

IN COMMEMORATION OF MUSIC
LEGEND CHUCK BROWN

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on this bitter sweet occasion. My heart goes out to Chuck's family and friends, too numerous to mention, and the City of Washington, DC that mourns with you.

I could not let this moment pass without saying a few words about a man who was a great artist, consummate professional and wonderful man. I have been a public servant for 30 years and I truly believe that to whom much is given, much is expected. Chuck Brown is the ultimate example of that statement.

Chuck believed in giving back to the community. He inspired young people through his mentoring efforts and positive music. His brand of "Go-Go" inspired generations of musicians. Over the past six years I have gained firsthand knowledge of the versatility and vastness of his works as he has performed for me and my colleagues at events surrounding the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference as well as the historic inauguration of our current president, President Barack Obama. At each program the crowds double in capacity making his performance one of the signature events.

I will tell you a funny story about how I discovered Chuck Brown's music. My long time friend and scheduler Darla Smallwood-Wran suggested I consider a local artist for entertainment during an event I host during an annual conference. She played the music for me over the computer and I liked it. Being from Florida, I had never heard of "Go-Go". I was so excited about what I heard that I began to tell my colleagues and friends I was having Chuck Berry performing at my event! My staff quickly corrected me and we all had a good laugh. Then I went to the event and I was filled with the warmth and love of his music and his character. He was always reliable, always professional and he always turned the party out. The only thing he asked in return was to take care of the "family" and the band that travelled with him.

Chuck Brown was the sound of the people. His music transcended generations weaving the best elements of Black music into a sound that called to our African ancestry. Jazz, funk, soul, blues, Latin and African rhythms—Chuck took that new sound with its familiar notes that called to the soul of our people and he called it "Go-Go". He wrapped it up and gifted it to DC and it has been the sound track of the people of DC for more than 30 years.

He was deeply loved and he will be sorely missed. I know, through my faith, that this is a time to rejoice because he has gone home to be with the Father where there is no more pain and suffering. God Bless you all.

PRENATAL NONDISCRIMINATION
ACT (PRENDA) OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Congresswomen DEGETTE and SLAUGHTER, Co-Chairs of the Congressional Pro-Choice Caucus and our colleagues for standing up for women's health today.

As a Member of the Congressional Pro-Choice Caucus and Health Care Task Force Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3541.

This bill would do nothing more than lead to the further stigmatization of women—especially Asian-Pacific American women—who seek to exercise their constitutional rights to an abortion.

It is clear that Republicans are not serious about addressing the very real issues of gender discrimination that persist in this country.

Supporters of this bill are exploiting serious issues like racism and sexism to forward their goal of making all abortion illegal.

And we already know that attempts to restrict or deny access to safe abortions is harmful to women's health and would ultimately take us back to the days of back alley abortions.

If this bill passes it would forever change the doctor-patient relationship as we know it, by casting suspicion on doctors that serve communities facing the greatest health disparities—many of which are minority communities.

And this is why the bill is opposed by some 100 organizations, including the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; American Public Health Association and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine.

If supporters are serious about advancing the real interests of women, I urge them to vote no on this bill.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize and record a courageous story of survival of the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian Genocide, perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, resulted in the death of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children. As the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau documented at the time, it was a campaign of "race extermination."

The campaign to annihilate the Armenian people failed, as illustrated by the proud Armenian nation and prosperous diaspora. It is difficult if not impossible to find an Armenian family not touched by the genocide, and while there are some survivors still with us, it is imperative that we record their stories. Through the Armenian Genocide Congressional Record Project, I hope to document the harrowing stories of the survivors in an effort to preserve their accounts and to help educate the Mem-

bers of Congress now and in the future of the necessity of recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

This is one of those stories:

MY GRANDMOTHER ARAXI

This story is dedicated to my children so they may always remember their family heritage. It is in memory of my grandfather and grandmother, Garabed and Araxi Kechbouladian. This is my way to honor them and to immortalize my grandmother's legacy.

