EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO MS. GABRIELLA F. KOSZORUS-VARSA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to an extraordinary and remarkable artist, Ms. Gabriella F. Koszorus-Varsa. Ms. Koszorus-Varsa's work has been displayed internationally, from Santa Cruz, California, to Munich, Germany, including being featured prominently in the U.S. Capitol and the Hungarian Embassy in Washington, D.C. and in the Carnegie Hall in New York City. She has been heralded as a master of portraits, and figure compositions as well as sculptures.

Ms. Koszorus-Varsa's depiction of the charge of the cavalry during the battle of Charleston in ''Fidelissimus ad Mortem'' is a magnificent painting. Highlighting the contribution of Colonel Michael Kovats de Fabricy in the Revolutionary War, this painting was displayed in my office in the Capitol for many years. Using the closing line of the letter Colonel Kovats wrote to Benjamin Franklin when he offered his expertise in fighting for our independence, ''Fidelissimus ad Mortem'' (most faithful unto death) symbolizes how far a foreign national would go to help us achieve the ideal of freedom. After meeting with General Washington, he was given the charge of training the American Light Cavalry. Colonel Kovats led the light cavalry; the hussars, which were a legion made up of French, German, Poles and other nationalities. Colonel Kovats died in the battle of Charleston, South Carolina, on May 11, 1779.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Koszorus-Varsa displayed her deft touch in creating this magnificent painting. Wanting to replicate the battlefield charge truthfully, she researched everything down to the most intricate detail—from the color of the uniforms to the kind of horses that would have been ridden and the formation that the hussars would use when attacking. The blue cloaks of the men flanking Colonel Kovats came from a book in the Library of the ''Daughters of the American Revolution'' as they paraded through Philadelphia. Colonel Kovats wears the prominent red uniform which he wore in one of his services as commander of the ''Free Hussars'' in the Army of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia.

Ms. Koszorus-Varsa, who memorialized the heroic deeds of Colonel Kovats, grew up in Budapest, Hungary as the daughter of the renowned art professor Elemer Fulop de Felsoeor. Following in her father's footsteps, she earned a Master's Degree from the Academy of Fine Arts in Budapest, Hungary, and began teaching at the American University in Heidelberg, Germany in 1947. Ms. Koszorus-Varsa and her husband, Colonel Ferenc Koszorus who was one of the great heroes of the Hungarian Holocaust, immigrated to the United States in 1951 with their son.

Mr. Speaker, she was commissioned to paint some of the most important moments and persons in American history. Dr. Robert Hutchings Goddard and his wife's bas-reliefs, commissioned by the Ramsey Fund at the National Air and Space Museum were made by Ms. Koszorus-Varsa. Her ''Composition in Memoriam of the Late Astronauts: Virgil Grissom, Edward H. White, and Roger B. Chaffee'' is currently being exhibited at the Alabama Space and Rocket Center. The Fleetwood Cover Service commissioned three First Day Cover designs from her: ''O! Say, Can You See'', ''Civil War Centennial'', and ''Champion of Liberty, Lajos Kossuth''. I also recall her wonderful painting of the first king of Hungary, Saint Stephen that was displayed at the Hungarian Embassy in Washington, D.C., which also houses her life-sized bust of Lajos Kossuth.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Gabriella F. Koszorus-Varsa's work is inspiring and has the enduring quality that many artists seek. She has ensured that Colonel Kovats is properly remembered, as well as the astronauts who lost their lives in our quest to go to the moon. I invite my colleagues to view all of her wonderful paintings and sculptures.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DONALD M. PAYNE

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life and work of a fellow colleague, The Honorable Donald M. Payne of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District Mr. Payne was recognized on Tuesday, February 15, 2005 as a recipient of the Essex County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award. It is only fitting that we honor our colleague Mr. Payne, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on Earth.

Mr. Payne is truly a role model for the African-American community. His devotion to advancing human and civil rights on an international scale is unparalleled. While he is a proven leader in the Congress, Mr. Payne's devotion to improving the community at large began as a result of his deep roots in Newark, New Jersey.

A native of Newark. Mr. Payne attended Seton Hall University. After completing his undergraduate education, Mr. Payne pursued graduate studies at Springfield College in Massachusetts. His professional career commenced in the Newark Public Schools where Mr. Payne taught. He went on to hold an executive position with the Prudential Insurance Company following his tenure as Vice President of Urban Data Systems, Inc.

In 1988, Donald Payne achieved a milestone not only for himself, but for the entire African-American community of New Jersey. He was elected to the serve in this great body, the first for an African-American from New Jersey. Mr. Payne has used his position as a Member of Congress to further the cause of human and civil rights throughout the world.

His efforts have enabled Mr. Payne to travel throughout the globe to represent the United States government. He was one of five Members of Congress asked to accompany President and Mrs. Clinton on their six nation tour of Africa. As a member of the Balkans Caucus he met with NATO officials in Brussels to asses the crisis in Kosovo. This mission brought Mr. Payne to the frontlines of the devastation caused by the inhumane acts committed there.

Mr. Payne's diligent efforts to restore democracy and human rights throughout the globe have led him to bring to light the recent atrocities in Sudan. In the 108th Congress, Mr. Payne successfully guided the passage of a resolution declaring genocide in Darfur, Sudan. Additionally he saw the Sudan Peace Act come to fruition. This law, a comprehensive solution to the war in Sudan as well as a plan for famine relief efforts, was the result of more than 2 years work by many organizations. Anti-slavery groups, churches and community groups were among the organizations involved in working with Mr. Payne on this most important issue.

Mr. Payne has done much humanitarian work on both the international and local level. He has served on the board of directors of the National Endowment for Democracy, Trans-Africa, Discovery Channel Global Education Fund, The Boys and Girls Clubs of Newark, The Newark YMCA and the Newark Day Center.

While many of his efforts focus on correcting atrocities in developing nations, the implications extend far beyond the regions involved. His goal to improve the quality of life for those who cannot defend themselves is remarkable. Donald truly exemplifies the notion of a global community and that we are all responsible for our fellow man.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to share the responsibility of representing communities in Essex County, New Jersey along with Mr. Payne. He is a true humanitarian and is more than deserving of the honor bestowed upon him today. I ask you to join with a grateful County of Essex and our colleagues in recognizing the truly outstanding achievements of the Honorable Donald M. Payne.

HONORING OAKLAND COMMUNITY HOUSING, INC.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding work of Oakland Community Housing, Inc. For the past 30 years, OCHI has provided a truly invaluable service to the community by producing and managing quality affordable housing throughout the East Bay.