only tax reform but spending reductions and deficit reductions, which gives the change to have help for working families, for seniors and for our children.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. KINGSTON. Let me just say this, in the 1992 presidential primary, candidate Bill Clinton had an ad that said this: ''Hi, I am Bill Clinton. I believe you deserve a change. That is why I have a plan to stimulate the economy, starting with a middle-class tax cut.''

Now, we all know, after running on a promise of a middle-class tax cut, the President turned around and in 1993 passed the largest tax increase in the history of our country. But it is ironic, the other day he said, ''I was raised in an old-fashioned home, in an old fashioned time, maybe, but I still think when you tell somebody you are going to do something, you ought to do everything you can to do it.'' That was President Bill Clinton at a press conference, January 5, just over 2 months ago, 1996.

All we are saying is, great we are glad, let us use those old-fashioned hometown values that we all love in America, both Democrats and Republicans think highly of. Let us go ahead and give middle-class America the tax cut that he promised and that we want to give him.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Reclaiming my time, the fact is in this Congress we have already moved pretty close to the balanced budget. I think we can get it. We have added $440 billion back for environment, education, Medicare, Medicaid. I think we are very close to getting a balanced budget, still maintaining the vital services people need.

Mr. HAYWORTH. And our colleague from Georgia again brings us a troubling aspect to this entire endeavor, and perhaps we will have to wait for another time to share that with our friends.

COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PAYNE] is recognized for 40 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am pleased to lead my colleagues in once again commemorating Black History Month. Let me take a moment to acknowledge the leadership of our colleague, Congressman LOU STOKES, who organized tonight's special order. A health problem has prevented him from being here tonight, and we want him to know we wish him a speedy recovery. He has been diligent in arranging special orders every year during the month of February, Black History Month. It was in 1976, the bicentennial year, that Congress first passed a resolution to institute a celebration of Black History Month.

This year, we have chosen the theme ''African-American Women—Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow'' in recognition of the enormous contributions that African-American women have made to our history and culture. In every field of endeavor—public service, politics, law, medicine, literature, corporate management, education, and others—African-American women are achievers.

Let me begin by recognizing the women of the Black Caucus serving in the 104th Congress. They have inspired tremendous respect as each has approached issues before this Congress with eloquence, passion, and keen insight. Not only have they left their mark on public policy, they serve as outstanding role models for young women and aspirations to public service. Let us also recognize the great women of past Congresses, the trailblazers whose dreams made today's realities possible. Since 1969, when Shirley Chisholm was sworn in as the first African-American woman to serve in Congress, the door of opportunity has been opening and the Congressional Black Caucus now includes 11 women. In yet another first, Shirley Chisholm ran for President in 1972, placing her name on the ballot in 12 primary contests. We had an historic first in 1992 with the stunning victory of CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN as she took her place as the first African-American to serve in the U.S. Senate.

This year marked the passing of one of our greatest leaders of all times, the Honorable Barbara Jordan. A staunch defender of the Constitution, Barbara Jordan was a tower of strength during the Watergate crisis, one of the most troubling times in our Nation's history. As the first African-American Congresswoman from a southern State, and as the first African-American woman to deliver a keynote address at the Democratic National Convention, she was a true pioneer in the field of public service. A forthright woman of courage and dignity, she will be greatly missed.

Let me take a moment to recognize all of the African-American women who have served so honorably in the U.S. Congress, beginning with Shirley Chisholm and followed by Yvonne Brathwaite Burke; CARDISS COLLINS, who is the longest serving African-American woman in the history of Congress; our great champion Barbara Jordan; Katie Hall, BARBARA-ROSE COLLINS, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON; MAXINE WATERS; EVA CLAYTON; CORRINE BROWN; EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON; CYNTHIA MCKINNEY; CARRIE MEEK; SHEILA JACKSON-LEE; and Senator CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN.

Let me also pay tribute to an outstanding Cabinet member, Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary, whom I have had the pleasure of knowing for many years going back to our days growing up together in New Jersey. In her position at the Department of Energy, she has worked tirelessly on issues ranging from energy development to the health effects of radiation testing. She has achieved tremendous success in negotiating trade agreements with a potential value to our Nation of billions of dollars.

Also rendering outstanding service in the executive branch are Lorraine Miller, who formerly served as Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs and now holds a post in the Federal Trade Commission; Alexis Herman, Director of Public Liaison at the White House; and Tracey Thornton, Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs.

I am proud of the many accomplished African-American women who hail from my home State of New Jersey. In fact, I had a swearing in ceremony in Newark which was presided over by a distinguished African-American judge, Judge Ann Thompson. I also have crossed paths with Connie Woodruff, a former labor union representative who is now a columnist. Dr. Delores Cross, a New Jerseyan who has achieved excellence as an educator and administrator, now serves as president of Chicago State University.

My home State of New Jersey is rich in a history which encompasses many famous African Americans. For example, Harriet Tubman, the famous operator of the underground railroad, worked as a servant in hotels in Cape May, NJ between 1849 and 1852 in order to earn money to finance her missions.

In 1886, a school was established in New Jersey called the New Jersey Manual Training and Industrial School for Colored Youth; it was better known as the Bordentown School. Among the many distinguished visitors and commencement speakers was the great educator and civil rights champion, Mary McCleod Bethune.

East Orange, NJ was the hometown of Marion Thompson Wright, the first African-American professional historian. She taught at Howard University until her death in 1962.

Gail Elizabeth Harris was the first African-American priest in the diocese of Newark, NJ. The fifth woman ordained in the Episcopal Church, she graduated from the Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, CA.

New Jersey was also home to the great tennis champion, Althea Gibson. In 1951, she became the first African American to play at Wimbledon. In 1957, she won both the singles and doubles Wimbledon crowns.

One of the most successful African-American entrepreneurs, Sara Spence Washington, founded the Apex Beauty Products Co. in Atlantic City, NJ. Ms. Washington established her business in 1919, and by the late 1930's her Atlantic City office and factory had 87 employees, including chemists, clerks, bookkeepers, and beauty operators. With beauty schools in 11 cities, an estimated 35,000 individuals throughout

the world were dependent on the sales of her products.

African-American women were breaking into nontraditional roles long before women gained any degree of acceptance in the workplace. In the field of aviation, Bessie Coleman, who was born in 1893, became the first African-American woman to earn a pilot's license back in 1921.

Then, in 1934, Willa Brown Chappell became the first African-American woman to gain officer rank—lieutenant—in the Civil Air Patrol Squadron. She went on to form the first black aviator's group and established the first black-owned flying school, the Coffey School of Aeronautics.

African-American women have achieved a number of historic firsts in recent decades. Patricia Harris set records as she became the first African-American woman to be appointed an ambassador to an overseas post when President Lyndon Johnson chose her as Ambassador to Luxembourg; 2 years later she became the first to head the credentials committee of the Democratic National Committee; and then under President Jimmy Carter, she ascended to the position of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the first African-American woman to hold a Cabinet position.

In 1973, Shirley Ann Jackson received a Ph.D. in physics and became the first African-American woman in the United States to receive a doctorate from the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mae Jamison will take her place in history as the first African-American woman to become an astronaut, exploring the world of possibilities beyond the planet Earth.

African-American women have also excelled in the creative and performing arts. The whole Nation took notice when Maya Angelou read her beautiful poetry at President Clinton's inauguration. Toni Morrison, the great novelist and editor, won a Pulitzer Prize for fiction for her novel ''Beloved'' and the National Book Critics Circle Award for ''Song of Solomon.'' Many Americans have enjoyed the music of jazz vocalist Ella Fitzgerald, who was hailed by Time Magazine as ''The First Lady of Song.'' Also gifted with a beautiful voice is Leontyne Price, the soprano singer, who won the San Francisco Opera Medal after performances in ''Falstaff,'' ''Porgy and Bess,'' and ''Anthony and Cleopatra.''

New York City's highest cultural award, the Handel Medallion, was awarded to the actress and singer Lena Horne, the first African-American woman to sign a contract.

In Newark, NJ, we are very proud of our hometown star, Sarah Vaughan. Known as the Divine One, she was a premier jazz vocalist with many pop and jazz hits.

As we honor famous African-American women, let us also pause to pay tribute to the millions of unsung heroines whose positive influence has made a difference in our lives. Every day, in every community, African-American women are working tirelessly and unselfishly to provide a better quality of life for those around them. They are volunteering in churches and community organizations, they are raising funds for scholarships so that the next generation can look to the future with hope; they are caring for older persons who might otherwise be forgotten. In my own life, in addition to the women in my family who gave me such encouragement and direction, I was fortunate to have many caring teachers and other concerned adults who helped guide me through the difficult times. I owe a debt of gratitude to a woman by the name of Mary Burch of Newark. She opened up her home and her heart to the young people of our community, organizing positive activities through an organization known as the Leaguers.

Another woman who gave generously of her time and talents in the interest of young people is Ms. Madeline Williams, who served as an NAACP advisor when I was a young man.

Under her guidance as a high school student, I was able to rise to the position of president of New Jersey Youth Councils and College Chapters of the NAACP.

Last year, during the Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference, I had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Oceola McCarty, the woman from Mississippi who earned her living doing laundry and then donated her life's savings to a scholarship fund so that a deserving youngster would have the opportunity to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to pay tribute to all these outstanding African-American women—yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

□ 2245

African-American women, from Maya Angelou, to Toni Morrison, to many people like Ella Fitzgerald and Leontyne Price, as we talk about people who have done so much in all fields, African-American women are certainly those.

I will proceed as we go through this hour to talk about some other African-American women who have been so outstanding. But at this time I would ask the gentlewoman from Florida, Mrs. MEEK, if she would come before us, Mrs. CARRIE MEEK, to tell us about her African-American women who have done so many outstanding things.

(Mrs. MEEK of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure to be here to talk about the achievements of Black women.

I AM A BLACK WOMAN

(By Mari Evans)

I am a Black woman
the music of my song
some sweet arpeggio of tears
is written in a minor key
and I can be heard humming in the night
Can be heard humming in the night
I saw my mate leap screaming to the sea
and I/with these hands/cupped the life breath
from my issue in the canebrake
I lost Nat's swinging body in a rain of tears
and heard my son scream all the way from Anzio
for Peace he never knew . . . I
learned Da Nang and Pork Chop Hill
in anguish
Now my nostrils know the gas and these trigger tire/d fingers
seek the softness in my warrior's beard
I am a Black woman
tall as a cypress
strong
beyond all definition still
defying place
and time
and circumstance
assailed impervious indestructible
Look on me and be renewed

Mr. Speaker, that poem identifies Black women.

