

Black History Month and its 2004 theme— Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education. On May 17th of this year, we will celebrate the anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to desegregate public schools in America. Because of this ruling, many significant pathways have been opened within our country that focus on justice, equality, and the importance of education.

As we reflect on the importance of the Brown v. Board of Education ruling, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to an individual from the First Congressional District that has represented the epitome of leadership in education within the African-American community, Dr. YJean Chambers. YJean passed away on Wednesday, November 12th, 2003, but her legacy of courage and dedication continues to inspire us all each day.

YJean and her family moved to Gary, Indiana from Kentucky when she was a young girl, seeking a better life for themselves. In 1939, she graduated from Gary Roosevelt High School ranking second in her class, and then went on to earn her Bachelor of Education degree from Illinois State University. She also went on to earn her Master of Arts degree from Purdue University, where she received Purdue University's highest award, Doctor of Humane Letters in 1993.

YJean knew how important education was to all members of her community and therefore shared her gift of knowledge and enthusiasm for learning by becoming a teacher in Madison, Illinois. After two years she began teaching speech and drama at her alma mater, Gary Roosevelt High School. In 1971, YJean became a full time professor at Purdue Calumet in Hammond, Indiana where she taught communications and was appointed Assistant Professor of Communications in 1973.

YJean gave selflessly to her community in so many ways, including being a member of several important educational organizations. She served as President of the Steel City Hall of Fame, sat on the Service Academies Nomination Board, was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Gary Community Schools, and was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Indiana School Board Association. YJean made history in Northwest Indiana by becoming the first African American woman elected to the Northwest Indiana Crime Commission and the first woman to serve on the Advisory Board of the Bank of Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education throughout Black History Month, let us pay tribute to our country's educational leaders such as Dr. YJean Chambers, who have taught us the true values of equality and determination. I respectfully ask that you and my other colleagues join me in commending Dr. Chambers, as well as all other outstanding African-American leaders in education for their efforts to build a better society for our country and the citizens of Northwest Indiana.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO
DECLARE THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY
22, 2004 AS NATIONAL EATING
DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution declaring the week of February 22, 2004 as National Eating Disorders Awareness Week. I want to thank my friend TED STRICKLAND from Ohio for introducing this resolution with me, and for his support on this very important issue.

Conservative estimates indicate that 5 to 10 million girls and women and 1 million boys and men in the United States are struggling with eating disorders, including anorexia, bulimia, binge eating disorder, or borderline conditions. These conditions can lead to serious physical and mental health problems, yet affected individuals often do not seek treatment because of the shame and misunderstanding surrounding these disorders.

National Eating Disorders Awareness Week will serve as a way to increase public awareness of these disorders and to promote healthful eating habits and healthy body image. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this worthy endeavor, and I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING LOWELL STANBERRY

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lowell Stanberry, a good friend and great American who has dedicated his life to helping others and fighting for what he believes.

Lowell is a legend in Dade City, Florida, which I formerly represented. He has worked hard his entire life and has been vitally important to the city's economic prosperity. He has volunteered in various capacities for numerous volunteer, civic, and philanthropic organizations which work to improve the lives of those who have lived in Lowell's community.

Lowell also has been a lifelong conservative. He was a Republican long before it was politically-expedient. "I think politics is kind of like religion," he says. "If you were born a Republican, I think you die a Republican."

He certainly has made his mark on local, state, and national politics. He helped make the Pasco County Republican Party what it is today. He has helped elect numerous public officials. I am unsure whether I would have won my first congressional election had it not been for Lowell's support. He also has been actively involved in other gubernatorial and presidential campaigns in Florida.

The East Pasco Republican Club recently honored Lowell with its Lincoln Heritage Award, which the group gives to an outstanding individual who upholds the ideals of service and intelligent compassion. I cannot think of a more deserving recipient than Lowell Stanberry.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to call Lowell a friend and fellow Republican. He has taught everyone with whom he has come into contact the importance of charity and of maintaining the courage of your convictions.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR. JOHNY
CESAIRE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of Miami's unsung heroes, the late Johny Cesaire, also known popularly by my Haitian American constituency as P Jhony of Radio Pep La. His untimely demise due to cancer last Monday, January 16, 2004, leaves a deep void in our community.

Though I have had not the opportunity of bonding with him as did my mother, Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek, I do reserve the utmost respect and genuine admiration for his insatiable quest for simple justice and fairness for the less fortunate among us, particularly our newly-arrived Haitian refugees. Throughout his 10-year stint with Radio Pep La, he vividly put a true face and a brave voice on the struggle of Haitians across Florida and beyond by portraying their unjust and inhumane treatment on the part of government, along with its discriminatory immigration laws and provisions that, to this very day, continue to impact their lives negatively.

Mr. Cesaire was virtually the resilient and unyielding voice of the Haitian community that called to attention the cruel disenfranchisement of Haitians at almost every level of government. With his support the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act (HRIFA) came about in October of 1998 to bring longed-for hope and confidence to Haitians in South Florida and throughout the nation. Thanks to him, hundreds of Haitians and their families have been given a chance to seek the freedom and legalize their status in the United States.

Our community will be in mourning on Saturday, January 31, 2004 as his friends and admirers will come together at Holy Family Church to bury this seemingly ordinary man of God, who had done some great and extraordinary things during his earthly sojourn. I will certainly miss him for his undaunted leadership.

He talked and lived by the simple adage that the quest for personal achievement is not beyond the reach of those willing to dare the impossible on behalf of a people buffeted by so much discrimination and injustice.

This is the legacy that Johny Cesaire bequeathed to us, and it is with his nobility and compassion for the less fortunate that we will always remember him. I am greatly privileged to have been taught by him with this credo, and I thank him for giving me the honor of representing him in the U.S. Congress. I pray that God grant him Eternal Rest.