

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WEST POINT HONORS GENERAL
ROSCOE ROBINSON, JR.

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to advise my colleagues that West Point will dedicate its first permanent memorial in memory of a distinguished African-American graduate, on April 7, 2000. The life of the late General Roscoe Robinson, Jr., a St. Louis native, will be honored as his name is placed on the most prominent lecture facility at the United States Military Academy located in historic Thayer Hall.

A member of the USMA Class of 1951, General Roscoe Robinson, Jr. was the first African-American graduate of West Point to achieve four-star rank in the Army. The Academy presented him the Association of Graduates Distinguished Graduate Award shortly before his death in 1993. He is interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

During his distinguished career as an Infantry officer, General Robinson was noted for his outstanding leadership and his love for the American soldier. He served in the 7th Infantry Division in Korea and commanded 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam. His major commands include US Army Garrison, Okinawa (The Ryukus), 82nd Airborne Division, and United States Army Japan/IX Corps. After earning his fourth star, General Robinson served as the United States Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Military Committee. He retired from the Army in 1983.

This highly visible memorial will commemorate one of America's most respected soldiers. General Robinson's widow, Mrs. Mildred Robinson, and other family members will participate in the ceremony. Other attendees will include political leaders, senior retired and active duty military officers, as well as USMA staff, faculty and cadets.

The Dedication Project Officer, responsible for the organization and successful execution of this momentous occasion is LTC Charles Dunn III. He is the Executive Officer of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. I send my best wishes to all who will participate in this historic ceremony celebrating the memory of General Roscoe Robinson, Jr., a truly outstanding African-American leader.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE
OF SRI LANKA

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution congratulating the peo-

ple of Sri Lanka for their commitment to democracy in the face of on-going terrorism. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by Congressman PALLONE of New Jersey, who with me co-chairs the Congressional Caucus on Sri Lanka.

In December's presidential elections, the incumbent, Chandrika Kumaratunga, was re-elected to a second six-year term with 51 percent of the vote. Her nearest rival got 43 percent. The final days of the campaign were marred by a terrorist attack in which the President was injured. A total of 22 people were killed and more than 100 others injured in that attack and in another terrorist incident. These attacks have been blamed on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), an organization that has been waging a violent campaign against the Sri Lanka Government for more than 25 years. The LTTE has been designated a terrorist organization by the U.S. State Department.

Yet, despite this shadow of violence, 8.6 million of the nation's 11.8 million registered voters cast ballots, for an impressive voter turn-out of 73 percent. This demonstrates the strong commitment of the Sri Lankan people to democracy and their refusal to be intimidated by terrorism. International observers, invited by the Sri Lankan government, were on hand to monitor the election. U.S. State Department spokesman James P. Rubin stated on November 30th that the U.S. Government applauded Sri Lanka's decision to invite the international observers.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, who was elected as the nation's first woman President in 1994, was sworn in to her second term on the day after the elections. In her address to the nation, the President pledged to combat terrorism and urged her compatriots to join her in establishing peace. She reached out to her main rival in the presidential race to join her in building a consensus to achieve these goals.

I hope that Members will join me in support of this resolution recognizing the commitment of the people of Sri Lanka and their government to democracy and to achieving peace.

SUPPORT THE COMMON SENSE
CENSUS ENFORCEMENT ACT OF
2000

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the many Georgians who have contacted me to complain that this year's census questionnaire is too intrusive. Today, I am introducing legislation that will address these serious concerns—The Common Sense Census Enforcement Act of 2000.

As every Member of the House of Representatives is acutely aware, the census is

constitutionally mandated for the purpose of apportioning federal legislative districts, and the population information gathered is also used in drawing state legislative district lines. The Constitution requires the federal government to conduct the census, and federal law (13 U.S.C. § 221) also requires that residents answer the census completely and truthfully. Failure to answer any questions can result in fines of up to \$100. Furthermore, if one intentionally provides inaccurate information in response to the census, the law provides for fines up to \$500. These penalties are understandable with regard to questions directly related to apportionment, in light of its central importance to our constitutional system. I do, however, question the appropriateness of imposing such penalties for refusal to answer questions unrelated to apportionment, and I am introducing legislation to remedy this situation.

Today, I am introducing The Common Sense Census Enforcement Act of 2000, which would eliminate the fine for failure to answer Census 2000 questions unrelated to apportionment. By taking this action, Congress can limit the intrusive nature of the census while still providing the government with the basic information necessary to administer our republic.

This legislation reflects the concerns many of my constituents have expressed with regard to the length and the content of this year's census. Most of the questions on the long form of the census clearly are not asked for purposes of apportionment, but rather to collect information necessary for the administration of any number of federal programs. Information gathered in the census is currently used for federal and state planning and funding of education and health care programs, transportation projects, etc. While it is true that federal law requires much of this information for program administration, the law does not require that this information be collected via the census or under any penalty at law. A great deal of information that was once collected through the census is already being gathered through surveys that do not bear the census' strict legal requirements.

In closing, I share the belief of many Georgians who find it inappropriate for the federal government to coerce citizens to provide personal information by packaging non-apportionment-related questions with the constitutionally required and legally enforceable apportionment census questions. In the future, either the information should be collected separately, or it should be made clear that no penalty will be applied to those who refuse to answer questions unrelated to apportionment. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of The Common Sense Census Enforcement Act of 2000.

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