We have come a very long way since we were seen as acquiescent, submissive Aunt Jemimas, who showed grand faces, plump laps, fat embracing arms and brown jaws pouched in laughter. We have come a long way.

The heartbreaking tenderness of Black women and their majestic strength speak of the heroic survival of a people who were stolen into subjugation, denied chastity, and refused innocence.

Black women's hands have brought children through blood to life, nursed the sick and folded the winding clothes of many masters. Their wombs have held the promise of a race which has proven in each challenged century that despite the threats and mayhem, we still rise. Their feet have trod the shifting swampland of insecurity, yet they have tried to step neatly into the footprints of mothers who went before.

I remember those mothers. I am standing on their shoulders. I remember Harriet Tubman as she toiled so very hard to save slaves and to take them out of slave territory. I strongly remember Sojourner Truth, who was so strongly engrossed in what she did, she bared her chest at a big meeting and said ''Ain't I a woman?''

That is the story of the Black woman, the Black woman I remember so very well. I have heard Marion Anderson sing. I have heard Dorothy Maynor sing. What beautiful experiences and song coming out of the mouth of Black women, as a result of their many big contributions, not only in their movement, but also in their freedom of song and spirit.

And I remember so well Ida Wells at the Democratic Convention, where she refused to take second seat. And I also remember the mother of the civil rights movement, how she would not stay at the back of the bus, and how she made Black welcome to the front because of her courage.

I remember Winnie Mandela, C. Deloris Tucker, Black Women's Political Congress that C. Delores started. And Ms. Gwen Sawyer Cherry, the first Black woman to serve in the Florida

legislature. I remember Shirley Chisolm, Yvonne Braithwaite Burke, Barbara Jordan, Cardiss Collins, Hazel O'Leary, Madam C.J. Walker, and Althea Gibson, one of the most outstanding tennis players in the world.

That is the story of Black women. I rise today to pay tribute to these Black women, particularly Black women like Maya Angelou, Alice Walker.

But most of all, sketched in my memory is Mary McLeod Bethune. In 1947, Mary McLeod Bethune, in an address to the 22d Annual Meeting of the Association of the Study of Negro Life and History said:

> If our people are to fight their way up out of bondage, we must arm them with the sword and shield and the bunker of pride, belief in themselves and their possibilities, based upon a sure knowledge of the achievements of the past.

This quote, perhaps more than anything else, captures the basic spirit and philosophy and commitment that Mary McLeod Bethune and other strong Black women had for their race and the promotion and the development of women in African-American history.

I am always greatly moved by the memory of Mrs. Bethune. She was an inspirational American woman who signified and showed all the good qualities of Black American women, who was from the people, not of the people. She provided my generation, indeed many generations, with a beacon of light and hope that all things are possible through God and hard work.

I am hopeful that future generations of Black women remember those Black women from the past, those who have been in our past a long time ago, and they will remember the future, because they will be the light of the world from standing on the strong shoulders of the Black women.

Today, the light of these Black women stand throughout our country. It is so important that we remember. I thank the Black Caucus for bringing to the consciousness of this Congress how important and the contributions that Black women have made to this country. I am happy to be a part of this, I am proud of the Black women in this Congress, how they stand up and support the cause of African-Americans and how they stand up and support, particularly the Black males in America, who need so much help from Black women. This gives me the pride that I do not think anyone else has a chance anywhere to achieve.

We must continue to develop the history of Black women. You do not find as much of it, Mr. Chairman, as we should. It is important that we really visualize what Black women have done in this country throughout the beginning of this country. The slave women who toiled and did the best, came over to this country, laid like spoons in a slave ship. Yet they were strong, they raised their children and they gave us all inspiration.

We have lighted some torches here tonight. Gwen Sawyer Cherry, Mary Church Terrell, Nannie Helen Burroughs, and many others whose lives have informed and inspired our work. It is to good that we must continue to dedicate our lives to carrying forth that vision to another higher level, until we too shall pass the torch.

That is the story for the Black women in the past, in the present, and in the future.

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for that tremendous insight. She really is one of our outstanding leaders.

Now let me recognize the gentlewoman from the great State of Texas, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank you very much. Likewise, let me pay tribute to Congressman STOKES for his continuous support of an opportunity to bring to the Nation I believe the recognition of the value of contributions of African-Americans throughout this country.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for leading this hour of tribute. For this month to come to a close, we would not want to be on record without being able to bring tribute to so many talented.

This year the challenge is African-American women, yesterday, today and tomorrow, and I rise today to be able to give special honor to many African-American women.

I am reminded, for a personal note, of the special women in my life. My Great Grandmother Sims, my Grandmother Bennett and Grandmother Jackson, many of whom who laid the groundwork for some of the challenges that I faced. My loving mother, Ivalita Jackson, my special Aunt, Valrie Bennett, along with Aunts Audrey and Sarah and Vickie and Sybil, all with their own very special stories of trials and tribulations and jubilations. And today is a day of celebration.

I would like to take this opportunity to call special attention to the extraordinary struggles and achievements of African-American women.

In the Black woman there is combined the two most challenged characteristics of American identity: Race and gender. What is utterly amazing is the fact that Black women have not only borne the weight of this double burden, but that we have done so with great courage and dignity and no small degree of success.

Mr. Speaker, Black Americans are by now well accustomed to what has now been a long history of a questioning of their equality. In this Congress we continually fight to oppose the elimination of affirmative action. We continually fight the challenges that come when it is time to tell us we should not have access to education, jobs and contracts. And yet we continue to fight.

I pay tribute to all of the women who served, African-American women, in the United States Congress, those who have already served and those who are serving now.

Today I give my most heartfelt and deepest words of praise that I can summon, for those must certainly be some of the most deserving group among us, the Black women of America.

First and foremost, our lot has been marked by the same unrewarded but vital work for which the majority of women in our society have had to do for generations. African-American women have been homemakers. They have reared children. They have guided families, and counseled many, the jobs that we are generally responsible for, along with the other job. These are the jobs for which we receive no pay, and are indeed lucky to receive thanks for it now and then.

Our other job, however, and we do it very well, includes sometimes domestic worker, sometimes child care provider, bus driver, clerk, secretary, beautician, and occasionally something that qualifies to be called as professional jobs.

Some of these jobs pay some of the lowest wages in the country. Our average income is only $8,825. Mr. Speaker, that is only 40.7 percent of the $21,695 average income of white American males. Yet we have survived.

African-American women have on this income raised their children, provided homes for our families, and maybe even opened businesses.

We have also been charitable. You will find African-American women in all of the social groups throughout this community, working to help our children, providing support systems for our schools, being volunteers, and, yes, being like the humble laundress from Mississippi who gave $180,000 from her savings over the years to educate Black college students in Mississippi. What a tribute, someone who cared, someone who worked with her hands, and someone who gave back.

Black women, for their children and for their families, have kept us altogether. There are nearly 2 million Black women providing for almost 5 million children on their income.

Black women are sometimes associated with welfare. We have heard the great debate, the cuts in welfare, the elimination of welfare, the termination of welfare. But the fact is, that our total number, 6 million of us are in the American work force, despite the disincentive of our meager wages. So that image is a misnomer.

We are working women, we are women who have protected our families, we are women who have a vision for the 21st Century, we are women who want the best and want the most for our children.

Under these circumstances, mere survival would qualify as success. But we have done much more than merely survive. Over 1.5 million of us have made our way into the technical, administrative and professional ranks of American society. Against great odds, African-American women have become doctors, lawyers, scientists, academics, mayors, and, yes, Members of this August body with increasing frequency.

□ 2300

Mr. Speaker, in the name of all of our great female pioneers, like Phyllis

Wheatley, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Mary McCloud Bethune, Fannie Lou Hamer, Dorothy Hught, and Senator CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN, African-American women have continued to achieve.

I call upon my colleagues and Americans everywhere to join me in saluting all of the strong African-American women, those in the Clinton administration, those serving in local government, national government, these are our heroes and sheros.

And then I would like to acknowledge a few Texas women. We have already noted the Honorable Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who was the first black to serve in the Texas State Senate since reconstruction; Irma Leroy, community activist, and Christen Adair, who were the first secretaries of the NAACP; Magdelein Bush, who organized the Martin Luther King Center, Lois Moore, who heads up our massive hospital district; Frances Frazier, a community activist with Nina Bailey, a strong activist, and Dorothy Hubbard; Dr. Alma Allen, an educator who promotes our children, our many ministers wives who cater and support their communities; Zina Garrison Jackson, outstanding sports enthusiast and tennis player; Maudet Stewart; Alice Bonner, the first African American judge in the State of Texas; Zoe Jones, one of the founders of National Council of Negro Women chapters in the State of Texas—black women who are today carrying on the great tradition of our predecessors and making a seminal contribution to American society.

I would also like to challenge the Members of this body in particular and Americans in general to celebrate the role that African American women play in our society.

It reminds me of the words of Langston Hughes, as he spoke through the black mother who said, Life for me ain't been no crystal stairs, but I's still a-reaching and I's still a-climbing.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to be able to join this special honor and tribute to African American women, ages past, today and tomorrow. And it is a challenge for all of us, as we move into the 21st century, to be reminded of their legacy and that of Maya Angelou that says, despite all that we have to overcome, still we rise, still we rise.

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for that eloquent statement. We certainly appreciate the outstanding work that she has brought into this 104th Congress.

I now yield to the gentleman from the great State of Georgia, Mr. SANFORD BISHOP.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend you along with my colleague for sponsoring this special order today. As we look back on the month of February, as we celebrate Black History Month, I certainly would like to commend our colleague, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STOKES], for his many years of service in leading this caucus as we celebrate Black History Month.

Like many of our colleagues, I have been fulfilling requests to talk about black history during the past month at schools and colleges, churches and civic organizations throughout my area of middle and south Georgia. It is an honor to have an opportunity to participate.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the 70-year-old observance of Black History Month has made a big difference in our understanding of history. It has helped teach us about how our country's unique diversity has enriched and strengthened us as a people and a nation. Evidence of this statement can be found in the far-reaching contributions made by African Americans in science and medicine, art, entertainment, education, business, exploration, statesmanship and government, the law, in the military and indeed in all aspects of the country's growth and development from our colonial days to the present.