My "Nana," Araxi, was born in Zeitoun, in 1914, around the time of the Armenian Genocide. My "Dede," Garabed, was born there as well. He died in the 1960's and my Nana lived with us in Germany until the day she died. One of my most vivid memories of her is her singing a particular song. She used to sing this song often. It is called "Yeraz" which means dream. I remember the first verse word for word. It goes like this, "Yes lehsezy me anoush zain, eem zerahzadz mor mod ehr. Paylez neshoul ouraghoutyan. Payz absos vor yeraz ehr." It means, "I heard a sweet voice. It was my mother's. It was a gleam of joy. But, unfortunately, it was just a dream." My grandmother would sing it when she was cooking or doing chores. She would cry every time she sang this song. She had never known her mother and her father. Their names were Neshan and Vartouhy Shanlian.

Nobody knows what really happened to my great grandparents. All my grandmother would tell is that she was about a year old, perhaps a little older, when she was taken to a German orphanage in Lebanon, located somewhere between the cities of Sour and Saida. She thought that it was called Ghazir. She had heard many stories growing up and she believed that her parents were either killed during the massacre, in 1915, or died during the deportation. If the Armenians were not massacred, they were ordered by the Turks to leave their lands and march through the deserts towards Syria. Those marches were called death marches because many perished of dehydration, starvation, and exhaustion. If the march did not kill them, they were going to be killed eventually. This must have been my great grandparents' fate. As for my grandmother, she must have been kept by other Armenians. Eventually, she was given to the Germans who were gathering up orphans at that time.

My great grandparents had seven children. Only four of them survived, my grandmother being the youngest one. Their names were Flora, Maritza, Bedros, Stepan, Hagop, Avedis, and my grandmother Araxi. The siblings surviving the Genocide were Maritza, Avedis, and Hagop. However, my grandmother grew up separated from them in the German-run orphanage. She was found by Badvely Aharonian, a pastor and family friend of the Shanlians. Badvely Aharonian's mission was to seek out and reunite children and family members who were displaced during the deportation. My grandmother was about 11-years-old when the Badvely found her. The only way he recognized my "Nana" was by the name plate that was hung on my then infant grandmother's neck displaying her full name. This was recorded in the orphanage and was the only proof of her family lineage. She was taken to Cypress where she was reunited with her sister Maritza and her brother Avedis. Her brother Hagop had immigrated to France by then and she never got to meet him. It is not known how her brothers, Bedros and Stepan, died. However, the story of her sister, Flora, and the way she died, was well-known and talked about many decades later in the Zeitounzy community.

When my grandmother had her first child, a daughter, her mother-in-law requested that

she be named Flora, after my grandmother's courageous sister. Flora was very beautiful people told my grandmother. She must have been the oldest, or one of the older ones, as she was married to a doctor and had a child by the time of the massacre. Her husband was arrested and most probably killed soon after. The Turks asked her to convert so that she could become a wife to one of them. They would have spared her and her child if she agreed. My great aunt Flora knew that she would be raped, tortured, and killed if she did not accept their offer. However, she chose not to give in. They must have been marching through a mountainous area. She somehow got away and jumped off a cliff into her death. Some said that she jumped with her child. When I was born, my grandmother requested that my parents name me Flora to continue her sister's legacy.

My grandmother was a strong woman. She continued to live in Cypress with her sister, Maritza, up to the age of 19. Then she moved to Syria where she got married and bore eight children, two of whom died in their childhood. She was widowed too soon and worked hard for her family. Eventually, most of her children immigrated to France and Germany. She moved to Germany with my father and mother. She lived with us for many years and died in our house at the age of 81. Now she rests in peace in the land of the people who took her in as an infant.

It was a privilege to grow up with my grandmother. She was amazing. She was able to sing the German Anthem word for word up to the day she died. She had learned it at the orphanage from her "Mutter." She started her day with prayer and ended her day in prayer. She instilled in me great values such as faith and courage. I learned many things from my grandmother, Araxi.

I am grateful to my Nana for naming me after her courageous sister, Flora. I am grateful that she told me all these stories so that I would know about my heritage and never forget. I am grateful for her many prayers and blessings.

Here I am grandma, telling your story to the whole world! I love you, your granddaughter, Flora

TRIBUTE TO BOB MITCHELL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

MR. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my loyal district administrator, Bob Mitchell, in honor of his retirement after dedicating more than 32 years as my right-hand-man, my confidant, political adviser and tireless ambassador for southern and eastern Kentucky.

Bob Mitchell is arguably one of the greatest political advisers in the history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He understands the power of partnerships, regionalization and communication, yet never underestimates the importance of gratitude and humility.

