

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SEPARATE AND UNEQUAL: RACISM AND POVERTY 50 YEARS AFTER THE KERNER REPORT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, 1968 was a watershed year in our nation's history. That year saw the deadliest period of the Vietnam War and the peak of protests against that conflict. It saw the passage of the Fair Housing Act but the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy. 1968 saw President Johnson announce that he would not run for a second term and Richard Nixon elected to succeed him.

In the midst of that tumultuous year, the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, known as the Kerner Commission, issued its report examining the cause of riots and unrest that had occurred in inner cities and communities of color around the country.

After visiting those cities, interviewing witnesses, and consulting with experts, the Kerner Commission submitted its findings to President Johnson. That groundbreaking report remains important five decades later, not only as an historical document, but also because it describes the same issues of race that we struggle with today and how we can overcome them.

The Kerner Commission's report identified twelve grievances that were shared in the communities of color where the unrest had taken place. Among these were lack of economic opportunity, discrimination in the administration of justice, and inadequacy of education, housing, and social welfare programs.

These same problems persist today.

Employment: In 2018, the unemployment rate for African-Americans is 7.7 percent, compared to just 4.1 percent overall, and black workers made 83 cents on the dollar compared to white workers.

Housing: only 41 percent of black households own their home, virtually the same as 1968, while over 70 percent of white families own their homes.

Education: schools are more segregated now than they were thirty years ago, and blacks are half as likely as whites to have a college degree.

Justice: blacks are incarcerated at a rate of 3.5 times higher than whites.

So we now find ourselves in the same situation as the one described in the Kerner report 50 years ago: "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal."

Fortunately, the Kerner report also described a path to reverse the trend of racial division. It called for "the realization of common opportunities for all within a single society" that requires "a commitment to national action—compassionate, massive and sustained, backed by the resources of the most powerful

and the richest nation on this earth. From every American it will require new attitudes, new understanding, and, above all, new will."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus who embody the commitment to national action and the new will that the Kerner Commission called for 50 years ago.

HONORING CHRIS SMITH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I along with Representative HUFFMAN rise today to honor Chris Smith in celebration of his 40 years as a reporter and columnist for the Santa Rosa Press Democrat in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California.

Mr. Smith grew up in Riverside, California where he attended Chemawa Junior High School and Ramona High School. He graduated from San Jose State University, where he earned a degree in reporting and editing. After graduation, he worked as a reporter for the Press-Enterprise in Riverside, California and the weekly Independent Coast Observer in Gualala and The Sea Ranch in Northern California.

He first joined The Press Democrat as a correspondent in Fort Bragg and Mendocino, reporting on the pulse of Mendocino County. In 2002, he became a full-time columnist and since then has kept Sonoma County residents in tune with our region. Mr. Smith writes of the good people do for one another—the sculpture Patrick Amiot created for Carla Filgas, wife of the late Denny Martin; the delegation from Ichikikushikino, Japan who came to support their sister city of Santa Rosa after the fires; members of Threshold Choirs, who packed boxes of heirlooms and other items of personal significance for victims of the fires.

Mr. Smith is also active in our veterans community. For the last several years he has hosted and emceed an annual event honoring Pearl Harbor veterans. When support beams from the Twin Towers were brought to Sonoma County as a permanent memorial to 9/11, he was instrumental in publicizing the associated events to honor the people who lost their lives.

Mr. Smith is married to Diane Peterson, a fellow Press Democrat writer who covers food and music. According to Mr. Smith, he "lives primarily to sustain and amuse Betty, an Australian shepherd."

Mr. Speaker, two words come to mind when thinking of Chris Smith—patriotic and compassionate. He is truly dedicated to serving our region with his strong, community-focused reporting. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD "DICK" MORRIS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2018

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a dedicated public servant, Richard Morris, at the time of his retirement, for his lifelong career in service of the residents of East Lyme, CT. As town fire marshal for the past 27 years, Dick has become an institution in the community, and his commitment and leadership will not be forgotten.

