

were rushed into soldiers' hands. Tragically, the weapons were not adequately tested prior to distribution in Vietnam. It turns out they jammed frequently, causing untold number of deaths when soldiers' were left without an automatic weapon when facing enemy fire.

Rather than waiving the requirement that emergency equipment be tested and evaluated for effectiveness, as H.R. 4323 currently does, and risk the repeat of another debacle like the M-16 during Vietnam, I believe this bill should accelerate the testing and evaluation of critical equipment so that it can be procured more quickly, but still safely.

It does our soldiers no good to have equipment procured and distributed quickly if it doesn't work as its supposed to. Amending H.R. 4323 to keep the requirement that equipment to be procured under this new streamlined authority still be tested would ensure that the equipment our troops need would provide the expected level of protection.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS
THAT LIONEL HAMPTON SHOULD
BE HONORED FOR HIS CON-
TRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN
MUSIC

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I challenge my fellow members of Congress, as well as my fellow Americans, to listen closely as we walk our respective paths today. I ask that as we journey back to our offices, and then on to our homes, we keep our ears pricked, attentive to the sounds which often go ignored in the clamor of full days and long nights. If we are truly mindful, vigilant in our perception of the hums, clicks and tones that surround us, some of us might notice that within the very rhythm to which we walk, the harmony which paces us on our diverse journeys, we find slight hints of "Flying Home," traces of "Stardust," and shades of "Midnight Sun." Mr. Speaker, Lionel Hampton is more than a giant of jazz and an impassioned servant of his community; he is a part of the fabric of this nation, a lasting presence in the daily melody of the United States.

Lionel Hampton spent his youth in Alabama, Wisconsin, and Chicago listening to the music of Louis Armstrong and dreaming of a future in the budding musical genre called "jazz." After stints on the drums and marimba, Hampton took up the vibraphone and set the benchmark for excellence on that instrument, for which he became known as the "Vibes President of the United States.

Because of the racism that permeated the music business in the 1930s Hampton's performances were limited to a small number of venues, so he partnered with White clarinetist and bandleader Benny Goodman and set about making history, for the first time creating an integrated public face of jazz music. Between 1936 and 1940, Hampton and Goodman created perhaps the greatest swing recordings of all time: "Moonglow Opus 1/2" and "Gone With What Wind?" among the duo's other recordings are the gold standards of the Swing Era, and they helped to elevate Hampton to the status of a jazz superstar.

In 1940 Hampton established his own big band, "Lionel Hampton and His Orchestra," and it was from this orchestra that the songs of our time originated. Audiences swayed and lindy-hopped to "Hamp's Boogie Woogie" and "Evil Gal Blues," and 'Hamp' serenaded the masses while breaking down the color line, becoming the first African American to play in a number of major hotels and music halls. Hampton's orchestra became a training ground for great musicians, graduating legends such as Dexter Gordon, Cat Anderson, Charlie Mingus, Quincy Jones, Dinah Washington, and Aretha Franklin.

As much as a presence as Lionel Hampton was in the jazz industry, his work in his community was equally if not more potent. He was a goodwill ambassador for the United States, appointed by President Eisenhower to spread the music of jazz and the message of equality in his many tours to Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. He also worked tirelessly for his beloved Harlem, founding the Lionel Hampton Development Corporation which built quality low- and middle-income housing in New York City and Newark, New Jersey. One of his projects, the Gladys Hampton Houses, is named for his wife, the illustrious singer Gladys Hampton, who died in 1971 after a 35-year marriage.

Hampton served on the New York City Human Rights Commission and was appointed as "Ambassador of Music" to the United Nations in 1985. In 1998, he and Lloyd Rucker founded the Lionel and Gladys Hampton Jazz History Education Foundation, an organization that continues in the honorable work of teaching disadvantaged young people about jazz. For his efforts he received both the Kennedy Center Honor and the National Medal of the Arts, and in 1987 the University of Idaho named its School of Music after Hampton.

Lionel Hampton played the vibraphone and flashed his million-dollar smile to audiences across the globe almost until the date he succumbed to heart failure, Saturday, August 31, 2002. He was a towering figure of musical greatness and global renown, but he often bent low to help the neediest among us, and for this New York, the African American community, and indeed our entire nation is grateful. Our country's swing is Hampton's swing, our jazz is Hampton's jazz, and thus there is no figure more worthy of honor by this body than Lionel Hampton.

Again, I entreat us all to listen closely on our daily journeys; I dare say that as we walk we might, unwittingly, be paced by the lively report of "Flying Home."

PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREE-
DOM FOR POPE JOHN PAUL II

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support and recognize the President's awarding of the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Pope John Paul II. Few others in the history of the world can match John Paul II's lifelong record of championing peace, liberty, and human rights.

Born in 1920 in Poland, Karol Jozef Wojtyla has lived a life of service to his faith and to

the people of the world. During the occupation of Poland, he courageously defied the Nazis to aid the persecuted Polish Jews, and similar acts of bravery have marked his entire public life. After his ordination in 1946, John Paul II worked tirelessly to uphold the teachings and ministry of the church in Poland, a constant risk under the Communist rule.

Recognizing his lifelong devotion to his faith and to humanity, the College of Cardinals elected John Paul II the 264th pope in 1978. Last year I was proud to join with my colleagues in voting for a resolution recognizing the twenty-fifth anniversary of his papacy.

During John Paul II's first visit to Poland as the Pope in 1979, he delivered 36 addresses. At least ten million of Poland's 35 million people saw him in person, in the nine cities, villages and shrines that he visited.

Throughout his papacy, John Paul II has joined world leaders on a variety of causes, always keeping the ideals of human dignity and high public morality at the forefront. His efforts on behalf of the people of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union were a direct catalyst in the birth of democracy for those countries once behind the Iron Curtain.

Beyond his extraordinary achievements, John Paul II has always had a remarkable affinity with the common man. He once said, "I hope to have communion with the people; that is the important thing." Time and again, he has communed with the people, demonstrating his commitment to humanity on a genuinely personal level. Through his caring and selfless acts of faith and leadership, he has engendered the love and respect of millions of people, both those within his church and those from beyond the Catholic faith.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, including 131,000 Catholics and 112,000 Polish Americans in the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I am proud to congratulate Pope John Paul II for receiving the Medal of Freedom. It is a fitting tribute to a truly remarkable human being whose countless achievements have proved an unyielding dedication to his Church, to God, and to humanity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 229 and 230, I was delayed due to inclement weather and was unable to attend. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

VIET NAM NEVER AGAIN

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, quite a number of Washington leaders have expressed great anger over the comparison of the present war in Iraq to the past war in Viet Nam. Many insist that there is no logical comparison: Viet Nam was a war waged over many years and thousands of Americans died. With great glee they point to the fact that we have not yet had