These are contributions that helped the country grow more rapidly, become more prosperous and ultimately emerge as the strongest and most secure nation on earth.

All cultures that have become a part of this great melting pot have made important contributions. Diversity has set America apart and helped make our country great.

It is truly something worth celebrating. All of the Black History Month programs that I have participated in have been rewarding, but one in particular was memorable. In Valdosta, GA this past Sunday, near the Georgia-Florida line, a grass-roots group of citizens conducted a fundraising drive over the past 2 years to erect an archway which was dedicated and a memorial at the site of unmarked graves of former slaves.

The site was discovered some 40 years ago when a gentleman by the name of Mr. Nelson, who was at that time a laborer in the cemetery, was instructed by his superviser to go and to dig and to prepare a compose pit in a certain portion of the Sunset Avenue Cemetery. As he prepared to carry out his instructions and he started to dig, he was interrupted by a woman who was visiting the cemetery, a Mrs. Findley, a black woman who was very, very steeped and knowledgeable of the history of the Valdosta, Lyons County, Brooks County area. She interrupted him and said, son, do you know what you are doing? He said, yes, ma'am, I sure do. She said, what are you doing? He said, I am carrying out the instructions that my boss gave me, and that is what I intend to do.

She said, well, let me tell you, before you go any further, what you are about to do is to dig up some of your history. He said, what do you mean? And she explained that at the site legend had it that that was the site of unmarked graves of former slaves who had lived in the Valdosta area.

He said, well, I had better check into this. And he went and he brought that to the attention of his supervisor in 1956. He challenged his supervisor and said, I just do not think we ought to go forth with this compose pit without checking further into it.

His supervisor paused and he said, all right, we will check into it. And they dug a trench gingerly around the area. They discovered with some exploration that there were indeed the outlines of the graves.

So through four or five supervisors, Mr. Nelson protected the area, informing each of his supervisors of what had taken place, and each one allowed that area to be protected and they did not disturb it. But he had a dream that someday that this area would be preserved. And finally with the help of the grass-roots citizens group, a group called the Committee for the History of the Unknown Slaves and a group called Valdosta Project Change, they are able to raise money and to finally dedicate a very meaningful memorial to these individuals.

We know a great deal about the lives of the more prominent figures who rose from bondage, figures like Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass. But we know very little about most of the men and women who endured lives of servitude. We do know, however, that they struggled to better themselves and their families. Many learned to read and to write. Many learned skilled trades. They forged lives that were characterized by deep spirituality and a yearning for a new day of freedom and justice.

They courageously laid the foundation for the freedom to come. The memorial was dedicated last Sunday. It says: To the unknown slaves of Valdosta, in recognition of their sacrifices and contributions to our community.

This recognition is well deserved and long overdue, and I am privileged to have been a part of it.

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much. That was really a very moving story. We appreciate the gentleman bringing that to history. There are so many unsung heroes, as the gentleman mentioned, and I really appreciate his contributing that to our special order tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. WATT], a gentleman who has brought a great deal of new energy also into the Congress.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank that chairman for yielding to me and for organizing this important African-American History Month special order and doing so and taking over in the place of our colleague, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STOKES].

I think it would be remiss if we did not send our special regards and wishes for a speedy recovery to our colleague, LOU STOKES, and hope that he gets

back here soon and continues to provide the kind of leadership he has provided to us over a period of time.

The theme for this special order, African-American Women, Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow, is particularly appropriate. I would like to do three short things, given the lateness of the hour.

First of all, I want to go back to a special order or an insertion that I did in last year's African-American history special order and pay tribute to a special woman. Apparently I was a year ahead of my time because the theme last year was not necessarily African-American women, but I did attribute to a special African-American woman who has had a special impact in my congressional district in North Carolina. Her name was Charlotte Hawkins Brown, who was the founder of the Palmer Memorial Institute, which is located in Sedalia, NC.

At the age of 18, Ms. Charlotte Hawkins at that time accepted a teaching position in a school called the American Missionary Association, near Greensboro to teach at the Bethany Institute near Greensboro. And that school went out of existence after about a year. She committed herself to founding a school for women because of the fact that North Carolina had the second highest illiteracy rate in the country at that time.

She traveled back to Massachusetts to raise money for this purpose, did some singing at the seashore, waited tables, sought out donations, worked in various jobs and finally realized the dream of opening the Palmer Memorial Institute in the year 1902. That institute continued until Charlotte Hawkins Brown died on January 11, 1961, and the school actually continued until the year 1971.

So that I can make sure that Charlotte Hawkins Brown gets paired with all the wonderful, powerful women whose names have been mentioned this evening by other Members of Congress, I wanted to restate the important role that Charlotte Hawkins Brown has played in our history.

Second, I want to pay tribute to Harriet Tubman, and I want to do it in a kind of a backhanded way. And I do this without any disrespect to Harriet Tubman. But there is a gentleman in North Carolina by the name of Hal Sieber who has actually researched this thing and determined that the Underground Railroad started in Greensboro, NC.

He has written a book called the ''Holy Ground'' in which he has gone and researched this. In that book he writes the following: ''The legendary national underground railroad system most often associated in later history with the conductor, Harriet Tubman, assisted the escape of thousands of African Americans from captivity. It was founded in the year 1819, actually one year before Harriet Tubman was born in Greensboro, NC, in the woods at New Garden Friends Meeting House.''

This first route of the Underground Railroad coursed through Greensboro, NC, north through western Virginia and across the Ohio River to Richmond, IN.

The first recorded passenger of the Underground Railroad was John Moses Dimrey, according to Hal Sieber's historical analysis.

So I want to pay my utmost respects and memories to Harriet Tubman but at the same time remind my colleagues that based on all the information we have now been able to develop, the Underground Railroad actually originated well before Harriet Tubman. It originated in my congressional district in North Carolina.

□ 2315

So I will make that the second part of my tribute to African-American women yesterday, today and tomorrow, and then the final tribute I want to make is to the African-American colleagues that we have here in this House of Representatives and in the Congress of the United States House and Senate: Those important women, CORINE BROWN of Florida, EVA CLAYTON of North Carolina, CARDISS COLLINS of Illinois, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON of the District of Columbia, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE of the great State of Texas, and we have heard from earlier this evening EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON from Texas, CYNTHIA MCKINNEY from Georgia, who has led this redistricting fight so vigorously in the State of Georgia, CARRIE MEEK from the great State of Florida, whom we have also heard from earlier this evening, whom I always refer to as Grandma, CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN, Senator CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN, from Illinois, BARBARA ROSE COLLINS from Michigan and of course my colleague MAXINE WATERS from California.

As you, Mr. Speaker, have indicated, these women have stood firm in the face of adversity and been shining examples of how progress can be made with dignity and with honor and with integrity and with commitment, and it would be remiss of me if I did not pay special tribute to them for their contributions as we are paying tribute to African-American women. Yesterday they were here. Today they are here. And many of these women who I have mentioned here will be here tomorrow leading the fight for justice and equality in this country.

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, let me just thank the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. WATT] for that very interesting presentation. Let me at this time recognize the gentleman from the State of Illinois, a person who is no stranger to the struggle, one who we are proud to have as one of our colleagues, Mr. BOBBY RUSH from Illinois.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor and a privilege to join with you this evening to honor black women, African-American women, yesterday, today and tomorrow. And, Mr. Speaker, I also join with you and other members of the caucus to express our considerable remarks and regards for the work that Congressman LOU STOKES from Ohio has put into making this an annual event. His work is certainly commendable, and we all wish him Godspeed in his current illness, and we look forward to working with him and look forward to his return to this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I want to look at and focus the light of history on a woman from Illinois who serves as a member of this body, CARDIS COLLINS, the Representative from the 7th Congressional District. Mr. Speaker, there are literally legions of strong, remarkable women who have crossed my path and who I have read about and who made history who have contributed all that they could. All that was asked of them, to learn that the African-American community, the Nation, was the best that it could possibly be. These women have made tremendous sacrifices and we have heard names from speakers before me.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to take a note and I want to take a moment and I want to reflect and focus on CARDISS COLLINS. I happen to believe, Mr. Speaker, that history and historians and indeed historical figures have a special meaning to some of us because they guide our paths. I believe that people who make history are not by definition artifacts on a shelf, but I believe that they are living, working, breathing, caring, committed people. CARDISS COLLINS is such a person. CARDISS COLLINS is a trailblazer. We must note that she was the first African-American Congresswoman from the great State of Illinois, and for nearly a decade she was the only black woman in Congress. She was the first African-American to hold party rank; that is a leadership position. She was the Democratic whip at large.

And Mr. Speaker, we have got to take a moment to pause to honor CARDISS COLLINS because at the end of this term, the 104th Congress, she will retire. She will retire from a Congress where she was indeed, if not the longest serving woman in the Congress, certainly one of the longest serving women in the Congress. She has a long list of firsts, a remarkable record of accomplishment and achievements.

She was the first African-American woman and the first woman to chair the House Government Operations Subcommittee on Manpower and Housing. She serves as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus of the 96th Congress. And she was the first woman to head the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. She made many achievements. She accomplished many firsts.

But I know CARDISS COLLINS as a tireless worker, a person who spends enormously long days working on behalf of the poor, the downtrodden and minorities. She is a person who would not stop until she gets her task fulfilled. She is relentlessly pursuing all kinds of causes and battles that do not

make the evening news, that do not make the headlines.

CARDISS COLLINS in 1991 became the first African-American to chair a subcommittee on the Committee on Energy and Commerce. Back in 1990 she wrote the law which expanded Medicare coverage for screening mammography for millions of elderly and disabled women. She authored the Child Safety Protection Act of 1993, legislation that required warning labels on dangerous toys, and Federal safety standards for bicycle helmets.

CARDISS COLLINS today is leading the fight to protect Medicare for the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, I know of no other female legislator, black, white or any other racial group, I know of no one who has throughout her history led the charge for justice and humanity like CARDISS COLLINS. She is a person that in a very, very humble and quiet manner wields a mighty influence on all those who come within her view or within her realm or in her world. CARDISS COLLINS has the respect of some of the great powers that be, both in the State of Illinois, the city of Chicago, and indeed throughout the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I just had to take a moment this evening to recognize a friend and a colleague, a person who, if in fact had not been called upon to serve in this Congress, this Congress would certainly not be as great as it is. This person, this individual, this African-American woman, certainly epitomizes the kind of persons whom we have honored in our discussions and our speeches on this floor today, and she is also the kind of individual that they will honor in the future, and I want to today recognize our colleague CARDISS COLLINS, as an African-American woman whose contributions we all admire, respect, appreciate.