Dick's first foray into firefighting came as a teenager, when he began volunteering with the Niantic Fire Department. This general interest eventually became a professional career for Dick and in 1986, he became fire inspector. Over the years, Dick climbed the ladder to deputy fire marshal, assistant fire chief, and finally fire marshal in 1991. In this role he also served as emergency management director for the town, guiding residents through difficult situations, including storms and power outages.

In addition to being fire marshal, Dick is also Chairman of the board for the Connecticut Fire Marshals Association and serves as the town's harbormaster. In that position he advocated at the state and federal level for policies and funding to upgrade Connecticut's homeland security and improve training for first responders. Previously he was President of the Connecticut chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

The town of East Lyme has been lucky to have Dick and I'm confident he will find new ways to contribute to the community for years to come. I ask my colleagues to please join me in wishing him a happy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO SENIOR CHIEF HARRY OLIVER

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2018

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take some time today to honor Harry Oliver, also known by his rank as Senior Chief, an exemplary constituent who I am immensely proud to represent. Mr. Oliver is retiring for the second time, after serving in the United States Navy for 23 years and then serving our nation's youth for another 20 years. Mr. Oliver is retiring as a teacher and NJROTC instructor for Santa Ana High School, as well as carrying his Senior Chief military rank. Though his teaching journey is coming to an end, the impact he has made will live on forever.

Mr. Oliver is a teacher in every sense of the word. He carries the qualities that every teacher should strive for—dedication, genuine interest, and being a role model for all his students. His time in the Navy unearthed his passion for guiding future generations as a Company Commander, teaching Damage Control

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

to over 10,000 new recruits. His understanding and natural talent for helping recruits develop into their best selves led to his astounding success. It was after this time that he retired from the Navy to be with his wife and four children. After a short stint working for a delivery company, Mr. Oliver was inspired to become a teacher again and sought the Santa Ana High School NJROTC program. His dedicated focus on his students became evident to all that witnessed him teach. He was not only a teacher, but a mentor, friend, and at times even a father figure to his students. It is because he genuinely loved his students that they loved him. While working with Santa Ana High School's NJROTC unit for almost 21 years, he helped develop one of the most distinguished units in the country. They received numerous awards including "Distinguished Unit" for 17 years in a row, "Most Improved Unit," and honored as one of the top 5 NJROTC units in the nation.

Mr. Oliver has enriched the lives of everyone he encounters and is a pillar of his community. His time in both the Navy and NJROTC will be remembered, and we are saddened to see him leave. His actions deeply impact all his students who will carry on his legacy. Even though he is retiring, he will continue to be a teacher, leading by example and demonstrating the best qualities of a life lived in service. I am truly honored to recognize Mr. Oliver today for his service in the U.S. military and for improving and guiding the lives of future generations.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH COUNTRY PUBLIC RADIO

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize North Country Public Radio on its 50th anniversary.

North Country Public Radio (NCPR) is a public radio network with a mission to inform, enrich, and connect the community. Based out of Canton, New York, the network is the NPR affiliate for the North Country, providing NPR programming as well as music and award-winning regional news coverage. In addition, NCPR serves as the emergency broadcast system for many communities within the North Country. Established in 1965 with a single transmitter covering St. Lawrence County, NCPR expanded to operate 34 transmitters today, serving not only the entire Adirondack North Country region, but also western Vermont and southeastern Ontario.

NCPR provides a particularly important service to my district, delivering invaluable content to the people of the North Country. The hard work of NCPR employees has greatly expanded the options available to North Country residents, whether they are looking for entertainment programming or for news and information.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, I would like to thank NCPR for prioritizing the enrichment of our community during its 50 years of broadcasting.

RECOGNIZING FAIRMOUNT FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2018

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the selfless actions of several members from the Fairmount Fire Department who went above and beyond the call of duty to help an elderly couple.

On January 12, 2018, members of the Fairmount Fire Department were called to the residence of an elderly couple in Camillus, New York. Heavy rains and melting snow had flooded their basement, leaving their hot water heater and furnace submerged under a foot of water. To make matters worse, temperatures that evening were expected to plummet to below freezing, putting the couple's safety in danger. With no family in the area to assist, and unable to relocate for the night, the Fairmount Fire Department came to the rescue.

