring the House version of this resolution, which recognizes an important Federal agency that has helped our farmers and ranchers practice smart conservation on private land since its inception in 1935.

Established by Congress in response to the Dust Bowl disaster that devastated vast stretches of our land, the agency was originally known as the Soil Conservation Service. In 1994, the agency's name changed to the Natural

Resources Conservation Service to more accurately reflect its role in protecting all natural resources, not only soil, but also air, water, plants, and animals.

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners at local levels, thus recognizing the diversity of the land in this country and the unique concerns in each region. In fact, you will find NRCS field offices in nearly every county in the Nation. NRCS helps local communities carry out thousands of conservation projects, which often translate into opportunities for job creation and increased investment in local communities.

Mr. Speaker, the United States depends as much today on productive soils and an abundant, high-quality water supply as we did 75 years ago. In fact, given the agricultural and environmental challenges we face, these programs are more important than ever. With this resolution we salute the NRCS professionals, both past and present, who have worked alongside America's local farmers and ranchers for 75 years to help preserve our essential natural resources.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and to join me in recognizing the great work of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 62, which recognizes the 75 years of service of the National Resources Conservation Service, the NRCS. Created by Congress in 1935, the Soil Conservation Service, now known as the NRCS, has worked hand-in-hand with local governments, organizations, farmers, ranchers, and other landowners to preserve and protect our Nation's natural resources on private lands.

Farmers were conserving long before it became a celebrated trend to "go green". They have always had a vested interest in preserving the land that provides for them. Partnering with the NRCS, our producers are provided the scientific and technical assistance to implement the most advanced conservation practices in the world.

Through the NRCS's assistance and implementation of conservation programs, producers have voluntarily worked to help reduce soil erosion, increase wetlands, and improve water and air quality, meeting mounting government regulations and preserving farmland and wildlife habitat. The environmental gains produced on these private lands provide benefits far beyond the farm.

The benefits of the NRCS's assistance are evident in my home State of Oklahoma. The conservation practices implemented by the producers have reduced the removal of topsoil and prevented a recurrence of the disastrous conditions of the 1930s Dust Bowl from ever happening again. NRCS also works

to protect the safety of our rural communities by rehabilitating old dams and working to implement flood prevention programs.

I would like to thank Chairman PETERSON for his leadership in introducing a similar resolution I have cosponsored. I would also like to thank my colleagues on the Ag Committee who have helped to craft the greenest farm bills in recent history. But most importantly, I want to thank and congratulate the men and women of the Natural Resources Conservation Service for their work in the field over the years, providing our producers with the assistance to protect our natural resources.

And let me just say once again: representing a part of the great State of Oklahoma that faced the greatest challenges of both the economic depression of the 1930s and the Dust Bowl, those good folks at what at that time was the Soil Conservation Service, working with what we would now consider to be very primitive equipment, working to educate and encourage producers to adopt practices that would ultimately make such a tremendous difference they have—what can you say? Whether it's the NRCS or the old Soil Conservation Service, the same great people for 75 years taking care of our natural resources. Thank you.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLDEN. I yield back the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker, and urge the passage of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 62.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. HALVORSON) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.