She is an African-American woman for yesterday. She is an African-American woman for today. And certainly history books will show that she is an African-American woman for tomorrow.

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Thank you very much. That was certainly very stirring. I could not agree with you more that Representative COLLINS has served this Congress so well, and I thank you for bringing that to our attention.

At this time we will hear from the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BARCIA].

Mr. BARCIA. I want to thank you, Chairman PAYNE, for the opportunity to participate tonight in paying tribute to a very special friend and an outstanding African-American leader.

Mr. Speaker, as Black History Month comes to a close, I believe it is most appropriate and important to pay tribute to a noted civil rights advocate, an inspirational educator and a distinguished community leader who has impacted the lives of many citizens in the Fifth District of Michigan, the great State of Michigan and across the Nation.

□ 2330

Bernice Barlow, the eldest of James and Estelle Lowrey's eight children, was born in Louisiana and moved to Michigan when she was still just a toddler. She was born at a time when African-Americans, especially women, had to work harder and struggle against forces beyond their control to demonstrate their leadership abilities and talents. Yet, against those forces, she succeeded and gained the respect and admiration of her peers, whether man, woman, black, or white. She now uses that influence and her talents to help others reach the same threshold of achievement that she has.

As the longest serving president of the Saginaw branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Bernice is a living example of a commitment to improving the lives of African-Americans. For the past 28 years, under her steady leadership, the branch has received numerous State and national awards, including outstanding membership and outstanding branch. Prior to becoming its president, Mrs. Barlow served as its secretary, and was also a youth member of the organization. Bernice is also dedicated to improving business opportunities for African-American women, and is a charter member and past president of the local chapter of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

As a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, Bernice has assisted many young African-American women in achieving their goals. Bernice learned early the importance of a good education. She graduated from Saginaw High School in 1945, and earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in education from Michigan State University.

An elementary school teacher with the Saginaw public schools for 31 years, she has had an immense impact on her students. Over her 31 years of teaching, Bernice taught her many students that with a good education, nothing would be beyond their reach. Her words have had a positive effect passing from generation to generation, and she has inspired all who worked with her or had the good fortune to study under her tutelage.

Bernice is not only devoted to teaching our young people, but also teaches basic adult education, showing them that it is never too late to learn and improve yourself. Steadfast in her quest to improve her community, Bernice has consistently been recognized for her outstanding community service. She is a member of numerous operations, and serves as a member of the board of trustees of the Messiah Missionary Baptist Church.

In recognition of how much her community appreciates and acknowledges her accomplishments, her church is naming their new scholarship the Bernice Lowrey Barlow Scholarship, and are recognizing her achievements at a banquet held in her honor on March 2, 1996.

In order to promote fair housing opportunities, Bernice also has been recognized by the Tri-County Fair Housing Council for her outstanding leadership in helping to eliminate racial discrimination in housing. She is also a member of the Saginaw County Mental Health Board, and currently serves on a recipients' rights committee, and is the vice chair for the program committee.

Bernice could not have achieved these great accomplishments without the support of her family, including her loving husband of 47 years, Charles Barlow, and they have four children: Michael, Belinda, Mitchell, and Patrick, as well as 10 grandchildren.

Bernice Barlow is a shining example of the ability of individuals to improve our society. She is the embodiment of the finest qualities expressed in the word citizenship. I commend Bernice Barlow for her lifelong achievements, and I urge my colleagues to join me in extending her our very best wishes in her future endeavors.

I thank the gentleman, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman very much for his kind remarks, and we know the family will appreciate that being done here at Black History Month, and we appreciate your contribution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana, Mr. CLEO FIELDS.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. Let me just say to the gentleman that I certainly appreciate the gentleman making recognition of Mrs. Bernice Barlow. I was extremely excited at the fact that she was born, she started off, in Louisiana, in the State that I represent. I want to thank the gentleman for taking the time to recognize such a great servant. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for taking the time to have this special order.

I want to personally thank all the African-American women in this country, those who came before us, or before me, and those who are present today in our society who have opened up so many doors of opportunity.

That leads me to a very brief discussion, Mr. Chairman. I wish to talk about a few African-American women from Louisiana. I want to start by talking about an African-American woman by the name of Yola Antoine. Just a few weeks ago, as a matter of fact, when I was traveling in my district giving speeches for Black History Month, I was speaking at a church, and the mother of the church was Ms. Antoine, and the pastor had her to stand, and found out she was 100 years old. So I certainly want to take this moment to recognize her and talk about what type of a woman she is.

She is a great woman, because even at 100 years old, she still has kids gathering at her home, and she reads the

Bible to them, and she should be commended for that. But she cuts her own grass, she lives by herself, and to be 100 years of age and still be as active as she is in the church, as active as she is with taking care of herself, we certainly want to recognize her tonight, and I certainly commend her. She is from Eunice, LA. I was just so proud of the fact that I had a citizen in my district that was so old, but yet so wise and so energetic.

I also want to talk about those African-American women who work with children in the district and in the State that I represent. It brings me to the name of Hazel Freemen, who was the past president of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority. She also was a high officer in the LINKS organization. The gentleman from New Jersey knows about these two organizations. This lady works night and day to try to encourage young people to stay in school and stay away from drugs and alcohol, so I certainly want to talk about her as we celebrate black history and recognize women.

I want to talk about another woman from my district out of Baton Rouge, LA, Ms. Eva Legarde. Ms. Legarde was the first female black president of the school board. She was elected to the school board. She put a heavy emphasis on education. She encouraged kids to stay in school. She should be commended tonight. She is no longer on the school board. She still works with community groups. She still works with the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts and with her church, St. Francis Xavier, a church in Baton Rouge. She tries to encourage kids to stay away from drugs and alcohol.

I want to talk about Annie Smart, who started a legal defense fund in Baton Rouge, LA, because there were so many indigent people in the city that did not have legal representation. She started not only a legal defense fund, but she started a legal aid program in Baton Rouge. What she decided to do as a result of that, she started encouraging more young people to go to college and major and get a legal education. She encouraged kids to go to law school. We certainly commend Annie Smart tonight.

Ms. Lula B. Coleman. She was the mother of civil rights for Baton Rouge. She worked so hard to open up many doors of opportunities that many of us have benefited from today. I can speak as one of those individuals who is a direct beneficiary of her hard work.

Janice Clark, who is a judge in Baton Rouge, LA, today. She works night and day to work with kids before they are confronted with the judicial system. The way she deals with it, she goes into schools and she talks to kids about the consequences of committing crimes and doing drugs, so she should be commended at Black History Month.

Diana Bajoie, who is a female State senator who serves in the Louisiana State Senate, the first African-American woman elected to the Louisiana State Senate. She works night and day to try to improve education in the State of Louisiana by introducing bills that are in the best interests of educating our children.

Ms. Georgia Browne, who is a former librarian at Southern University. She had a program where she brought kids from high schools from across the State of Louisiana, and had them to interface with the library on the college campus. She had many programs that included kids from churches, so they can understand how to use the card catalog, so I want to commend Ms. Georgia Browne tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I think all our time has expired. I appreciate the gentleman coming.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, as has been my traditional practice for many years, I am pleased to again participate in this special order on the occasion of Black History Month. It is an appropriate time to pay tribute to the many contributions made by Afro-Americans throughout the history of the United States, and to remind all Americans that the many gifts of black culture are and have always been a significant strengthening factor in the overall development of American society.

Thomas Carlyle wrote that ''the history of the world is but the biography of great people.'' Many historians contend that men and women do not make events, but rather events make men and women. I do not subscribe to that theory. I believe that every advance made by civilization, as well as every setback, came about because men and women made conscious decisions either to do something or not do something. The decisions made and actions taken by black Americans ever since our colonial times have impacted greatly on the development and the history of our Nation. Black History Month is an appropriate time to inform the American people of the many outstanding black individuals who have made a better life for all of us throughout the years.

As examples of outstanding blacks who throughout our history have contributed to our way of life, let us not forget: Crispus Attuckus, a free black man who gave his life at the Boston Massacre, which signaled our War for Independence in 1770, and Peter Salem, a hero of the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Let us also note Benjamin Banneker, an astronomer and mathematician; Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, a pioneer trader and trapper; Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, who helped found and run the Underground Railroad for escaping slaves; Frederick Douglass, an escaped slave who became one of the great American diplomats and leaders of all time; and the thousands upon thousands of Afro-Americans who fought and in many cases gave their lives in the Civil War.

Other brilliant Afro-Americans include: Jan Matzeliger who invented shoemaking machinery; Henry Blair, who invented farm machinery; and Granville T. Woods, whose inventions made subway travel safe and practical. Noteworthy Black educators include: Dr. Mary McCleod Bethune, Frederick D. Patterson, and Benjamin Mays; A. Philip Randolph was an outstanding labor leader. Bayard Rustin helped him in organizing the marches on Washington in 1941 and 1963 which raised the consciousness of all Americans.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birthday we celebrated last month, was in a class all by himself. An individual whose message of love and non-violence was valid for all races and for all nationalities for all time, Dr. King has been and will always remain an inspiration to all of us.

Outstanding African-Americans writers include: Toni Morrison, Langston Hughes, Alice Walker, James Baldwin, Charles Fuller, Lorraine Hansberry, Paul Dunbar, and Alex Haley.

And we have not even begun to list the many black Americans who made an impact in the fields of education, sports, entertainment, music, politics, the graphic arts, and so many other spheres of human endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that many of our colleagues noted the guest editorial which appeared in the Washington Post just this morning by the gifted black writer, Jonetta Rose Barras. Ms. Barras comments with alarm and disdain regarding some of the efforts of businesses to capitalize on Black History Month. She also notes the unfortunate tendency of many of our institutions to concentrate all activities regarding Afro-Americans into Black History Month, as if the achievements of gifted blacks could and should be ignored the other 11 months of the year.

I tend to agree with Ms. Barras' chagrin. It is bad enough that the memory of our fallen heroes on Memorial Day and Veterans Day is too often desecrated by sales pitches and advertising blitzes which totally ignore the significance of those occasions. Let us not allow this same fate to befall Black History Month.