His father, the late Murrell Mitchell, who served as a member of the Knox County School Board, as well as three terms as a Knox County Magistrate, inspired Bob's political interests and philanthropic heart. It is thus his courage of conviction that has driven his work to transform southern and eastern Kentucky and improve the quality of life in our rural region.

With Bob Mitchell at the helm of all district projects, thousands of families now have ac-

cess to clean drinking water and sanitary waste water systems, are protected by flood-control projects and live without the fear of yearly floods, have better roads to travel on, and have good-paying, stable jobs. He also helped launch and provide guidance to non-profit organizations like the Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Corporation for job creation, Forward in the Fifth for education, The Center for Rural Development, TOUR Southern and Eastern Kentucky to promote tourism, PRIDE for environmental education and clean-ups, as well as Operation UNITE in fighting drug abuse.

Countless organizations and political candidates have coveted Bob Mitchell's impeccable leadership skills. He has served on a litany of boards from financial institutions to non-profit organizations, and assisted with campaigns from county seats to Presidential hopefuls. His legacy will continue to flourish from the seeds of wisdom, hope and inspiration he has planted across our great Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring my friend and my partner, Bob Mitchell, on his retirement. My wife, Cynthia and I wish Bob and his wife, Nancy all the best in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DEBBI FISHER AND RAINIER THERAPEUTIC RIDING

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

MR. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Debbi Fisher, founder and Operations Director of Rainier Therapeutic Riding. Her work gives active duty servicemembers at Joint Base Lewis McChord and veterans in our community a facility for therapeutic riding and relief from mental and physical injuries.

Debbi founded Rainier Therapeutic Riding in Yelm, Washington in 2008 after nearly 40 years of riding and horse training experience. As the widow of a Marine Pilot and Air Force Colonel, and the mother of a son in the Marines and daughter in the Air Force, she aspired to use her skills to help those who have served our country. She has described horses and servicemembers and veterans as perfect companions.

Rainier Therapeutic Riding is now the largest provider of equine therapy to military personnel in the country, serving 75 people a year at no cost to the individual or the government. They work with the Warrior Transition Battalion and Air Force Medical Flight at Joint Base Lewis McChord to give those suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome, traumatic brain injuries, and other injuries a place to rediscover a happiness for life.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the work of Debbi Fisher and all of the volunteers at Rainier Therapeutic Riding. By giving back to our servicemembers and veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country, Debbi has helped many to vastly change their outlook and improve their happiness.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION REFORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairmen UPTON and PITTS and Ranking Members WAXMAN and PALLONE for their work in bringing to the floor a bipartisan bill that provides FDA additional resources to bring new drugs and medical devices to market. These new resources will enable FDA to improve review times for new product applications and provide companies greater clarity about compliance requirements and their responsibilities.

There are many important policy improvements in this bill. They include:

A reauthorization of the user fee programs for prescription drugs and medical devices, as well as the creation of a new generic user fee program that will help slash current review times for these products.

A reauthorization of two programs that foster the development and safe use of prescription drugs for children.

New incentives for the development of antibiotics, which are needed to increase the number of products in the development pipeline.

Today's bill also includes the reauthorization of legislation I authored in 2007 that has helped spur the development of medical devices for children. The Pediatric Medical Device Safety and Improvement Act, PMDSIA, creates grants that bridge the gap between the people who understand the medical need—doctors and innovators—with the people who can help turn their ideas into devices on the shelves, like manufacturers and federal regulators. Since the grant program's inception, the five Pediatric Device Consortia established as a result of this language have assisted in advancing the development of 135 pediatric medical devices. Currently the consortia are managing 80 active pediatric medical device products.

The FDA Reform Act also extends a provision of PMDSIA that provided profit incentives for companies to develop devices for rare pediatric diseases. The original incentive passed in 2007 solely for pediatric diseases proved immensely successful. Today's bill strikes a compromise to extend this incentive for devices used to treat rare diseases in adults as well, while still retaining the incentive for pediatric devices. I urge Congress does not negatively impact the development of devices for children.

In addition, we will need to ensure that companies using this incentive and making a profit on their device because they got pediatric labeling actually continue to sell their device for use in children and not only for adults. The Pediatric Advisory Committee at the FDA will need to play a vital role in this oversight and in monitoring the number of devices sold for adult use as opposed to the number sold for pediatric use.

PMDSIA also included a requirement that device companies provide FDA with information on the pediatric populations that could benefit from a new device they are looking to sell. This was supposed to help FDA track