

A TRIBUTE TO JASMINE
EDWARDS, ESQ.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Jasmine Edwards in recognition of her commitment to serving families in need of assistance.

Born to Guyanese immigrants, Jasmine is a member of the first generation in her family to be born in the United States of America. Her mother emigrated to the U.S. as a registered nurse and later became a New York City school teacher. Her father, a former probation officer supervisor emigrated to the U.S. to attend the University of Connecticut. She recently became the seventh member in her family to become an attorney.

Jasmine is admitted to practice law in New York State and the United States District Courts. She is a member of the Association of Black Women Attorneys, Brooklyn Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. She is also a licensed real estate broker and an instructor at the New York Paralegal School. Her law firm of Edwards & Greenidge is based in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. Jasmine and her partner, both Guyanese-Americans, are committed to serving those in the community who desperately need legal advice.

After graduating from Temple University, she worked as a social worker. Jasmine provided services to families that had been accused of child abuse and/or neglect. Her goal was to assist parents in implementing alternative parenting skills. During her tenure at CUNY School of Law, Jasmine accepted an internship at the prestigious Federal Defenders Association of Philadelphia in the Habeas Corpus Unit. The objective of the Habeas Corpus Unit was to convince the appellate courts that certain convicted criminals should not be executed. While working as a researcher that summer, Jasmine discovered that over 80 percent of the persons on death row shared the same painful experiences when they were younger as those abused and neglected children, who were part of families that she once counseled as a social worker.

These experiences coupled with her desire to assist others inspired her to establish a law office in a neighborhood where many people are underserved. Jasmine's goal is to provide outstanding legal representation that is proactive as well as reactive.

Mr. Speaker, Jasmine Edwards has dedicated her life to helping those in need, as a social worker for abused and neglected children and now as an attorney for the underserved residents of Brooklyn. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

TRIBUTE TO THE SPRUCE CREEK
ROD AND GUN CLUB

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to the

Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club for reaching its 100th anniversary.

Since 1904, the Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club has never lost sight of its original purpose: to preserve Spruce Creek as a fishery. While maintaining its honorable traditions of conservation, the club in Huntingdon County has conquered numerous obstacles and received high acclaim for its perseverance.

Throughout the past century, the club has undergone a complete restoration, upon conclusion of which the building was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1991. With the extraordinary vision of its past leaders, the club has been able to merge the old with the new by upholding its age-old traditions while improving the services available to members.

Due to its reputation for excellence, Spruce Creek has attracted such renowned leaders as Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and Jimmy Carter, Senator John Heinz, Vice President DICK CHENEY, and former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge, to name a few.

The success of the club over the past one hundred years is a testament to the integrity with which the institution has been run. I would like to congratulate the Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club on its 100th Anniversary. Thank you for upholding Pennsylvania's tradition of distinguished service to its citizens.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS
THAT ALL AMERICANS OBSERVE
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION
WITH A COMMITMENT TO CON-
TINUING AND BUILDING ON THE
LEGACY OF BROWN

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision in Brown versus the Topeka Board of Education.

In 1951, a door closed on Linda Brown when she was denied admission to an all-white public school in Topeka, Kansas. But on this day in 1954, a door opened for our nation. The Brown decision was the culmination of many desegregation cases. Previous court decisions had ruled that "separate but equal" was a valid policy.

By ruling in favor of Linda Brown, the Supreme Court helped America finally open its eyes and see that segregation is, in fact, wrong and does, in fact, perpetuate inequality. Through the plight of young Linda, a mere third-grader, Americans came to understand that separate is never equal.

While in law school, I was privileged to study under Paul Wilson. Earlier in his life, as a humor Kansas assistant attorney general, Professor Wilson was assigned to defend the Topeka Board of Education. He never suspected that he would end up arguing before the Supreme Court.

I would like to take a moment and pay tribute to Professor Wilson. His role in the Brown decision was a difficult one. He knew that segregation was wrong, but he was charged with the duty of defending the Topeka Board of

Education. During his time at the University of Kansas, Professor Wilson wrote about the Brown decision and his recollections of that time period. In the classroom, he told my fellow students and me about his trip to Washington, D.C., and about being admitted to the Supreme Court bar. He said to us, "The decision issued in 1954 caused me, caused America, to realize that to argue the policy of separate but equal was to defend the indefensible." Professor Wilson's words, and the tales of experiences, have stayed with me.

We must never lose sight of the importance of Brown versus the Topeka Board of Education. This decision has set a higher standard for our schools and for our nation. Even today, disparities exist among groups of students, and we must continue working to ensure that all students are learning what they need to learn, and are receiving the kind of high-quality education they deserve.

As the father of two daughters, one in middle school and one in high school, I am thankful for the change that the Brown decision brought to the American education system and to our society. I am thankful that my daughters attend school in a country where all children are considered equal.

Our public schools today are rich in diversity because of the hard work of the NAACP, and the willingness of Linda Brown and her family to stand up for what is right. Because of the Brown decision, we are better able to foster understanding, tolerance, and morality in our young people.

I am proud to have been a part of establishing the Brown vs. Topeka 50th Anniversary Commission in 2001. Since its inception, the Commission has been preparing for this anniversary. Commission members have traveled all over the country, visiting the cities whose desegregation cases set the stage for Brown's success. The Commission has also encouraged many activities across the nation related to the anniversary, including an essay contest, a film and discussion series, and traveling museum exhibits.

I want to thank everyone who worked to make this anniversary so memorable and so historic. Cheryl Brown Henderson, daughter of the late Oliver Brown, has worked tirelessly, not only for this anniversary, but also for educational equity everywhere. As cofounder of the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research, Mrs. Brown Henderson has helped establish a living tribute to the plaintiffs and attorneys involved in the Brown case.

Today, President Bush visited Kansas for the first time. The President spoke this morning in Topeka at the dedication of the National Park Service's \$11.3 million historic site in the Monroe School, the former all-black school that Linda Brown attended before the 1954 Supreme Court ruling. I want to thank President Bush and the city of Topeka for helping to make this anniversary worthy of the event it commemorates.

We cannot forget that our work is not yet done. We have celebrated and remembered, but we must do more. We must recommit ourselves to the philosophy behind the Brown decision—to the elimination of bias and the changing of society for the better. We must continue working to provide equal opportunities for all. We must make a fresh commitment to this Nation's children.

Colleagues, I trust we can be of one voice tonight. Let us join together in our celebration