Black History Month is an appropriate time to note that the contributions of blacks to our culture and our society are truly significant. It is a time to note that our world would be different today were it not for the contributions of so many gifted men and women.

However, it is not an appropriate time to cheapen the sacrifices and the hardships endured by many black Americans throughout the years to advance the causes of equality, liberty, and justice for all.

Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of any of our colleagues who may have overlooked Ms. Barras' editorial, I request that it be inserted in full in the RECORD at this point.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 28, 1996]

BLACK HISTORY MONTH GONE WRONG

(By Jonetta Rose Barras)

My mother says I'm a glutton for punishment; she's not half wrong. Except this time, I didn't go looking for trouble. I went into the CVS (formerly Peoples Drug Store) for a pair of hose, which except for the Safeway is the only place to find them in Adams-Morgan.

I'm waiting in line, my hands filled with hosiery, a regular box of Junior Mints and nail polish remover. I'm reading everything in sight, which is Part I of my mother's glutton assessment; Part II is that I often react to what I read, even when I try not to.

As the cashier rings up my merchandise, I continue reading. The sign that catches my eye seems benign: ''Look for these and other great values throughout the month,'' it reads at the top. I scan down the list—I'm always after a good sale.

Luster Silk Right on Curl Moisturizer
Let's Jam Conditioning Gel
Luster's S Curl

Soft Sheen
Afro Pride No-Lye Relaxer

Nothing for me, I conclude; I've worn my hair natural since 1968. It's not a political statement, more of a beauty thing. I think I look great with nappy hair.

But I relax too quickly; the last few lines of the sign are lethal: ''CVS Pharmacy Supports Black History Month,'' it reads, What the hell do S Curl and No Lye have to do with Carter G. Woodson, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, my aunt Loweska or any of the other tens of millions of black people who have lived and died in this country? I nearly shout at the cashier, She turns the sign around toward her so she can see what set off my alarm. I'm ready to call the manager, the owners, someone, anyone. I am exhibiting 150 percent of righteous indignation (if Madame C.J. Walker were mentioned somewhere on the poster, I might accept the listing of products as a passable salute—although that would be stretching it). I demand justice.

I am tired of Black History Month; tired of being squeezed between 28 days (29 this leap year). I'd started this month declaring I would not try to convert anyone else. I'd quietly achieve my own version of justice, albeit rather peculiar. I would boycott any Black History Month event. No Alvin Ailey or Dance Theater of Harlem or Smithsonian lectures or tours or special exhibitions of Bearden and Tanner or dinners honoring ''Great Black Leaders.'' There'd be none of that for me.

Although I never spoke with Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who originated the concept of a Black History Month (in his day it was called Negro History Week), I am sure he would proclaim his dream a nightmare.

Some think it's progress that African Americans are honored for an entire month. But is it progress when the Smithsonian Institution waits until Black History Month to dump most of its programming targeted for African American audiences and those interested in black culture into one month—forcing every black writer, academician, dancer or whatever to compete with one another because across town at some other institution there is another black history event they want to catch?

Is it progress when mainstream publishers wait for February to unload books they could have released in the fall, just to make their marketing strategy easier?

Maybe it's progress when some drugstore chain decides the best way to celebrate the history of millions of Americans whose ancestors helped build this country into the capital of the free world is to stick up some placard advertising S Curl and Let's Jam Conditioning Gel and call it a salute.

It wasn't supposed to be this way.

I'm absolutely positive Woodson intended that at some point Negro History Week, Black/African-American History Month would become obsolete. He expected the stories of the 5,000 blacks who fought in the Revolutionary War to be right there alongside Washington's. He believed that when the history of World War II was written, it would contain the names of Mary McLeod Bethune, Gen. Daniel Chappie James Jr., the Tuskegee airmen and hundreds of other colored Americans who fought valiantly. And that in every anthology of American poets, Sterling Brown, James Weldon Johnson, Georgia Douglas Johnson and Countee Cullen would be among the writers. Instead, they are in separate books, pulled out during February and considered ''additional suggested reading, variations on themes'' They are not integral components of America's historical discourse.

This I am certain of: Woodson never intended for his concept aimed at instilling race and cultural pride to become a marketing strategy for museums, publishers and hair-care companies. It's much too precious for that, which is why I had decided to do my own quiet protest.

But CVS changed all of that; I'm now publicly advocating that Americans who no longer want a segregated history of this country boycott Black History Month and demand full representation throughout the year—the key word here is full, not some weak-kneed, half-committed expression. Full, nothing less.

After we've righted the misdirection of Black History Month, let's set our sights on Women's History Month—I mean, where does that come from, anyway?

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues and our Nation in celebrating Black History Month. I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to African-Americans who have contributed so much to making our Nation what it is today. The theme of this year's special order observance is African-American women: yesterday, today and tomorrow.

I want to take this opportunity to honor the memory of one very special woman—a fellow Texan and Houstonian and former Member of this House—who has long been an inspiration to me. That woman is Barbara Jordan.

We all felt a deep loss when she passed away recently. But I have no doubt that Barbara Jordan's life and accomplishments will continue to inspire many generations to come.

As a legislator, Ms. Jordan built a reputation of being a skilled politician and forceful and dynamic individual. She was the first African-American woman in Texas to be elected to the Texas Senate and the first African-American from the South to serve in the Congress of the United States since Reconstruction.

During her tenure in the House, she served as a member of the House Judiciary Committee, the House Committee on Government Operations and the Steering and Policy Committee of the House Democratic caucus. In reflecting on this year's theme, I cannot think of another woman who truly embodies our Nation's greatest traditions and our deepest aspirations than Barbara Jordan.

Barbara Jordan championed the ideal of America being a country where legal rights and equal opportunities were available for everyone. She furthered that ideal for herself, for African-Americans, for African-American women, and for persons of all races.

Ms. Jordan has earned a place in American history, alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in pushing forward the dream of equal opportunity for all Americans. She never ceased to remind us what ''we the people'' truly means.

Texas and the Nation, have lost a powerful voice of conscience and integrity. Barbara Jordan was a champion of our freedom, the Constitution and the laws of our country. We will miss her unflinching intelligence and integrity, her passion for justice, the power of her voice, and the sheer force of the truth for which she spoke. From Watergate to the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, our Nation relied on her time and again to give us straight answers. And she never left us disappointed.

In another significant first, she delivered the keynote address at the 1976 Democratic Party Convention—the first black woman in the 144-history of our party to do so. She repeated that performance some 16 years later at the 1992 Democratic Convention when she challenged delegates and the Nation to transform our decaying inner cities into places where hope lives.

Also, let us not forget Ms. Jordan's eloquent defense of the Constitution when she sat on the House Judiciary Committee that investigated the Watergate break-in and the White House coverup that lead to the resignation of President Nixon. She made all of us proud to be Americans. I am most reminded of a speech in which she stated that, ''My faith in the Constitution is whole, it is complete, it is total and I am not going to sit here and be an idle spectator to the diminution, the subversion, the destruction of it.''

History will remember Barbara Jordan as a dynamic leader, powerful politician, riveting orator, a pioneer for all, and the ultimate public servant. Her impact transcended age, sex, and ethnicity. Barbara Jordan also had a more personal side that friends and associates will remember most. The side that was not fully seen by the public eye.

For example, many do not know that she loved to sing gospel, top 40, and country songs at the parties she threw for her graduate students in Austin. Many do not know of her sharp intellect, dry wit, and childlike curiosity. But one thing is certain, the State of Texas, The city of Houston, and the Nation have lost a true treasury in Barbara Jordan. She lived the dream of fairness and equal opportunity enshrined in our Constitution, and she committed her life to helping all Americans share in that dream.

I last saw Barbara Jordan in San Antonio last spring where we both addressed the College Democrats of America. While it was a unique exchange involving three generations of Americans, I was most thrilled that my two younger daughters, Louise and Meredith, a fourth generation and fellow Houstonians, had a chance to meet a real trailblazer in our American History. She did not let them down.

The best way to honor her is to rededicate ourselves to making that dream come true for all Americans.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, since 1976, February has been celebrated as Black History Month, but the origins of this event date back to 1926, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson who was born in Huntington, WV, set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage, achievements, and contributions of African-Americans. This occasion provides the opportunity for our country to celebrate the past and present contributions and accomplishments of African-Americans. As I reflect on these contributions and accomplishments, I am quickly drawn to my district and a gentleman who has demonstrated time and time again a tireless effort to be of exemplary service to all mankind. Ernest C. Moore is a husband, father, legislator, activist, humanitarian, role model, and friend to all who know him. For over 20 years Delegate Ernest C. Moore has championed the causes of justice and equity as a West Virginia State legislator representing McDowell County, 22d district.

Delegate Moore was born on July 12, 1922 in Winston-Salem, NC but moved to Thorpe, WV at age 4 when his father, a railroad worker heard about a good paying job in the coal mines. His father spent the rest of his life working at U.S. Steel's No. 4 mine in Gary, WV and Moore followed suit when he was old enough, starting at No. 4 and then moving to the No. 10 mine. Along the way he became active in the United Mine Workers, eventually serving as district 29, vice president for 14½ years.

Mr. Speaker, Delegate Moore is the longest serving legislator in the West Virginia House of Delegates. However, because of health reasons on January 22, 1996 Moore retired. He was first elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1971 by McDowell County voters. Except for the one 2-year term from 1979 to 1980, he has served continuously in the House. During his tenure he served on the following committees: Enrolled Bills (chairman), Banking and Insurance, Constitution Revision, Judiciary (chairman), Industry and Labor (chairman) for the 67th–69th legislatures.

Delegate Moore the legislator and humanitarian worked hard to help create the much needed Tug River Health Clinics in Gary and Northfork, WV along with building of the new Welch Emergency Hospital. The significance of this accomplishment is that in McDowell County the hospital and three clinics are among the three highest employers in the county.

Delegate Moore the legislator and activist was also a key player in the civil rights legislation that led to designating Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday a State holiday.

Delegate Moore the legislator and role model has received almost every type of reward and recognition, to name a few. In 1976, he received the Distinguished Citizen's Award from Mountain State Bar Association. In 1992, the Distinguished West Virginia Award and, in 1993, Twenty Years of Dedicated Service Award from the West Virginia Legislature.

Delegate Moore the husband and father is married to Mittie Kellum and is the father of four, Judy, Douglas, Clifton, and Gail. He has maintained that God and his family are the cornerstone of his success.