Exhibiting consummate professionalism, the first responders replaced a broken sump pump to drain remaining water from the couple's basement. Fairmount's Fire Chief personally arranged for a last-minute heater installation. Ernie Kreis, the owner of Ernie Kreis and Sons Heating Co. Inc., rushed to the couple's home, and placed heaters throughout the house to keep the couple warm. The following day, Fairmount firefighters returned with dehumidifiers while Mr. Kreis and his crew finished installing a new furnace and hot water tank.

Today, it is my distinct honor to recognize Fairmount Fire Department's President Greg Poppo, Chief of Fire Scott Clarke, Lieutenant Chris Barlow, Jesse Belon, Stephanie Barlow, Billy Spinelli, Zachary Benjamin, Chris Sheedy, and Lucas Patchen for their selfless actions. Fairmount Fire Department is comprised of countless community volunteer firefighters, and I am grateful for their countless hours working to keep the public safe.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF RETIRED MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD MAJOR GENERAL (MG) JERRY KEETON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of retired Mississippi Army National Guard and Army Reserve Major General (MG) Jerry Keeton who passed away on Saturday, February 24, 2018, in Baldwin, Mississippi. MG Keeton, a native of Wheeler, Mississippi, was known for his devotion to God, country, family, and to his many friends.

MG Keeton was born on March 17, 1937. He enjoyed playing basketball at Wheeler High School and served as the captain of the team when they won the 1955 State Basketball Championship. Upon graduation, MG Keeton entered Mississippi State University (MSU), where he continued his love of basketball by serving as the co-captain of the MSU Bulldogs Men's Basketball Team. The team won the Southeastern Conference Championship in 1959. He was also a member of the

Blue Key Honor Society and President of the M-Club. He was a proud ROTC Graduate. MG Keeton was a Distinguished Engineering Fellow and earned a degree in civil engineering in 1959.

In 1960, MG Keeton joined the United States Army. The following year, MG Keeton married Josie Browning. He began a long and successful career that included command of troops at the Platoon, Company, Battalion, Brigade, and Group unit levels in the Mississippi Army National Guard. He served as Deputy Commander, Reserve Command of the 2nd U.S. Army located at Fort Gillem, Georgia. Following a long and distinguished military career, MG Keeton retired from the Army in 1993.

In the civilian world, MG Keeton was a registered professional engineer. He worked for the USDA National Resources Conservation Service from 1965–2002 as a supervisory civil engineer. While living in Tupelo, Mississippi, MG Keeton was an active member of Harrisburg Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon.

After a distinguished engineering career, MG Keeton retired and moved back to his hometown. He and his wife became members of Booneville First Baptist Church. It was in Wheeler where MG Keeton decided to become a cattle farmer. In addition to his love of farming, MG Keeton enjoyed hunting for quail and going fishing. He remained a loyal fan of Mississippi State University and Wheeler High School athletics, regularly attending games, especially basketball.

Jerry Hutcheson, a friend of MG Keeton and fellow member of Booneville First Baptist Church, said he always enjoyed MG Keeton's sense of humor. He liked to make people laugh. "Jerry was just a good guy," Mr. Hutcheson said. "He loved to talk politics every morning as a member of the Hardee's Coffee Club. He was devoted to everyone in the Berea Sunday School Class and to all his fellow senior adults in the church. He loved people."

A funeral was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, at First Baptist Church in Booneville. Reverend Carter Smith and Dr. Lynn Jones officiated. MG Keeton was laid to rest at the Booneville Cemetery.

MG Keeton is survived by his wife of 56 years, Josie Browning Keeton; their son, Joe Keeton; and his brother, Billy Keeton. He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilmer E. and Helen Martin Keeton.

MG Keeton was a true leader, who proudly served our nation. He touched many lives in both his professional and private life. MG Keeton will be missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. KURT TOPPEL

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2018

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. Kurt Toppel—a beloved father, husband, and Los Angeles community leader—who passed away on February 9, 2018 at the age of 85.

Kurt Toppel was born in Cologne, Germany and immigrated to the U.S. in 1954. He served