

HONORING AGENT BLAKE L.
BOTELER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize an exceptional man, Blake L. Boteler, of Colorado Springs, Colorado. In June, Mr. Boteler was recognized as one of America's finest at the seventh annual "TOP COPS" awards. The "TOP COPS" award recognizes law enforcement officers that have demonstrated outstanding acts of heroism and exceptional service to their community. Mr. Boteler won the award because of his considerable efforts to help his community in the war against drugs. Mr. Boteler personifies the goals that this award stand for and we all can learn from the example he has set.

Mr. Boteler is an agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms who was recognized for the "Top Cop" award because of the heroism he showed in fighting the flow of narcotics and weapons in to this country by a well known outlaw motorcycle gang. Using his tactical skills, he successfully infiltrated the gang and helped apprehend several suspects, effectively ending the gang's reign. His perseverance eventually paid off and as his efforts were instrumental in helping the State of Colorado serve 26 warrants and prosecute 40 defendants. The gang was eventually disbanded and Agent Boteler seized over 225 weapons and other paraphernalia.

Agent Boteler had this to say when he learned that he was a recipient of this award: "I was honored to have this investigation considered so highly, especially considering the fact of all the hard work and sacrifices made on a daily basis by members of this nation's law enforcement community that are equally deserving of this award." Because of the dedication of this outstanding American, I think it is all together fitting that this distinguished body pay tribute to him.

It is obvious why Mr. Boteler was chosen as the recipient of the "TOP COPS" award. I think that we all owe him a debt of gratitude for his service to the state. Due to Mr. Boteler's dedication, it is clear that Colorado is a better place.

IN HONOR OF ANDERSON COUNTY,
AN ALL-AMERICA COMMUNITY

HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2000

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor Anderson County, South Carolina, a recipient of the 2000 All-America City Award, a distinction that recognizes communities whose citizens work together to identify and tackle community-wide challenges and achieve uncommon results. This award recognizes communities where true American spirit is hard at work, where safety and quality of life are priorities. The community of Anderson County exemplifies all of these characteristics.

The All-America City Award program was founded in 1949, and is one of our country's

oldest and most respected community recognition award programs. Only ten communities in the United States are chosen each year for this prestigious award. Anderson County is one of those communities, and has done much to improve the lives of the people who reside there.

Some examples of how the citizens of Anderson County work together to better their community are through the Hanna-Westside Extension Campus, the Anderson Sports and Entertainment Center, the Alliance for a Healthy Future campaign, Anderson Area YMCA, the Anderson Free Clinic, the Westside Community Center, Partners for a Healthy Community and AnMed Healthy Futures Trust. These organizations have all made dramatic and innovative improvements in the lives of the people of Anderson County.

In particular, Anderson County's Hanna-Westside Extension Campus was created to improve the learning environment and education at an inner-city high school. This initiative transformed the high school into a career and technology center where students learn to be successful in the work place.

The Alliance for a Healthy Future campaign also worked to raise \$12 million for six organizations and helped build the state's first residential home for the terminally ill, transformed an abandoned elementary school into a community center, expanded medical services for the poor and made a new YMCA complex a reality.

Anderson County is one of only two communities from the Southeast to win this prestigious award this year. The recipients of this award are the communities that represent the "backbone of America", and are great examples of success. Anderson County, as well as the other winning communities, shows how citizens, government, businesses and non-profit organizations can join together to address their local issues and achieve unparalleled results.

The community of Anderson County has made an invaluable contribution to development in the state of South Carolina and the United States as a whole. I am proud to honor Anderson's achievement as a 2000 All-America City and wish them continued success and prosperity.

A TRIBUTE TO THE NATION OF
GUYANA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on this the 34th anniversary of the independence of Guyana, I would like to pay tribute to the government and people of the extraordinary nation. Although this year marks the 34th anniversary of Guyana's independence, it would be misleading to assume that Guyana's sense of nationhood only began with the grant of independence 34 years ago.

Guyana's sense of nationhood existed over 500 years ago, among the Amerindian tribes that inhabited its tropical rainforest. It existed among the African warriors such as Kofi, Attah, Accabree, who launched their war of liberation in 1763. It existed among Indian indentured workers such as Rambarran,

Pooran, Harry, and Surajballi who forfeited their lives in the struggle to improve working conditions on the sugar plantations.

Nationalism has existed in the literature of the Guyanese people. It has existed in the poetry of Martin Carter and Arthur Seymour; in the novels of Edgar Mittelholzer, Wilson Harris and Jan Carew; in the patriotic music of R.G.G. Potter, Valery Rodway, and Halley Bryant; in the rhythm of the Indian Tassa drums and the African bongos drums; and the call and response of the Guyanese folk songs.

Nature has been generous to the nation of Guyana. It has endowed her with an extensive network of over 40 rivers and creeks, and over 276 waterfalls, including Kaieteur Falls, which has a direct perpendicular drop of 741 feet. The land is richly endowed with natural resources—fertile agricultural lands; extensive savannahs; rich fishing and shrimping grounds; over 500 species of tropical hardwoods including greenheart, mora, baromalli, purpleheart, and crabwood, and a wide variety of minerals including gold, diamonds, bauxite, manganese, titanium, columbite/tantalite, copper and nickel.

In spite of its rich history of struggle and extensive natural resources, Guyana faces formidable political, social and economic problems. In the 1950s, Guyana had one of the most progressive movements in the Caribbean, based upon the principles of Guyanese nationalism and socialism. However, in 1955 the political movement split, ushering in two decades of racial antagonism. Racial divisions have stymied economic development, creating an environment of instability and uncertainty. In spite of an impressive growth rate during the last decade, Guyana still remains one of the poorest and least developed nations in the Western hemisphere.

The Guyanese people are a resourceful, gifted and resilient people who are capable of confronting and overcoming the formidable problems that confront them. The historian Rodway described agricultural cultivation in Guyana as a daily struggle with the sea in front and the flood behind. The historian Walter Rodney has noted how the African slaves built the sugar plantations by moving "one hundred million tons of heavy water-logged clay with shovel in hand, while enduring conditions of perpetual water and mud." The historian Eusi Kaywana has noted that the Berbice rebellion of 1763 predated the American Revolution of 1776, the French Revolution of 1789, the French Revolution of 1791, the Paris commune of 1848 and the Russian Revolution of 1917.

Ironically, the policy of the U.S. government has been one of suspicion and hostility towards the governments of Guyana. We conspired with the British in 1960 to suspend the constitution, and to destabilize the government of Cheddie Jagan between 1957 and 1964. When President Burnham implemented socialist policies in the 1970s, we discouraged U.S. foreign investment, bilateral aid and multilateral loans to Guyana.

It is time for the U.S. government to change its policy towards the nation of Guyana. Guyana has become an attractive location for foreign investment. There is a stable political environment that is committed to private enterprise; there is a system of Parliamentary democracy with free elections and an independent Judiciary; there is a substantial natural resource base; there has been radical