Delegate Moore the legislator and friend has not only served as a role model to his family and colleagues, but also his constituents. He has demonstrated this through his involvement in community organizations such as the Brother's Club, the McDowell County Health Board, president, Public Defender's Corporation—8th Circuit, and the NAACP. His contribution has symbolized the importance of community involvement and helped to develop future leaders who will challenge this Nation to reach its great potential.

Mr. Speaker, Delegate Moore like so many others we honor this month is a rare and wonderful individual, who, through words and deeds has helped make a difference to countless lives in West Virginia and the Nation. I would now like to share with you Moore's recent response to a news reporter question of regrets during his 23 years of service. More responded by saying, ''I don't regret a day, a lot of people would probably be shedding tears of sorrow, but if I would be shedding any tears, it would be tears of joy. And I know in my heart that I have done everything possible to help McDowell County and the State of West Virginia.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, there are countless men and women who like Delegate Moore improve the lives of many people on a daily basis, they may not be famous, but they are extraordinary individuals in the same tradition. I ask my colleagues to join me during Black History Month as I salute the excellence of Delegate Ernest C. Moore, an outstanding example of civic responsibility, courage and commitment of whom the African-American community, and indeed Americans everywhere should be proud.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to participate today in this special order to commemorate Black History Month. In March, we will celebrate Women's History Month, and, in that vein, I would like to pay tribute to a number of African-American women who have overcome adversity to achieve great success.

African-Americans have made great strides since the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's. However, we have a ways to go before the economic disparity between the African-American community and the rest of America is eliminated. Black women, in particular, still struggle in disproportionately high numbers with the challenges of raising children while living in poverty.

Fortunately, we can look at shining success stories in the African-American community to show young people how to improve their lives and communities. In the words of the late Congresswoman Barbara Jordan: ''We need to change the decaying inner cities from decay to places where hope lives.''

A pioneer in American politics, Barbara Jordan was the first black State senator in Texas history, and the first woman from Texas, as well as the first black, to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives after Reconstruction. Barbara Jordan was a champion of freedom and of the Constitution. Her beliefs were epitomized when, during the Watergate hearings, she declared, ''My faith in the Constitution is whole, it is complete, it is total, and I am not going to sit here and be an idle spectator to diminution, the subversion, the destruction of the Constitution.''

After serving three terms in Congress, Barbara devoted her energy to teaching and continued to strive, in her own words, ''to do something unusual.'' This was certainly an understatement. Later in life, Barbara struggled with multiple sclerosis, and while the disease crippled her body, she refused to allow it to conquer her spirit. Barbara Jordan's life and success have left a legacy of opportunity for countless American women.

A number of African-American women from Indiana's First Congressional District have also been pioneers. These women have achieved economic and personal success, and they serve as role models for the young people in northwest Indiana. I would like to bring a few of them to your attention now.

Katie Hall served as U.S. Representative for Indiana's First Congressional District from 1982 to 1984. During her tenure in Congress, Katie Hall played an instrumental role in creating the Martin Luther King National Holiday. She currently serves as the Gary city clerk.

Earline Rogers has been elected to serve as a Gary City Council member, State representative, and State senator. Ms. Rogers was only the second African-American woman to be elected a State representative. She continues to serve as a State senator.

Judge Karen Freeman-Wilson is the presiding judge of the Gary City Court. She is also a practicing attorney and has served as a public defender in the Lake County Superior Court.

Eloise Gentry is the president and CEO of the Urban League of Northwest Indiana. She has also served as executive director for Community Coordinated Child Care and helped instigate the movement to integrate Gary's public schools.

Judge Shelia Moss was nominated in 1993 by Governor Bayh to be the presiding judge of the Lake County Superior Court. She has also held the position of deputy director of the Child Support Division for the Lake County Prosecutor's Office.

Hilda Richards is the first African-American chancellor of Indiana University Northwest. She was installed in this position in May of 1994.

Pauline Hutson was the first African-American woman to become a member of the Gary Police Department in 1936, and the first black woman to be promoted to detective in 1969. She has gone on to become commander of the Women's Division of the Gary Police Department.

Y-Gene Chambers was the first African-American woman appointed to the Lake County Crime Commission and the first black woman appointed to the advisory board of Bank One. Ms. Chambers also chartered and was the first president of the board of directors of the Gary Educational Development Foundation.

Dr. Waltee Douglas was one of the first women to become an ordained minister in the Baptist Church in 1985, at St. John Baptist Church in Gary.

Imogene Harris is the publisher of the Gary Info Newspaper and president of the Harris Printing Co. The Gary Info Newspaper is an African-American news weekly which has been in continuous publication for 34 years.

Kellee Patterson was the first African-American woman to win the title of Miss Indiana in 1971.

Vivian Carter was the first African-American woman to host a 5-hour radio show. She is a cofounder of Vee Jay Record Co., which was the first record company to distribute the early recordings of the Beatles.

Dorothy Leavell was the second female president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, an organization of more than 200 African-American newspapers in the United States.

Del Marae Williams is currently east Chicago's city judge. She has also served in the Lake County Public Defender's Office and as an East Chicago human rights attorney.

As we celebrate Black History Month, we celebrate an America more culturally enriched, intellectually developed, and technologically advanced because of the contributions of African-Americans. In closing, I would like to commend my colleagues, Representatives LOUIS STOKES and DONALD PAYNE, for organizing this important special order on Black History Month.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in the grand tradition of Mary McLeod Bethune, Shirley Chisholm, and Dorothy Height, former Congresswoman Barbara Charline Jordan carried our Nation's baton for freedom, justice, and equality as one of the first female African-American Member of Congress. When she retired from Congress in 1977, she left an incredible void and a legacy that my colleagues and I have worked tirelessly to fulfill.

Jordan, who died last month in Houston, TX at age 59, was a true inspiration for past, present, and future female African-American Members of Congress. Both as a Texas State senator and as a U.S. Congresswoman, Jordan sponsored bills that championed the cause of poor, black, disadvantaged, and working people.

Barbara Jordan would be saddened today by the challenges to minority voting districts,

including the very district Jordan once represented and is now represented by my colleague, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE. Minority voting districts have been instrumental in ensuring that we are all included in ''We the People.'' Jordan used to say that perhaps George Washington and Alexander Hamilton had left her out by mistake when drafting the Constitution to begin ''We the People.'' Much of her career was spent working to fully implement the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Jordan met with much success. ''Through the process of amendment interpretation and court decision,'' she said, ''I have finally been included in 'We the people.' ''

Now, our Nation faces threats to the inclusion of all people in challenges to minority districts in many States, including Florida. The Third Congressional District of Florida is a truly representative district and I believe that my constituents have been well served.

In Congress today, I would argue that we need more inclusion, more compassion, and more minority voting districts to ensure that ''We the People'' includes us all. If the current Republican-led Congress could be injected with the spirit of Congress' most powerful heroes, the U.S. Congress and its American citizens would be better off today.

Those who have come after her have struggled to fill her giant shoes. Barbara Jordan was a true American hero. Let us never forget her legacy of equal opportunity, dreaming and living our dreams, and including all people as we interpret the U.S. Constitution.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues tonight in saluting the accomplishments and contributions of African-American women, who have enriched the lives of all Americans. As we hear the end of Black History Month, we should keep in mind that this Nation was built with the blood, sweat and tears of African-Americans.

Black Americans have made enormous contributions in fields as diverse as science and the arts to politics and sports. From the sublime poetry and writings of Maya Angelou to the athletic prowess and wizardry of Magic Johnson, African-Americans continue to contribute to the economic, cultural and political fabric of the Nation.

Tonight, I would like to highlight the achievement of an exceptional African-American woman and former Member of the House of Representatives—the Honorable Barbara Jordan.

Barbara Jordan excelled in every field of endeavor she focused her considerable talents in pursuing. Her distinguished career spanned the areas of politics, law and education. Barbara Jordan tragically passed away a few months ago, however, she has left an indelible mark on the country. Her intellectual brilliance, eloquence, clarity of thought and principled stand on so many vital issues facing the country continue to resonate today. Barbara Jordan was a trailblazer setting the stage for other women, be they black, white, Hispanic or Asian, to follow in her stead.

In the mid-1960's, Barbara Jordan became the first black elected official to the Texas State senate since 1883. During her tenure in that chamber, she authored the first Texas minimum wage law and spearheaded the first package of urban legislation through that chamber. And on June 10, 1972, Barbara Jordan, as President pro tem, became Governor for a day when both the Texas Governor and Lieutenant Governor were out of State, adding another ''first'' to her long list of accomplishments.

In 1972, Barbara Jordan was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives where she would soon be propelled to national prominence. During the Watergate and impeachment hearings, Representative Jordan distinguished herself by delineating before the entire Nation why she believed the committee on judiciary should vote to indict President Richard Nixon. Newsweek called her speech ''The most memorable indictment of Richard Nixon to emerge from the House impeachment'' proceedings.

Jordan's memorable keynote address in the 1976 Democratic National Convention sealed her reputation as one of the great political orators in the country. Her decision to retire from the House in 1978 in order to accept a teaching post at the University of Texas' Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, represented a loss for American politics and a tremendous gain for the world of academia. More recently, Barbara Jordan was called upon once again to serve our country as chairman of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform. She performed her task with the integrity and utter professionalism that marked her whole life.

Barbara Jordan led by example; she led by her sheer will to persevere; and she led by her intellect and oratorical skill. Barbara Jordan was truly a great American. Her legacy is now and forever a part of the rich history of African-American accomplishments and contributions to our country.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, since 1976, February has been celebrated as Black History Month, but the origins of this event date back to 1926, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage, achievements, and contributions of African-Americans. It is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize a resident of my district who has made an outstanding contribution to both the African-American community, and the central coast region in general.

Rev. Herbert Hoover Lusk, Sr., a native of Memphis, TN, has served as a minister and professional community organizer in the City of Seaside, CA for over 30 years. Widely known for his speaking ability and leadership skills, he has been an instrumental figure in the growth and development of the city of Seaside.

Reverend Lusk received his formal education at Henderson Business College in business administration, 1951, and the Right School of Religion, 1955, both located in Memphis, TN. Later, he received his bachelor of science degree in human relations and organizational behavior from the University of San Francisco, 1984, and his master of science degree in management and school administration from Pepperdine University.

As an organizational planner and administrator, Reverend Lusk founded Operations Shoe-Strings, Inc. Of Seaside 25 years ago, along with Operation Tobacco Education and Operation Second Chance. These organizations are designed to provide essential services to aspiring youth, their parents and other interested community residents.

Reverend Lusk has served as minister and pastor of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church of Seaside, CA since 1961. During this period he has designed and organized church educational programs, a day-care and pre-school program, assisted in community organizational efforts and developed and administered successful proposal and grant-funding efforts. He is also vice-moderator of the St. John District Association, which consists of the States of California, Nevada, New Mexico, and parts of Africa. In February of 1993, Reverend Lusk participated in the first African American national conference ever held on South African soil. In addition, he has served as either a leader or member of such community organizations as the Monterey Peninsula Ministerial Alliance, the Seaside Chamber of Commerce, the Seaside Club International, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People [NAACP], the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the National Baptist Convention U.S.A. and the National Alliance for Black Observation Day.

As a result of his inspirational leadership and tireless efforts Reverend Lusk has been widely recognized for his achievements. Among the many awards and honors bestowed upon him are the Outstanding Services Award of the Anti-Poverty Council, Monterey Peninsula—1971, the NAACP Man of The Year, 1971, the Seaside Chamber of Commerce Award, 1978, the Elvirita Lewis Foundation Award, 1980, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Award, 1985 and the California Legislative Resolution Commendation that I sponsored in 1988.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Reverend Lusk for many years. He has demonstrated time and time again a tenacious commitment to bettering the lives of the less fortunate in Seaside and surrounding central coast communities. His zeal and enthusiasm have inspired cooperation and commitment for the betterment of the community. As we celebrate our 1996 observance of Black History Month, we celebrate an America that is richer and more culturally aware because of the undertaking and accomplishments of people like Reverend Lusk.

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, as we remember our former colleague, the Honorable Barbara Jordan, it is particularly fitting that the theme of this special order in observation of Black History Month is ''African-American Women: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.'' This institution has benefited greatly from the contributions of Congresswoman Jordan, as well as our other strong African-American female members. So, too, has America benefited from the presence of African-American women in her midst over the past almost 400 years. During slavery the blood, sweat, and tears of African-American women became literally and figuratively a part of the very foundation upon which out great Nation is built.

Throughout her story in America, the African-American woman has played an integral role in the survival of the family, community, and country. Women such as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks, Ida B. Wells, Mary McLeod Bethune, and countless others, struggled to obtain freedom and racial equality for African-Americans and all Americans, and to make America a Nation true to its principles and ideas.

African-American women embody the pride and strength of a people who have experienced and survived great oppression. The tradition of leadership and struggle continues today among African-American women as evidenced by Marian Wright Elelman, ELEANOR

HOLMES NORTON, Dorothy Height, Myrlie Evers, and others. Today, I join my colleagues to recognize and salute the strength, pride, resilience and commitment of African-American women.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Congressmen GLENN POSHARD and JERRY COSTELLO, I rise to honor Capt. William R. (Bill) Norwood of Carbondale, IL, for his distinguished career and his contributions to Illinois and the Nation. Captain Norwood is retiring after more than 30 years with United Airlines. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge his significant achievements.

Bill Norwood's life has been one of great individual achievements, which have helped to pave the way for others to follow. He was the first black pilot hired by United Airlines, and the first to reach the rank of captain. Today, there are 236 black pilots at United Airlines who have followed in Bill Norwood's footsteps.

He was born in Centralia, IL, where he attended Lincoln Elementary and Centralia Township High School. He started working at the age of 10, selling newspapers, and worked with his father in carpentry. He graduated from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale with a degree in chemistry, where he was also the first black quarterback on the football team, and went on to earn a master's in business administration from the University of Chicago. He was hired by United Airlines in 1965 and has flown all the cockpit positions and many different airplanes, beginning with the 727 and ending with the DC–10.

He was inspired to become a pilot by a teacher in grammar school who had flown with the Tuskegee Airmen black fighter squadron. He joined the ROTC and served 6 years in the U.S. Air Force, where he flew for the Strategic Air Command.

He is the recipient of many honors and awards, including the United Airlines Flight Operations Division Special Achievement Award; the United Airlines 1991 Community Relations Award; the Certificate of Merit from the Chicago Merit Employment Committee; the Illinois Concerns for Blacks in Higher Education Special Merit Award; membership in the Southern Illinois ROTC Hall of Fame; the Southern Illinois Athletic Hall of Fame; and the Centralia, Illinois Historical Hall of Fame. He was profiled in Chicago's ''Successguide 1991'' as one of the top 10 black professionals making outstanding contributions to the community. He is named in the first editions of ''Who's Who Among Black Americans,'' ''Profiles in Black,'' ''The African Americans,'' and ''African American Firsts.'' He is also pictured in the National Air and Space Museum's permanent display called ''Black Wings.''

Beside these many honors are the contributions he has made to our community. Bill serves on the board of trustees of Southern Illinois University and the Southern Illinois University Aviation Advisory Committee. He is a member of the Illinois Board of Higher Education; immediate past president and former treasurer of the State Universities Retirement System Board; and he works with the Illinois Committee on Black Concerns in Higher Education. He is a member of the Airline Pilots Association; he has served many terms as treasurer, president, and chairman of the board of the Organization of Black Airline Pilots; he is a life member of the NAACP; he serves on several committees at the Prince of Peace United Methodist Church; and he frequently takes time to visit schools and give career and motivational talks to young people.

Bill is retiring from United Airlines to spend more time with his family, which he raised with his lovely wife, Molly Frances Cross Norwood, who is also president and CEO of the Blue Ribbon Press. His two adult sons, William, Jr., who is an air traffic controller, and George Anthony, an attorney, are following in their father's footsteps of high achievement. On behalf of his many friends and admirers, I congratulate Capt. William R. (Bill) Norwood and wish him and his family the very best in the future.

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in this special order to observe and celebrate Black History Month. Observing Black History Month each year helps Americans educate ourselves about the important role that African-Americans have played in our Nation's history. Given the unique experience of African-Americans in this nation of immigrants, it is important that all Americans understand and appreciate the nature of their struggle for freedom and equality—and the accomplishments in art, science, education, business, and politics that African-Americans have achieved despite the extraordinary obstacles that they have been forced to overcome.

I want to thank Representatives LOUIS STOKES and DONALD PAYNE for organizing this special order today. As a result of their efforts, Members of Congress can take this opportunity to celebrate the many important contributions that African-Americans have made to our country's cultural, economic, and political life.

Black History Month was initiated by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who established the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History in 1915 in order to encourage the proper appreciation for the contributions that African-Americans had made to their country. Black History Month has been celebrated in some form since 1926.

The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History has made African-American women the focus of this year's observance because, as Mary Church Terrell observed, African-American women had to overcome the obstacles of both racial and gender discrimination. Consequently, I would like to focus my remarks today on some of the remarkable African-American women who have overcome tremendous obstacles to achieve success in their chosen fields. Brave, smart, strong, and determined—these women were truly giants.

African-American women have been active in every field of human endeavor in this country, and yet, more often than not their contributions have gone unrecognized. African-American women in this country have been activists, educators, professionals, entrepreneurs, artists, and elected officials. Moreover, they have succeeded in these fields in the face of a combination of obstacles more intimidating that those that most other Americans have had to confront.

Women like Harriet Tubman, and Sojourner Truth were born into slavery, but they refused to submissively accept their designated place in society. Both of these women became dedicated abolitionists and contributed to the growing opposition to slavery in this country in the mid-1800's. Harriet Tubman returned to the South many times to help many other African-Americans escape the bondage of slavery. As a result of their efforts to change public attitudes about slavery, millions of African-Americans were eventually freed from slavery.

Emancipation was not the end of African-Americans' struggle for freedom and equality in this country, however. Sadly, even 131 years after the end of the Civil War, that struggle is not over. Nevertheless, tremendous strides have been made. Just as in the battle against slavery, African-American women were active participants in the struggle to end segregation and secure their political rights. Ida B. Wells, for example, was an influential activist and journalist in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. She braved threats of physical violence to organize African-Americans against segregation and protest the lynchings that characterized the post-Reconstruction era. Fannie Lou Hamer was threatened, shot, and beaten as a result of her efforts to secure the right to vote for African-Americans, and yet she never wavered in her pursuit of social justice. Rosa Parks was arrested for her refusal to submit to the racist Jim Crow laws that, sadly, enjoyed wide support in the South for most of this century. These are only a few of the women who were active in breaking down the political and legal system that discriminated against African-Americans in this country; it would be impossible to mention the names of all the African-American women who contributed to this effort, but it would be wrong not to point out the important role that they played.

As a result of the struggle for civil rights, African-American women have been able to begin participating fully in the political process. Mary McLeod Bethune, a noted African-American educator, was appointed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to administer the African-American division of the New Deal era National Youth Administration. In 1969, Shirley Chisholm became the first African-American woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and in 1992, CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN became the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Senate. Shirley Chisholm also has the honor of becoming the first African-American woman to run for the Presidency. It didn't take long for African-American women like Barbara Jordan to make their mark on Congress. Today there are a number of African-American women in Congress, the judiciary branch, and the administration—as well as in State and local government.

Even in the darkest days of segregation, however, African-American women were successful entrepreneurs and professionals. C.J. Walker, for example, became America's first self-made female millionaire. In the 1800's and early 1900's, thousands of talented African-American women became school teachers and administrators. More recently, African-American women have begun taking advantage of the hard-won opportunities to pursue careers in less traditional fields; Katherine Johnson, for example, has achieved renown for developing navigational procedures for tracking NASA spacecraft. Today, there are no legal or institutional limits on the professions African-American women can pursue.

Finally, I want to mention talented African-American artists like Maya Angelou, Zora Neale Hurston, Alice Walker, and Toni Morrison, who have given powerful voice to the shared experiences of African-American women.

This country has made tremendous progress in race relations in the last 50 years. Much more needs to be done, of course, but let us not forget the substantial advances that have been made, thanks in no small part to the African-American women that I have mentioned here today.

I have focused today primarily on African-American women whose accomplishments are in the more or less distant past. That is understandable—we don't have the perspective necessary to objectively evaluate contemporary events, and we cannot know with any certainty what the future holds. It would be inappropriate, however, to conclude without some mention of the future. The future is inextricably linked to the past—it holds so much potential for African-American women today precisely because of the struggles and sacrifices undertaken by their mothers and their grandmothers. As a result, their future successes will be that much brighter—and the challenges they face will, hopefully, be very different that the obstacles that their mothers and grandmothers were forced to overcome. It is only fitting that we take this time to recognize the contributions that African-American women have made to this country—and will continue to make.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our distinguished colleague from New Jersey, Congressman DONALD PAYNE, who chairs the Congressional Black Caucus, for his leadership with regard to today's special order. We gather today to mark the congressional observance of Black History Month. I join Congressman PAYNE, members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and our colleagues on both sides of the aisle as we acknowledge the contribution of African-American men and women to the building and shaping of this great Nation.

African-American have a rich and magnificent history. It is a history which is inextricably woven into the economic, social, and political fabric of this Nation. In 1926, the late Dr. Carter G. Woodson understood that African-Americans were not receiving proper recognition in history for their contributions. Therefore, he proposed setting aside 1 week during the month of February to commemorate the achievements of African-Americans. In 1976, the observance was changed to Black History Month. The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, which Dr. Woodson founded, has selected the theme, ''African American Women: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow,'' for the 1996 observance of Black History Month.

Mr. Speaker, we gather to pay tribute to African-American women who have contributed to the building and shaping of America. The list is long and the names are many. In most instances, these individuals had to overcome tremendous obstacles and challenges in order to succeed. Let us pause to recognize some of these outstanding Americans and their extraordinary achievements.

In January, the Nation mourned the passing of a great African-American achiever. For many years, Barbara Jordan's voice was heard in these Halls, speaking out on the issues of the day and defending the Constitution. Not only was she a knowledgeable legislator, but she was also sincere and compassionate. She was a tireless advocate for those who had no voice in the congressional deliberations.

Barbara Jordan began her political career with her election to the Texas State Senate, becoming the first African-American elected to that legislative body. In 1972, Barbara Jordan again made history when she and Andy Young became the first African-Americans from the South to be elected to Congress since Reconstruction.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who were fortunate to serve in the U.S. Congress with Barbara Jordan loved, admired, and respected her greatly. She was a lawmaker of the highest caliber and integrity. Her eloquent voice and legal scholarship will be greatly missed.

As we celebrate Black History Month, we also recall the perseverance of Shirley Chisholm who, in 1969, became the first African-American female to be sworn in as a Member of the U.S. Congress. Her election offered hope that women of color could be elected to all branches of government. Shirley Chisholm went on to become the first African-American woman to run for the highest office of the land when she sought the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1972.

Equally noteworthy is the election of the Nation's first African-American female Senator. In 1992, CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN was elected to the U.S. Senate from the State of Illinois. A committed public servant, she has served with honor and distinction as a Member of that legislative body.

Mr. Speaker, along with Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN, we also pay tribute to the African-American female lawmakers within the ranks of the Congressional Black Caucus. The CBC continues to benefit from their strong leadership and commitment. Like pioneers before them, these 10 lawmakers have been willing to take strong stances on behalf of their constituencies and those who have no voice in the political process.

Mr. Speaker, we know that there are many other African-American women trailblazers who set the pace and cleared the course for those who followed. We need only sift through the ashes of history to find African-American women who withstood the challenges and rose to great heights.

We recall the perseverance of Harriet Tubman, the engineer of the Underground Railroad. This tightly organized, highly secretive network of safe houses provided shelter and support for slaves in their escape from the South to freedom in the northern States and Canada. Harriet Tubman propelled a mass of people to seek better lies for themselves, and to demand something more for future generations. She never gave up, and she never gave in.

During this special observance of Black History Month, we remember the strength of Mary McLeod Bethune, a woman who founded one of America's foremost education institutions, Bethune-Cookman College, with a total capital of $1.50; a woman who during her lifetime held Presidential appointments, and became a friend and advisor to Presidents.

As we celebrate our theme, ''African American Women: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow,'' we recall the efforts of the legendary Rosa Parks. Her refusal to give a white man her seat on a bus in Montgomery, AL, in 1955, prompted a year-long protest that ultimately resulted in the abolishment of a law that required African-Americans to sit in the rear of the bus behind white people. Rosa Parks continues to serve today as a role model and heroine to those who champion justice and equality.

Mr. Speaker, I take special pride in participating in today's special order in observance of Black History Month. I join my colleagues in saluting African-American women who have changed and, indeed, are making history. This special order provides just a glimpse of the historical contributions of African-American men and women to our Nation. It is important to remember, however, that not only in February, but every day African-Americans are contributing to the building, shaping, and preservation of this great democracy. Our history is America's history.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to speak on the accomplishments and contributions of Shirley Chisholm during this special order on Black History Month.

Her political life took root when she decided to become a teacher. During her years in college, she became known for her outspokenness and was encouraged to go into politics. For several years, she worked behind the scenes for many political candidates before she decided to run for the New York State Assembly. Against all odds, she won.

In 1968, Shirley Chisholm entered the House of Representatives with a bang when she refused to accept an assignment on the Committee on Agriculture. In that one moment, she defined herself as a maverick; a warrior who would fight for her rights and the rights of others; a campaigner for the poor, higher minimum wages, and Federal subsidies for day care centers. She showed her commitment, not only to the Brooklyn community she represented, but to many communities that were powerless and insignificant, and she turned them into forces with which to be reckoned.

During 1981 and 1982, I had the opportunity to work with Representative Chisholm when we served together as members of the Rules Committee. During these committee meetings, I was able to witness firsthand her dedication to causes greater than herself. It was an honor to work beside her to achieve changes that improve mankind.

She began to build a road for other African-American leaders and women who were interested in running for Congress. And when this road seemed to come to an unexpected end, she did something few people expected her to do. She sought a major party nomination for President. She was unsuccessful; however, she felt success in being allowed to carry the torch that would allow for other minorities to follow her challenge to run for President.

Representative Chisholm retired in 1982 and returned to the teaching profession. During these years, she has continued to work behind the political scenes for the advancement of all people.

In her biography, ''The Good Fight,'' she stresses that she does not want to be remembered as the first black woman to be elected to the U.S. Congress, even though she was. She does not want to be remembered as the first black woman who happened to be black to make a serious bid for the presidency. She wants to be known as a catalyst for change, a woman who has the determination and a woman who has the perseverance to fight on behalf of the female population and the black population, because she is a product of both.

Mr. PAYNE of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to join people from

throughout our Nation in commemorating Black History Month. This is a time when we, as American citizens, recognize and pay tribute to the many African-Americans who have made significant contributions in their respective fields throughout the course of American history.

SInce our country's beginnings, every aspect of American life and culture has been enhanced by the acts of great African-Americans. Dating back as early as the Revolutionary War, some 5,000 blacks fought for our Nation's independence. For much of American history they were legally denied recognition for their accomplishments and even today, many of their contributions are largely unknown.

For this reason, the noted black author and historian, Dr. Carter G. Woodson of Buckingham County in my congressional district, initiated what has become known today as Black History Month; 70 years later, Dr. Woodson's legacy means that all children across our Nation now understand an important part of history.

Thanks to Black History Month, children now understand that African-Americans made significant advancements in the fields of arts, science, entertainment, technology, communications, politics, and civil rights. These social, economic, and educational achievements have contributed to our Nation's prosperity and rich culture.

In addition to Dr. Woodson, we in the Fifth Congressional District are very proud of another outstanding individual who emerged as one of the most influential African-Americans in American history. Booker T. Washington, born in Franklin County, VA in 1856, spent most of his life working to achieve economic advancement for blacks. Best known for founding the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in 1881, Mr. Washington also advised Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft on racial injustice facing the United States. In order to achieve a better quality of life Mr. Washington advocated vocational and industrial training for African-Americans. This would prove to be the most effective path for African-Americans to follow in order to elevate their economic standing. Booker T. Washington was a voice of compromise and moderation in a time when civil and political rights were reserved only for a select few. He believed progress for blacks would be achieved only if peace between the races was maintained.

Booker T. Washington was just one great African-American who helped more of our countrymen to realize freedom and independence. Other individuals, like Frederick Douglas and Martin Luther King, Jr. rank among the greatest Americans in history.

I encourage all citizens to commemorate Black History Month and to recognize always that Americans of every race, color, and creed have helped to make this the greatest nation on Earth.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order tonight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. KIM). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) on Wednesday, February 28, 1996, before 5:40 p.m., on account of the funeral of a constituent in her district.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) until 6 p.m. today, on account of family medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

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

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

Mrs. MALONEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey, for 60 minutes, today.

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

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HAYWORTH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. MEEK of Florida) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. BEILENSON.
Mr. HAMILTON in four instances.
Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
Mr. HOYER in two instances.
Mr. TOWNS in eight instances.
Mr. BARCIA in two instances.
Mr. MARTINEZ.
Mr. BRYANT of Texas.
Mr. TORRES.
Mr. HILLIARD.
Mr. PICKETT
Mr. DELLUMS.
Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
Mr. PALLONE.
Mr. RAHALL.
Mr. SABO.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HAYWORTH) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. SOLOMON in two instances.
Mr. GILMAN in three instances.
Mr. ROHRABACHER.
Mr. GOODLING.
Mr. FAWELL.
Mr. GREENWOOD.
Mr. SPENCE.
Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania.
Mr. FIELDS of Texas.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that the committee had examined and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2196. An act to amend the Stevenson Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 with respect to inventions made under cooperative research and development, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, February 29, 1996, at 9 a.m.).

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2137. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Secretary's certification that the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakstan, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine are committed to the courses of action described in section 1203(d) of the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993 (title XII of Public Law 103–160), section 1412(d) of the Former Soviet Union Demilitarization Act of 1992 (title XIV of Public Law 102–484), and section 502 of the FREEDOM Support Act (Public Law 102–511); to the Committee on International Relations.

2138. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report entitled ''Statistical Programs of the United States Government: Fiscal Year 1996,'' pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3504(e)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2139. A letter from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting the annual report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for 1995, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2140. A letter from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting the Secretary's management report on management decisions and final actions on Office of Inspector General audit recommendations, for the period ending September 30, 1995, pursuant to Public Law 101–576, section 306(a) (104 Stat. 2854); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2141. A letter from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting the Department's reports entitled ''Fisheries of the United States'' and ''Our Living Oceans,'' pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 742d; to the Committee on Resources.

2142. A letter from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's December 1995 issue of the ''Treasury Bulletin,'' pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 9602; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule X the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 497. The Committee on Resources discharged from further consideration. Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.